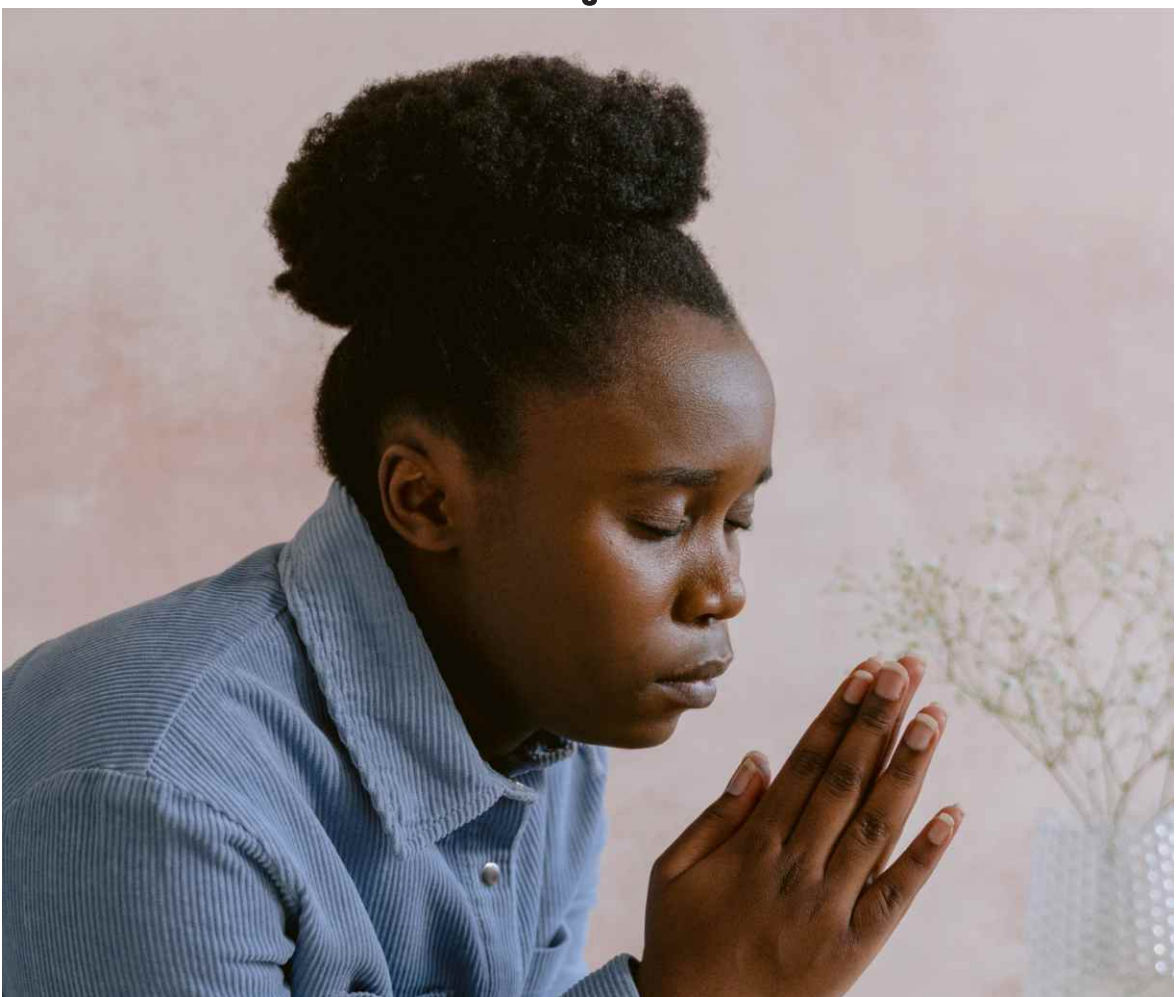


2023



*Believe & Command
The Mornings*

Ituah Ighodalo



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Believe and Command the Mornings

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The Rock

Text: Philippians 3:13-15

Sunday, January 1, 2023

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and the One who rescues me; My God, my rock and strength in whom I trust and take refuge; My shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower—my stronghold." Psalm 18:2 (AMP)

Today, on the first day of the year, we acknowledge the Almighty Jehovah in our lives and join the Psalmist in praise by asking, "For who is God except the Lord? Or who is a rock except our God? The Lord lives, blessed be my rock; and may the God of my salvation be exalted " (Psalm 18:31 and 46). Humans tend to turn to friends in times of adversity because it's in times of adversity that you get to know who your true friends are. They will stick with you through thick and thin. However, we are all human beings, and no matter how much we desire to help our friends, there are times when we are simply limited in what we can do.

There is a friend, however, who is unlimited in His power and authority. This friend is none other than Jesus himself. He is the only way to succeed in this life. He is the only way to God and eternity in heaven. He is the only one that can help us, so as we go along in the year, always go to Him.

Take your complaints and struggles straight to Him. He alone can read and interpret the contents of your heart and situation. Go to Him in prayer; He is there for you as an ever-present help and will surely grant your requests. Moving forward is the Lord's word for you this New Year - forgetting but learning from the past and looking forward to what lies ahead - the best is ahead.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 62: 6 & 7

Prayer: O Lord, comfort my troubled heart whenever Satan and /or the world tempts in Jesus' name. Amen.



Fresh Fire

Text: Acts 4:33

Monday, January 2, 2023

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4:31 (KJV)

Friends in Christ, **it's a new year.** A glorious year for that matter. As glorious as this year may be, the truth is that it has come with its own set of challenges, and only the very strong will win the battle. You cannot intend to survive this year by merely strolling into it just like that.

Our text told us what happened when the disciples of Jesus Christ found themselves in a very critical moment of their lives and ministry. It was so serious that they were forced to declare a spiritual war. The Bible says that they embarked on a war of prayer for fresh fire, and suddenly, the fire came down and the environment shook.

Brethren, we need fresh fire to confront the powers that have made up their minds to oppose us this year. We need fresh fire to consume Pharaoh and the host of Egyptians that will say no to God's plans for our lives this year. Make sure you have the Holy Spirit fire; you cannot afford to go through this year lacking this fire. Your altar must be fired up with relentless prayers, the blood of Jesus Christ, and the fire of the Holy Spirit. So go ahead and pray for His fire now.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Kings 18: 38-40

Prayer: Oh Lord, clothe me with the fresh fire of the Holy Ghost in Jesus' name. Amen.



Stop Walking And Start Running

Text: 2 Kings 2:1-15

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

***“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reading forth with those things which are before.”
Philippians 3:13 (KJV)***

Beloved, today is your present and it presents all that is needed for you to change your life and have a better tomorrow. Don't squander today doing unimportant activities or engaging in foolish or sinful activities. Take today as a precious gift from God. Invest, plan, and create a better tomorrow.

