



Prashanthi Council

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Loving Sairam to all of you.

I wish you a happy and holy New Year 2015 filled with love, peace, harmony and bliss. We all look forward to having a happy and peaceful life, and the way to that goal, as Swami has made it clear, is simply that “Happiness is union with God”. He exhorts us to always be happy and cheerful.

Swami has shown us the way to experience eternal bliss. He has showed us the path through more than 1,500 divine discourses and His writings. These are available as books and also as audio and video recordings, and all the Vahinis are available as eBooks. His love for us is boundless and unfathomable.

Having received His grace and love in such abundance, how can we express our love and gratitude to the Lord of infinite compassion, our divine protector, our Guru, and our divine mother and father?

His Name, Form and Leelas

We need to always love him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and constantly chant His sweet, divine name – which is the greatest purifier of our hearts. When we chant His name with love, meditating on His beautiful, enchanting divine form, we are in tune with Him, which purifies our hearts. We should also read and be absorbed in His wonderful, divine ‘leelas’ (sport) which have been recorded in countless books by numerous devotees – the “Sathya Sai Bhagavatham.” Coupled with taking the divine name, the reading of the “Sathya Sai Bhagavatham” makes our hearts pure and sanctified. It is said in the Bible, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Swami has said that purity is enlightenment. When we love the Lord, it is important to have intense longing and one-pointed devotion, so that loving and serving Him becomes the highest priority in our lives. Once I asked Swami, “How do we know that we have devotion?” He replied, “You have devotion when you have intense longing for the Lord”.

His Teachings

Another way to express our gratitude to Bhagawan is by in-depth study of His teachings. While it is important to study Swami’s teachings, it is more important to practice His advice in our daily lives. Accordingly, we have made available the “Love and Service” Guides, which are the main pillars of His teachings. Swami says that the best way to spread His word is to make our lives His message by living a life full of love, compassion, and selfless service. Let us dive deep into His

teachings, practice them, purify our hearts, and shine like beacons of light in a sea of worldly darkness.

His Works

Finally, I would like to emphasize that we should express our gratitude to Bhagawan by doing work that pleases Him. Swami says “Hands that serve are holier than lips that pray”. He has also said that wherever His work is done, He manifests Himself. We have seen many instances of people experiencing His presence while engaged in His work. We are indeed blessed to have the Sathya Sai Organisation, Bhagawan’s educational and medical institutes, worldwide humanitarian programs and other avenues to be part of His mission. He has planned and initiated these projects, laid their foundation, inaugurated and guided them, and made arrangements for their continuation. As His children, it is our duty to support these institutions, by participating and contributing our energy, talents, and other resources so that we can be part of the glorious mission of the Avatar.

It is also important that we work with unity and harmony, as brothers and sisters, serving our divine father and mother, Lord Sai. Swami says “Unity is Divinity”, and that we will experience Swami’s presence and guidance only when we work as one entity. It is important to avoid competition, jealousy and rivalry when we do His work. Swami discourages pomp, show, and ostentatiousness and encourages us to work with love, humility and unity and offer Him the fruits of our work. Efforts undertaken in this spirit lead us to spiritual transformation and finally, self-realization.

Swami has said that His work, and the divine mission, will go on with or without us. Brothers and sisters, let us make use of this blessed opportunity in this lifetime, give high priority to the divine work, and commit ourselves to the divine mission with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Let us love Him with all our heart, dedicate ourselves and our lives at His divine lotus feet, practice His teachings, and serve Him till our last breath.

Let us remember that the main purpose of the Sathya Sai Organization and all spiritual practices is to realize our innate divinity.

Let us strive every moment to reach that goal and remember the divine clarion call – Arise, Awake, and Stop Not until the Goal is Reached.

I pray to Swami to bless all of us in this effort, and shower us with His divine grace, so that we may succeed in reaching the goal shown by Him. Thank you.

Jai Sai Ram.

Lovingly in the Service of Sai,

Narendranath Reddy, M.D.

Chairman, Prasanthi Council.