What you do today and every day of the year matters. Tomorrow is an advantage and you can create what and how you want it. It is under your control as the Lord has ordained the law of sowing and reaping. Sow and invest today so that tomorrow will be great for you and you will reap its harvest.

Take Paul's words—***“forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before” (Philippians 3:13)***. Learn to leave the past behind and alone; don't look to the future while focusing on the past. Don't focus on past errors, offences, injustices, setbacks, enemies, or friends, rather focus on today and work today with the future clearly in mind. May the Lord grant us all a glorious future in Jesus name.

Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 4: 7 - 9

Prayer: Father, according to your word, I speak to my faith that it's as a shining light and it shines brighter and brighter unto a perfect day in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Light Of Christ

Text: Psalm 133:1-3

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on the hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14 (KJV)

Today, many of us live in cities where people are so busy making a living that they can hardly find time to get to know their neighbours and give back to their communities. Gone are the days when children were raised not only by their immediate families but also by the entire community. Today, we live in estates with gates, and our children hardly know our extended family members. Some of us live in rented apartments for years (others in their own built homes) and do not get to know our neighbours! Imagine chasing after a contract for months only to learn that your neighbor is the managing director of the company.

We need to create time to give back to our communities as an individual, as a family, and as a church, and that is how we spread the light of Christ in our environment and anywhere we find ourselves. Many are caught up in church membership and 'rituals' in worship and service that they fail to understand their kingdom citizenship and duties. A church can organize community-friendly programs like cleaning up the streets, doing free medical checkups, etc. It will also help us to know others in our area and nurture a sense of kinship and belonging.

We can identify the needs in our community and see how we can help. You may discover some youth in your street who will relate well to you and whom you can mentor or less privileged people you can support financially. One person may not be able to light up a city, but if each of us shines the light of Christ in our little corners, we will be able to make a positive difference.

The Word and Prayer

Word: John 8: 12, Proverbs 4: 18

Prayer: Father, thank you for making me a light to my community. Please give me the grace to do all I can to make a positive impact in Jesus' name. Amen.



Treasure In Earthen Vessels

Text: Judges 16:19-21

Thursday, January 5, 2023

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Corinthians 4:7 (KJV)

Even though we are Christians, we are not perfect yet because we are human. But even with full knowledge of our highest potential and our lowest sins, God loves us unconditionally. God looks beyond our imperfections and sees the hidden potential inside us. The Bible, in 2 Corinthians 4:7, clearly states this and is the basis of our memory verse today.

We should therefore strive to stay awake in righteousness and holiness while not falling asleep in the spiritual warfare for our souls. It was while Samson slept that Delilah cut his hair and handed him over to his enemies. And it was while the servants slept that an enemy sowed tares among the wheat, and the harvest was lost.

Examine yourself today. Do you need to refocus on God? Do you need to spend more time? What are those limiting things hindering your alertness all the time? From the examples of Samson and the evil timing and planting of the enemy, we must always stay awake and alert for righteousness and holiness, and compliance with the will of our Father and Lord in heaven. *"Awake to righteousness, and sin not" (1 Corinthians 15:34)*. May God help us.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Luke 9: 62

Prayer: Lord Jesus, manifest your treasure in my life and strengthen me more from above for kingdom works in Jesus' name. Amen.



Lemons And Lemonade 1

Text: Job 42:1-10

Friday, January 6, 2023.

"Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee." Zechariah 9:12 (KJV)

Beloved, I am sure you have heard this often said expression: *"When life throws lemons at you, make them into lemonade!"* Well, today I want you to know that when the devil throws lemons at you, God himself, Jehovah El-Shaddai, will make lemonade for you. He will make all things work together for your good, according to his words. And he has promised to do it in style by restoring double for your trouble!

Beloved, if you have lost a spouse, a precious child, or a loved one through death, God can restore double to you, so that you end up having more than you had before, if not in quantity, then in quality! Consider Job in the Old Testament. When he lost everything, his wife told him to curse God and die. He refused and instead responded to God in faith, as shown by our Bible text for today. The Lord responded appropriately, according to his promise (Job 42:10).

Today, be hopeful. Hope in the Biblical sense means a confident expectation of good things happening in your life. Be a prisoner of that hope! You can't help but wake up feeling hopeful as a child of the most High God, the creator of heaven and earth; you can't help but expect good things to happen to you. So when trouble comes, don't give up and say, *"It is hopeless!"* Don't worry or get angry. Worship God like David and see that trouble as an opportunity for God to bless you with more than what you originally had. And because God has declared it, be confident that you will get double for that trouble.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 8: 28

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for your daily blessings upon my life, family, ministry, business in Jesus' name. Amen.



Lemons To Lemonade 2

Text: 1 Timothy 4:6-10

Saturday, January 7, 2023.

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. " 2 Timothy 1:9 (KJV)

Yesterday we set out on the part of rising to the mark according to the admonition of Apostle Paul, based on my desire that we move forward not only in the affairs of this world but to attain the hereafter gloriously according to how the Father has prepared a place for us in heaven.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the devil will in many ways suggest to your heart that you are doing well enough so you can now rest. He will try to persuade you to stop doing kingdom works that have brought you spiritual victory. Please be cautious and beware, because this is not the time to reduce or reduce your kingdom activities, or to stop paying the prices. He wants to throw you out of spiritual fitness. Four spiritual routines are things that keep you spiritually fit and relevant in the plan of God for your life, so don't bulge and keep on keeping on. The Lord is on your side and is for you to keep you strong in his way and will.

Beloved, this is the season and time to press forward and if you have been slacking, get back to the right attitude to kingdom works and your basic spiritual dealings and routines. (1 Timothy 4:8). It is time to get back to complete and prompt obedience (2 Corinthians 10:5-7), for God is ready to restore you and avenge all wickedness perpetrated against you and all that is yours. He turns what is bitter into sweet. Keep away from the devil's traps and devices so that divine intervention in your case will not become difficult. Keep up with your spiritual stamina and obedience. No one will replace you at the next level God has prepared for you in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Corinthians 10: 3

Prayer: Lord, empower and qualify me for the things you have prepared for me in Jesus' name. Amen.



Help Is On Its Way

Text: Isaiah 41:1-14

Sunday, January 8, 2023.

"I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel." Isaiah 41:14b (KJV)

The word of promise from the Lord this morning is that He will help you. That's our memory verse. The Lord says: *"I will help you!"* It's a minor thing for him to do!! Consider what he has done already. He is asking you why would He not help you. Hear what Jesus Christ is saying – *"I will help you."*

Why are you entertaining fears and doubts? He is telling you that helping you is a small thing when he has done the greater one-dying for you. He has done more and will do more. He bought you with his blood. Helping you is the least of the many things he has in store for you. He has done it before and will do it again. He is our ready help.

Before the world began, the Lord chose you He went ahead and made a covenant of redemption for you. He set aside his glory to become a man for us, and he gave his life for us. He is assuring you and me that by assisting us, he is giving us what he has already purchased for us. Therefore, what we require at any time is only a fraction of what he is willing to give us; you may think it is a lot, but it is nothing for him to do. He is the Almighty, and nothing is impossible for him.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 41: 10

Prayer: Fill me, oh Lord, with your all in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Blessings Of Diligence

Text: 1 Kings 11:28

Monday, January 9, 2023.

"The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute." Proverbs 12:24 (KJV)

Diligence means taking careful, persistent, and determined action towards achieving a definite purpose. You need the diligence to be successful in anything you want or desire to do. Our memory verse today tells us that the diligent will have authority because to rule is to have authority. As God's children, we need to be diligent in every aspect of our lives.

The opposite of diligence is slothfulness. If you are not diligent, you are slothful. Another translation of the Bible (NLT) puts our memory verse of today this way: *"Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave."* That means if you work hard you will become a leader and a champion but if don't work hard you will become a slave and live a hard life.

Proverbs 22:29 says, *"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men."* That person shall be known and honoured because of what he/she carries and does. This shows that God wants us to be blessed and known. That is the reason he is instructing us to develop diligence. Pursue your goals and vision with diligence and you will never regret it. God has given you what it takes to succeed. Please pursue good success with determination.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Genesis 41: 41 & 46

Prayer: Lord, grant me the ability to be diligent and to succeed in Jesus' name. Amen.



Do Your Part 1

Text: Philippians 2:12-16

Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" Philippians 2:12b-13 (KJV)

The scriptures tell us that God has done and brought something in the spirit and in our lives, but we have to work it out into visible manifestation. A clear example is Joshua in the valley of Ajalon. You have a mandate to work out what God is working on in you. According to our Bible passage, God has made it easy by working in you before you even become aware of it or desire it! So there is no reason for you to say you find it difficult to do what pleases God.

Let me explain our earlier reference to Joshua in the valley of Ajalon. In the early chapters of the book of Joshua (precisely Joshua 1:5-9, and Joshua 10:8-14). God has deposited His Spirit and power in you. You must speak the command, and say the word He has given you to make things happen to change the situation. The same thing happened in the valley of dry bones; until Ezekiel spoke, nothing happened.

Just like in the parable of the talents, the men were given five talents, two talents, and one talent according to each person's ability. The men with five and two talents traded and did something with what they got. However, the man with one talent buried his. Most people will not know that he got a talent from the Master himself. In fact, people might think God has failed him, but God did not. It was his doing. God was equally faithful to all of them, but each did differently with God's faithfulness. That is how it is with each one of us. Work out God's faithfulness into visible manifestation by doing your part.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 4: 13

Prayer: Physical manifestations of God's faithfulness and promises begin in my life in Jesus' name. Amen.



Do Your Part 2

Text: Matthew 25:14-30

Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter into the joy of thy Lord." Matthew 25:21b (KJV)

We continue from where we stopped yesterday because this is our season of manifestation of the doings of the Lord. I, therefore, make bold and tell you that if you are going to manifest the hidden kingship that is inside of you, you must make up your mind to work out what God has done for you, by pleasing him in all things.

What do I mean by this? I want you to think of grace as a divine soft loan and not as unmerited favour. Grace significantly means someone has power and wants to use that power to help you. However, it is you that will determine the level of help you get and/or how much of that grace is manifested in your life.

Many Christians today live a life that does not glorify or please God. As a matter of fact, in some instances, it seems unbelievers are far better than them because they have not put this scripture into practice. There is a willingness in us that is supplied by God, but we must make that will work. For example, if you need to fast and pray and your body does not want to, there exists already the consciousness and willingness in you. However, this willingness will not become real prayer until you begin to pray.

The same thing applies in every sphere of life, both physical and spiritual (e.g. paying your tithe, discipline in finances, savings, health, giving to others, etc.) It is both your and my responsibility. You will make it and have good success this year.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 4: 19

Prayer: Thank you Lord, for being my all in Jesus' name. Amen.



Do Your Part 3

Text: Matthew 25:14-30

Thursday, January 12, 2023.

"For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." Matthew 25:29 (KJV)

Today we conclude on how and what we need to do to manifest the inner workings of God in each one of us —specifically, how to work out what Christ has put in us as believers and Christ's followers.

Many Christians have copious different reasons for failing because of their disobedience (for example, Adam in the garden of Eden). People that don't produce results resort to giving more words to explain or describe their failure. They give excuses while the result speaks for itself — an answer for itself. Therefore, be determined to succeed no matter what others do or do not do. From the same environment come champions and criminals.

The cardinal point for you as a Christian is to just do it, to work out your salvation, success, greatness, etc. God will work it out on the spiritual side, but you must do what you have to do on the physical. Though the environment plays a part, it's not as important as the person. Seven children with the same parents will turn out to be seven different individual people. You must not look or concentrate on what someone else is starting with in life compared to yours. Work with what you have. All will be well.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Corinthians 15: 9 - 10

Prayer: Lord, let your promise of greatness be manifested in my life and ministry in Jesus' name. Amen.



God's Given Victory

Text: Isaiah 43:1-4

Friday, January 13, 2023.

"We know that we are held firm by God; It is only the people of the world who continue in the grip of the Evil One." 1 John 5:19 (The Message Bible)

As a child of God, you have been given a state of permanent victory, and it is your absolute responsibility to see to it that you are abiding in a state of permanent victory. It is observed that people who seem to be materially endowed assume they don't need to pray (and that is the devil's plan and work to get them to a place where he can easily attack them in the future.)

However, we know we are held firm by God (1 John 5:19 Message Bible). God takes us through His process and gives us instructions because He redeemed us with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. On the other hand, the unbeliever is helpless under the grip and control of the devil. Unbelievers live perpetually in a situation where they cannot be sure of God's intervention when they need it.

God wants His children to live in perpetual victory; He does not want you to have a "yoyo" victory, so do not let anything stand in His way. Also, as the Lord blesses you, do not let your wealth overshadow your need for God, because if the devil appears, you may not have enough of God or know enough of God to enjoy a state of continuous victory.

The Word and Prayer

Word: John 10: 27

Prayer: I shall not be stranded in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Envy, Strife, And Confusion

Text: James 3:12-18

Saturday, January 14, 2023.

"But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie against not the truth. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." James 3:14, 16 (KJV)

The Apostle Paul tells us in the second epistle to the Corinthians and says: *For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. (2 Corinthians 10:12)*. Simply put, it means it's unwise of you to compare yourself with another person. What it does is make one envious and full of resentment throughout life because of baseless comparisons.

God created you uniquely different from others. Your structure, make-up, and mind are different from any other person. You are a unique human being and you must always, under all circumstances, see yourself as such. Don't compare yourself with anyone. We are created differently, with different features, and hence there is no basis for comparison. God created you to be different from your neighbour or colleague.

Remember, you are simply you and God loves you that way. He made you for a reason. All you need to do is to find out why He made you different, then function in that capacity, and you will shine to the extent that people will celebrate you. You have no excuse to fail or feel inferior. Start seeing yourself as different and unique. Stop comparing yourself to others or envying another position. Start living the unique life God created you to live.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 14: 30

Prayer: Lord, remove anything limiting me and let the full embodiment of your image begin to manifest fully in my life and ministry in Jesus' name. Amen.



What Are You Hungry For?

Text: Psalms 63:1-11

Sunday, January 15, 2023.

"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: ³Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee." Psalms 63:1, 3 (KJV)

Many times, you do not realize how hungry you are until you see or smell a well-prepared meal or happen upon it unexpectedly somewhere. And then suddenly, you start feeling hungry. I am sure this is a common occurrence. Has that ever happened to you? It is the same thing with our relationship with God. When we first meet him, we realize that he is what we need, and we start longing and being hungry for him.

We can relate this to the writer of the Psalms and, in particular, our Bible text for today. Read verse three again. We see that this writer loved God for who he is, not for what he could bring. Maybe as a human he started off by wanting God for something that he could get from God, like protection, or prosperity, or family. But then something changed. He began to long for God for who he truly is.

If you have never felt that hunger, that desire for God, then there might be a few things going on which you need to pay attention to. Take a look at what you are feeding yourself with. It might be that you are ruining your appetite for God by feasting on other smaller things that you don't need. Don't go and "satisfy" your appetite with things that seem good but are not healthy spiritually and physically for you, leaving no room for God. If you are feeding on things you don't really need, you won't be hungry for the God that you desperately need.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Corinthians 10: 23

Prayer: Father, feed me with the bread of life in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Full Assurance And Blessedness

Text: Jeremiah 23:5&6; Ezekiel 21:27.

Monday, January 16, 2023.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Ephesians 1:3 (KJV)

One of the principles we know and that has been fully demonstrated is that the spiritual controls the physical. We have the full assurance of all-around blessings. The will of God for us is to have all blessings. However, the devil does not want the will of God to come to pass in your life. He is waiting to see whether you know what is yours and whether you are willing to fight for it. So, if you know what you want but are unwilling to fight for it, life will be difficult.

The devil hides behind what looks like genuine excuses to keep most Christians away from the will of God for them. There will be things that belong to you that are being held by other people. There are forces that will rise and want to keep you from what is yours. So you have to grow into a position to take possession of what is yours and also be able to fight for it. The Lord will overturn the enemy and give you what is due to you in Jesus' name. Amen.

The day you draw the line and say, ***"Enough is Enough,"*** God will immediately support your stand and the devil will respond too. Our promise is in Ephesians 1:3. It says, ***"who hath blessed us"*** and not ***"who will bless us"***. Also, it says "with all" and not ***"some spiritual blessings"***. If there is any blessing that is not manifesting in your life, it is not because God has not blessed you. Aim to experience Ephesians 1:3 and translate all the spiritual blessings into physical manifestations.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Corinthian 1: 3 & 4

Prayer: Lord, today I enter into all that is mine, the finished work of the anointing on my life and manifest the spiritual and all blessings and extend them to others in Jesus' name. Amen.



Be Ready For War 1

Text: Joshua 17:1-18

Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." 1 Timothy 6:12 (KJV)

The teaching for the next couple of days is aimed at rousing all complacent Christians to wake from their slumber. You must not be complacent in any way as a child of God. We shall be using a study of our text, Joshua 17:1-18. You must learn to fight for what is rightfully yours. As the Bible reading stated, there was an extra lot for the firstborn males and other portions for the rest of the family because the first males were men of war. If you are a man of war (woman of God), you will always get extra portions, but if you keep avoiding battles, the fewer the blessings and resources you will get. If you are not willing to fight for what is rightfully yours, it will be transferred to someone else that is willing to fight.

Now comes the crucial part. In verses 3 & 4, the daughters of Zelophehad could have kept quiet and would, of course, have missed their portion and inheritance. They understood the will of God and that God does not discriminate. Humans do discriminate based on gender, religion, race, and colour. The daughters of Zelophehad demonstrated that life will only give you what you accept or what you fight for. So don't keep quiet.

Whatever situation you find yourself in, know that if you have the word of God inside of you, you can fight from inside any hole or pit like Joseph did, and you will surely get out as he did. Get the word of God for that situation, soak it into yourself, then you have anchored yourself on the thing that you can pull with. In verse 7 of Joshua 17, the property of the ladies increased because they bravely fought for it. Always be prepared to fight.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Joshua 23: 10

Prayer: Lord, I receive my portion in life and walk in my own in Jesus' name. Amen.



Be Ready For War 2

Text: Joshua 17:8-18

Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

"...Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied." 1 Samuel 17:45 (KJV)

Now we take special interest in verses 11 and 12 of our Bible passage (Joshua 17:11 and 12). It shows us that there are two kinds of enemies you can fight: already-weakened enemies and determined enemies. It is easier to fight already weakened enemies. However, when you are faced with determined enemies, you must take a stand, and one of the things you have to do is to let the enemy know that you are a determined fighter. Read our memory verse again; it tells you how determined David was to defeat Goliath.

Until David was willing to fight and defeat Goliath, the whole of Israel was at a standstill in fear of Goliath. ***"The Goliath that Saul did not face dethroned him. The Goliath that David faced enthroned him"***. When you suddenly notice new enmity or opposition, rise, and fight. If you do not fight, demotion will come. If you lose spiritual battles, it will show in the physical realm, and when you win spiritual battles, it will also show in the physical realm. Fight and don't allow the devil to give you unbiblical experiences. Go the extra mile to stop the devil. Most of the time, it is not enough for you to just break the yoke; you must stand against the spirit supervising that yoke.

There are demons and their agents who want to share your inheritance with you, and you have to stand up and say a big NO. Don't be a Christian who only makes it in his or her dream! Don't let the devil restrict your blessings to the dream world!! These are determined and wicked enemies. Take a position in your spirit that you are not going to fail in life. It is not going to be easy, but there is nothing that the devil has done that cannot be undone by the power of God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 49: 24 - 26

Prayer: Lord, I take my rightful place in the spirit and the physical in Jesus' name. Amen.



Be Ready For War 3

Text: Joshua 17:8-18

Thursday, January 19, 2023.

"If thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire." Mark 9:47 (KJV)

We move on in our discussion on banishing complacency by going deep into verse 13 (Joshua 17). Here we see that your emotions can be dangerous to your spiritual destiny. There are some things that you cannot enter into an agreement with or tolerate. You must destroy them. That is the gist of our memory verse, and it's the words of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He says: *"If your eye offend thee, pluck it out"*. Jesus is talking about something that is so precious to you but is keeping you from what is best for you. Be ruthless about it –cut it off.

Then in verse 14, we see a group of people who were avoiding the truth; the children of Joseph. It wasn't Joshua that gave them one lot. According to Ephesians 1:3, God has deposited into our spiritual account what we need to become physically possible. Everybody must work (verse 15), but not everybody works to receive a blessing. Different situations require different approaches. Work and be excellent both spiritually and physically. Many times, we take a position that Jesus is not taking. He has set an example. Please follow him. (John 5:17).

Whenever God gives you advice, heed it. He has revealed the truth to you. God is in the place of the anointing. Make use of the anointing for your benefit. The anointing might be found in your spirit or the nearby anointed. If you disobey a directive from the anointing, there will be a fierce bodily war on your side. As Christians, we must be wiser before the event than after. Beloved, take advantage of God's provision and fight victoriously.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 4: 13

Prayer: Lord, today, I come against every form of negligence that can cause me to despise the provision you have made for me in Jesus' name. Amen.



Be Ready For War 4

Text: Joshua 17:15-18

Friday, January 20, 2023.

"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightiest war a good warfare." 1 Timothy 1:18 (KJV)

We conclude our study on how to wage war and to fight for what is yours with a look at the fifteen verse of Joshua 17. Here we take a look at the Perizzites. The Perizzites represent laziness, lasciviousness, going around in circles, and illegal desires to be free of responsibility. It is that spirit that tells you something is impossible.

Fight the spiritual battle to ensure a brighter, longer future. God has given us His word and promise (Jeremiah 29:11). We must always strive to make our physical life a true reflection of our spiritual life. It is not by desire alone, but this must be followed up with the ability to live our spiritual lives successfully. This is what will produce manifold fruits. Look at Rehab, if we go according to her mistakes and life, she should have died as a harlot, but she ended up an ancestor of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:5). Until a person dies, God will not change His mind, so even in old age, God still fulfilled Abraham's life. God has designed a life that cannot fail us. But you must stand and determine it.

Finally, verses 17 and 18 are our destination, so I pray for you, you will not repeat negative history, and that you will do better than your ancestors. Your future will be greater and better than your past. Your result will be different; it will carry the Joseph factor (the increaser). God will make a way for you. Fight today and have a better future for yourself and generations after you. The best is on the way.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 51: 2 - 3

Prayer: Lord, I choose to fight and I ask for the right skills and strategy to fight and succeed and enter my portion in life in Jesus' name. Amen.



You Are Chosen By God 1

Text: Genesis 12:1-3

Saturday, January 21, 2023.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you." John 15:16 (KJV)

At some social gatherings, parties, or celebrations, those who have not been invited are not usually welcome. However, those who are invited show up with confidence. They do not have to ponder if they will be welcomed if there will be enough food and refreshment for everyone, or if there will be a place for them at the table -they are sure that they are among the people wanted there because they have been invited.

It is the same when we know we have been chosen and ordained by God. It gives us confidence. God invited us to the party, and He is the one telling us what to expect. He chose us for two reasons: to bless us and to make us a blessing to others (Genesis 12:12).

Sometimes God's blessings are so overwhelming that when He starts pouring them out, you will wonder if you can handle them. The Bible speaks of blessings that we will not have room enough to receive (Malachi 3:10). But when you remember that God chose you and that He equips whoever he calls, then you can feel secure in God's blessings. All you need is to be open and responsive to his demands, ***"...yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."*** (Romans 6:13).

The Word and Prayer

Word: Galatians 2: 20

Prayer: Father, thank you for choosing me. And Lord, help me to enjoy your grace and righteousness like never before, in Jesus' name. Amen.



You Are Chosen By God 2

Text: Galatians 4:5-7

Sunday, January 22, 2023.

***"To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."
Galatians 4:5 (KJV)***

Nobody adopts a child by accident, it follows a process and procedure stipulated and approved by law. Think about your situation today. That God, knowing in advance about all your weaknesses, still chose you anyway. He not only redeemed us but also made us heirs of His heavenly kingdom. ***"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."*** (Galatians 4:7). You never have to wonder whether it is okay to approach your heavenly Father because He is always ready to welcome you. Your seat is reserved at the table (Psalms 23:5). That means obstacles and opposition cannot rob you of God's blessings!

Being chosen by God is like flying in an airplane in the 'Business Class' category. You get the best service, the most comfortable seats, and all the best food and drinks. You are a priority. However, remember that it does not give you the license to live and behave however you want. ***"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."*** (Hebrews 12:6).

God's correction is not rejection, it is proof that He loves you as his child. You are not chosen because of your strengths, talents, good looks, intelligence, or any other characteristic. God chose you because He wanted you. He loves you and has a special plan for your life beyond your imagination. And the best part is, He is going to give you all the resources you need to get to where He is taking you (Philippians 1:6). God is serious about blessing you! Is there any way you are blocking God's corrections in your life?

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 86: 17

Prayer: O Lord, help me to grow in faith and in righteousness and to take your corrections with joy in the name of Jesus. Amen.



You Are Chosen By God 3

Text: Luke 15:11-31

Monday, January 23, 2023.

"I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee." Luke 15:18 (KJV)

Once you grasp the fact that God has chosen you to accomplish a mission for His glory, lots of your unanswered questions will begin to make sense. For example, you will then realize why you see things differently from others, or why you sometimes feel the need to move on while others are happy to stay where they are. God has certain things He wants to do through you. You have been designed specially for the job.

If you think God chose you because you are a great prayer warrior, or you read your Bible three hours a day, or because you are the holiest person in your family or household, then the minute you make mistakes, the enemy will pounce and tell you are no longer accepted by God. Knowing where you are with God, helps you to say, "Even though I am not yet fully perfect, I can go to God at any time, because he chose me, even when I did not choose him."

The enemy doesn't want you to know this, because it will change how you think, how you look at the world, and where your confidence level sits. Even though he failed, lost everything, and was destitute, the prodigal son could still say, **"I will arise and go to my father."** Even when you make mistakes, God is still your father. You are still his chosen son or daughter. Consider how you can approach God with the assurance that He is on your side.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Ephesians 1: 11

Prayer: Lord, thank you for choosing. Please give me the grace to cultivate confidence in you in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Oven Hot Faith 1

Text: Hebrews 11

Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17 (KJV)

When Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, was first given the good news of her glorification through the Holy Spirit, her immediate response was, ***"Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."*** (Luke 1:38). When it comes to the fulfillment of your God-given dream, the vital question that must be answered is not, "How will it be done?"; your response and conduct should convey, "Let it be unto me according to the will of the Lord." What is seen and demonstrated is an immediate, oven-hot, divinely-tailored faith in the Spirit. This is what Mary showed us. I pray for such faith for you in this season in Jesus' name. Amen.

Concerning your God-given dream, no matter how impossible it looks or sounds to others, you will always have one particular explainable and indescribable confidence that says, ***"It can be done, it will be done"*** when you believe in the Lord. And one day, it will be done. The scripture says, ***"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"***. As we hear the word of God, it is also distributing the faith to drive our assignment into our spirit. Faith comes from what you hear and doubt also comes from what you listen to.

Pay attention to hearing the word of the Lord. As you do, God will impact your spirit with the same faith that is driving the divine assignment that you have as well as bring us to the body of Christ. As you fellowship in the **'body'**, **'a can-do'** spirit and anointing is being distributed all the time. Do not avoid fellowship with the brethren. God always works by His Spirit with the word and for the word through His Spirit.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 30: 21

Prayer: Lord, grant me the grace today to receive a seeing eye, a hearing ear, and an understanding heart in Jesus' name. Amen.



Oven Hot Faith 2

Text: Numbers 13:30

Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

"If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey." Numbers 14:8 (KJV)

Having faith in the Lord is the key to living in the realm of the miraculous and of signs and wonders. There is a difference between the faith you need to ask God for something and the faith you need to receive it. Fear is always the cause of failure at the gate of receiving; many Christians allow fear to prevent them from receiving the object of their faith. You will need a stronger faith to receive what you asked God for when it appears.

You need faith to stand in your God-appointed dreams. Start to have faith and believe it can be done, that the project/business/expectation will begin to happen in the physical as it has been established in the spiritual. The day you have faith for it, God will tell you, it's time to start (Isaiah 30:21), and don't hesitate or doubt. God does not need you to get the resources and is not waiting for you to get resources. He is waiting for you to have faith. If you have faith, God will provide the resources and every other thing you need.

Always remember that God is the Almighty Alpha and Omega. He works in both your present and future. Do you have a dream that you have forgotten about? Maybe fear drove it from your life or life has battered you so badly that you are now confused and unfocused. Don't give up; God wants you to pick up from where you left off. Renew your faith today in the Almighty.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrews 11: 11

Prayer: Lord, I believe your promise for me. I stand in the dawn of the reality of your promise in Jesus' name. Amen.



Be Quick To Forgive

Text: Matthew 18:21-35

Thursday, January 26, 2023.

"Bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so also must you do." Colossians 3:13 (NKJV)

God calls us to forgive others without any condition attached. When Jesus came with salvation to this earth, in those times, he instituted a whole new order of relationships among God's people. Forgiveness has become a part of the lifestyle of those dwelling in the Kingdom of God. The *'eye for an eye'* of the Old Testament law became *'love your enemies'* in Jesus' sermon on the Mount. If forgiveness is the kingdom lifestyle, then unforgiveness should not be found among God's people.

In the story of the unforgiving servant, Jesus likens our unforgiving attitudes to casting our victims into prison. The irony is that a person can't repay debt while he or she is in prison. By harboring unforgiveness, we put people into impossible positions in which they are helpless to resolve the problems they may have caused.

If Christians keep one another in the cruel prison of unforgiveness and suffering, tormenting themselves, who will reap the harvest of souls waiting for salvation? Why don't we just let everyone out of the invisible prisons we have put them in? Jesus is urging us today to remember how he has cancelled all the debt we owe the Father and go ahead and show compassion to our fellow brethren just as He had mercy on us. Ask yourself, is there someone you need to forgive right now? Go ahead and do it.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Mark 11: 24 - 26

Prayers: Father, thank you for forgiving me of all my trespasses. Holy Spirit, please help me to be quick to forgive in the name of Jesus. Amen.



The Days Of Little Beginning

Text: Zechariah 4:7-10

Friday, January 27, 2023.

"For who hath despised the day of small things? For they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel!"? Zechariah 4:10

In the days when Zechariah prophesied, the temple was lying in ruins and needed to be rebuilt from the ground up. Some thought it could not be done, while others thought their contribution would make no difference. So, Zechariah challenged them, saying that those who despise their day of small beginnings will change their tune when they see Zerubbabel setting the last stone in place when the temple is completed.

Sometimes we can feel like there are too many changes we need to make to our lifestyle, our relationships, and our faith. It is at such a point that we choose to rebuild, and that can feel like a lot of work. We may not know where to start or see how such a huge task is even possible, but rebuilding our lives is a process that takes time and patience. We take it to step by step. Even the smallest changes we make in our lives are important. We may feel we are not advancing quickly enough or that we are failing because we are taking such small steps. But God doesn't see it like that. He takes us on a journey, and He is gentle with us. He only helps us change and rebuild things at the pace we can handle.

"He who hath begun a good work in you will perform it," the Apostle Paul reminds us (Philippians 1:6). He does not start working with and in us only to abandon us halfway through; He does not abandon us because we are slow to change. So when we find ourselves in a place where we need to begin to rebuild, let us remember Zechariah's words and avoid despising the day of small beginnings. Take some time to think and pray about what may need rebuilding in your life, then take a step today by making one change, however big or small, in your life.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 1: 6 & 10

Prayer: Oh Lord, let every force posing danger on my way be neutralized in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Our Great God

Text: Luke 1:45-53

Saturday, January 28, 2023.

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jeremiah 33:3 (KJV)

The memory verse for today epitomizes the fact that the Lord Jehovah, our God, is a great and mighty God who specializes in doing great and mighty things (Jeremiah 33:3). He is so massive in size that He is described as sitting on His throne in heaven with His feet touching the earth. He uses the whole of the earth as his footstool (Isaiah 66:1). He spoke, and everything was created (Genesis 1:20-22). He also sends out this same word to deliver and heal His people. And yet He kills and brings back to life, wounds and heals, and no one can deliver from His hand.

His almightiness cuts across many spheres; He made a nation out of one man —Abraham. He also transforms individuals, using Isaac as an example. The fruitfulness and multiplication of man have not ceased since creation when God commanded Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply. We have several billion people in the world today. Despite mishaps and incidences that threaten life and existence —world wars, catastrophes, including the Covid-19 pandemic, the world continues to multiply.

In Jesus' name, I pray for you today that no matter what happens, or will happen, God's word on fruitfulness and multiplication will not cease in your life. His almightiness will be shown in your life in the name of Jesus. You will breakthrough and breakforth to accomplish great things for our great God—you will be great as well! Remember, He created you in His image. Our God is big. Think big. Dream big.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Genesis 1: 28

Prayer: Lord, I am available; use me to achieve great and mighty things for you in Jesus' name. Amen.



Esther

Text: Esther 2:1-15

Sunday, January 29, 2023.

"And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her." Esther 2:15b (KJV)

One moment of God's favour can change everything. Esther received the king's favour, and her life became a testimony beyond human understanding. A study of Esther is a guide on how to receive God's favour. Let's take the study together.

Firstly, Esther prepared herself Esther 2:12 tells us that *"before a girl's turn came to go in to king Ahasuerus, she had to complete twelve months of beauty treatment."* Study, preparation, discipline —those who pay the price to succeed are not lucky, they are rewarded. Secondly, Esther sought only the king's attention and approval. From what we know, Esther must have turned a lot of heads, but she sought only the approval of one person - the king. Ask yourself one question – why do you want God's anointing or favour? Is it to please and glorify God or other people? The higher God takes you, the more frequently you will have to answer that question.

Also, Esther discovered her assignment and fulfilled it. Haman planned to annihilate her people, the Jews. Considering the situation, only someone higher in the hierarchy of the kingdom, like the king's wife, could intervene successfully. Her uncle told her *"you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this."* (Esther 4:14 NKJ). You are born with a set of instructions that you can only discover with the aim of the one who made or created you. So be in the ambience of the Lord's presence always.

Lastly, Esther gave it her all; always give your all too. She recognized a cause greater than herself to declare in Esther 4:14 ***"If I perish, I perish"***. To approach the king uninvited meant death. And the result? The nation was saved, and Haman was hanged on his gallows. God's favour is an awesome thing!

The Word and Prayer

Word: Jeremiah 1: 5 & 10

Prayer: Lord, surround me with your favour as like a garment in Jesus' name. Amen.



Jesus - The Resurrection And Life

Text: John 11:38 - 42

Monday, January 30, 2023.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37 (KJV)

Our Bible reading today tells the story of a man called Lazarus. It states Lazarus died. Jesus loved him. His sisters with him were friends with Jesus. When he fell sick, his sisters informed Jesus; by the time he came to them, Lazarus had been dead for four days. When he arrived, everybody was crying and weeping, and Jesus said; ***"Don't weep, stop crying! Let me call him back to life. I am the resurrection and life. "***

Nobody believed him. Lazarus was dead and buried. And the sisters of Lazarus said, *"He is now stinking—he cannot come back. His body is deteriorating"*. However, Jesus requested to be taken to where he was buried. The stone was removed, and then Jesus called out to the buried, dead man, *"Lazarus, come out."* It is recorded in the scriptures that Lazarus came out from the dead.

It may not have happened the way I narrated it, but it is a beautiful story for us. Let's come back to life. Sometimes you look into someone's eye and all I can say is ***"Lazarus come out!"*** Why, because that person is dead and stinking and needs to experience a second birth? The birth that we first experience is a physical birth, and we all need a spiritual birth. That's what brought one professor from Jerusalem to see Jesus. Of course, he went off in the night. He was Nicodemus; a very rich, respectable, and great scholar. He came to Jesus in the night to have life. The first birth is only a physical one; don't be satisfied with it. It is necessary but not enough. A second birth is needed.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Ezekiel 36: 37

Prayer: Everything that is dead in any area of my ministry and life receives the breath of God and comes alive in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Overflow

Text: Psalm 23

Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." Psalm 23:5 (NIV)

The key to an overflowing life is obedience: total obedience to God in all things, as we see in the life of Abraham. This brings to mind the testimony of a brother and his wife. At a certain stage in the development of the church, there was a word of knowledge that people should bring funds into the house of the Lord. This particular brother decided, or rather had the inspiration, to close his bank account and bring all the money there for God's work. His wife got so angry and tormented this brother to the point of almost throwing him out of the house. She said he has lost his mind as he has refused to be concerned about the needs, upkeep, and future of his family.

However, a few months after this, on a particular Monday morning, the managing director of the company where he works called him and gave him five letters of different benefits. Then he showed these to his wife, who, on seeing all the benefits, ran with testimony to the pastor. The person who was against obedience to the word of God became the bearer of the testimony and good news. Start putting obedience to God in every area of your life by putting God first in all things; you will experience the overflowing abundance and goodness of the Lord daily. Your testimony is imminent.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Genesis 22: 16 - 18

Prayer: Lord, let your overflowing blessings both spiritual and physical, be my portion in Jesus' name. Amen.



Willing To Sacrifice For Others?

Text: Romans 9: 1-4

Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin --; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written." Exodus 32:32 (KJV)

Brethren, we must express deep appreciation to our Heavenly Father for counting us worthy to see the second month of this year. We cannot claim to be better than those who could not make it to this month, but grace and mercy have brought us here; may His name forever be exalted in Jesus' name.

Friends, now that you are here, what are you willing to sacrifice for Christ? What do you intend to sacrifice for humanity? When we look at our text, we can see that the apostle Paul was very concerned about his nation. He was very sad because of their unbelief; he said he was willing to be cursed in exchange for the salvation of his kinsmen (Romans 9:2-3). When the children of Israel left Egypt and were on their journey to the promised land, Moses had to go up the mountain to commune with God and collect the table of stones, on which the ten commandments were written. While he was there, the children of Israel became impatient, and they made a golden calf and began to worship it. When Moses came down from the mount, he was angry at them. However, he pleaded on their behalf with God and even said that if God would not forgive them, let his name (Moses) be blotted out of the book of God.

We can see in the lives of Moses and Paul, their demonstration of the character of Christ, as they were willing to give up their own lives for the sake of the sinners around them to know Christ. The way we care for others around us and mourn for sinners will reflect if we have the heart of Christ or not. Brethren, do you have the heart of Christ? Do you have passion for the sinners around you, or are you only satisfied with your salvation, leaving others to go to hell? Learn to bear the burdens of others today, and you will be mightily blessed now and afterwards.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Ruth 1: 16-17

Prayer: Lord, give me the grace to make divine sacrifices for the sake of others in Jesus' name. Amen.



Put Your Eggs In One Basket

Text: Isaiah 50:10

Thursday, February 2, 2023.

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8 (KJV)

There is a wise saying that one should not put all his eggs in one basket. Even wisdom demands that you always have a plan B in case your plan A fails or disappoints. However, when it comes to God, you must put all your eggs in one basket. Why? Because there is no Plan B with God. There is no alternative to God. God sees those who have alternatives to Him as unserious, unreliable, and fools because it is written: ***"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." Psalms 14:1.***

Our Bible text today says: *"Trust in the name of the LORD and stay upon your God, no more, no less,"* and our memory verse says, ***"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end."*** God is the only basket you can assuredly put all your eggs into and not have to worry about them breaking or going bad. A lot of Christians still have alternatives to God. They combine Christianity with fetish practices, visit shrines, and perform abominable sacrifices. Folks, is that your way? Repent today and make God your sole focus.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Rev. 22: 13

Prayer: Oh God of heaven and earth, please help me to make you alone my sole focus in Jesus' name. Amen.



You Will Laugh

Text: Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-8.

Friday, February 3, 2023.

***"...God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me."
Genesis 21:6 (NIV)***

The story of Zacharias and Elizabeth in Luke 1:5-20 is a testimony to the faithfulness of God that his people who serve Him righteously, walking in all His commandments and ordinances, have joy and gladness (Luke 1:6, 14). In their old age, God gave them a child of destiny - a son among sons. The same happened to a man called Manoah in the Book of Judges as well as Hannah when God removed from her the reproach of barrenness (1 Samuel 1:19). God remembered her and gave her what she asked of the Lord, a son, called Samuel, another child of destiny. The Lord will remember you today in Jesus' name. Amen.

The title of our meditation comes from the response of Sarah, who became fruitful even in old age. Like Zacharias and Elizabeth, she and her husband, Abraham, lived a Christian life. The family was generous and hospitable despite their challenge of childlessness, taking care of all who came their way - servants and relatives. So it was not an aberration for Abraham to have entertained the Triune God and, in so doing, get a solution to his life-long challenge (Genesis 18:1-6). Both were a winning team, working hand in hand to please the Lord, as also were Zacharias and Elizabeth, as well as Hannah. All had a personal relationship with the Lord.

What about you today? Do you have a personal relationship with the Lord? God put laughter in the mouth of Sarah, removed reproach from Hannah and shamed her opponent, who had become an enemy, and gave gladness and joy to Zacharias and Elizabeth. You will laugh last and laugh best.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Luke 1: 25

Prayer: Lord, do to me what I cannot hide that will bring glory to your name and give me gladness and joy in Jesus' name. Amen.



Your Life Affects Everyone 1

Text: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Saturday, February 4, 2023.

"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage- with great patience and careful instruction." 2 Timothy 4:2 (NIV)

One of the most difficult things for many Christians to do is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, in season and out of season, whether it is convenient or not. You are an influencer through the grace of God. Your life affects everyone around you. 20 years ago, if you did something like a marathon or went back to school or started a business, the only people who knew about it were the people in your immediate circle or those that you told on a landline. Well, maybe also the people that the immediate members of your family told.

Today, someone is always watching you, whether in real life or on the social media. Every one of us has influence. Whether it's online, where most of us spend a lot of time daily, or in our work and social circles. It may be the teenagers at church, your neighbor across the street, or your sister or brother in the middle of a divorce. All these people are touched by your life and story. You don't have to go viral and have a huge platform to be an example. You have neighbours, extended family, and acquaintances. You may not talk to these people every day. Maybe they just watch how you live your life, making decisions and doing things, and they can tell you are fighting for freedom in certain areas of your life, and without you preaching, they are getting a lesson in courage, patience, long-suffering, godliness, goodness and faithfulness. That is influence.

St. Francis of Assisi is reported to have famously said, *"Preach the gospel at all times. When necessary, use words."* Spread the gospel through your words and deeds.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Mark 16: 15

Prayer: O Lord, empower me to be a living example of your power, finish my course with joy, and testify to the gospel of the grace of God in the name of Jesus. Amen (Acts 20:24).



Your Life Affects Everyone 2

Text: Mark 16:15-18

Sunday, February 5, 2023.

"The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing." Psalm 34:10 (KJV)

When we say yes to God, we are also saying yes to how He wants to use us. And He will always use us to encourage others in their struggles and their lives, and it does not have to be the way we want or see it. The Lord's prayer says, ***"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is done in heaven."*** It makes no mention of, *"Thy will be done, but only if I am in agreement, and only if I am comfortable and safe."*

Also, on this side of heaven, you may or may not see the fruits of your labour. You may never know how something you said or did affected those you said it or did it to. You may never know if your efforts and conversations are changing anything. But we don't do it for that. It's not about the applause because souls or people are not projects. Your effort and your success are like a breath of air to someone in your influence who is suffocating. Will you do the hard things that scare you to help them get what they need to survive?

You do have an audience even if it's just your neighbor who needs you to get up and do it, even if you are afraid. Live free, setting an example, so he/she too dares to do the same. The brethren need you to conquer your demons and then leave the ladder down for them. Someone is coming right behind you. Give a good Christian example. The world desperately needs you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Timothy 4:12b (NLT)

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for making all things work together for my good in Jesus' name. Amen.



Settle It First In Prayer

Text: Esther 4:15

Monday, February 6, 2023.

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." 2 Peter 2:9 (KJV)

Esther found herself in a tough situation. She needed to defend her people by going to the king, but she also knew that going to the king uninvited could lead to her death. So, what does she do? She called for a three day fast. After the three days of fasting and prayer were accomplished, Esther fulfilled the purpose of God for her life. Then she could just cruise and enjoy being the queen.

The important thing to note is that all of the preparations up to that point were for these three critical days. For God brought her to the kingdom for "such a time as this". God went to work in those three decisive days to deliver His people. On the third day, when Esther stood in the courtyard, she found favour.

Like Esther, I don't know what challenges you may be going through, but I would like you to settle them first in prayer. Don't face your Goliath until you have first faced your God in prayer. And whatever position of influence you may have, or talent, or wealth, God has given it to you for "such a time as this". Honour God with it and He will bless you. Always see yourself as a man or woman of purpose. You have access to the King of kings. Fight your battles by going to Him first.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Thessalonians 5: 17

Prayer: Lord, help me to always consider the purpose of my existence, and thank you, for you are a God that answers prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.



The Approval You Need

Text: 1 Corinthians 4:1-4

Tuesday, February 7, 2023.

"As for me, it matters very little how I might be evaluated by you or any human authority. I don't even trust my own judgment on this point." 1 Corinthians 4:3 (NLT)

Consider what Apostle Paul says in today's Bible reading; is it possible to improve one's ability to accept criticism? Is it possible to become liberated from the need to impress people? Is it possible for your self-esteem to no longer depend on someone noticing how successful, smart, or attractive you are? Is it possible to feel genuine love for someone who expresses their disapproval of you? With God's help, the answer to those questions is "yes!"

When you represent God authentically, no one can declare you fake. Otherwise, when it comes, it could be in the realm of persecution; but you remain genuine and authentic! Don't seek the approval of men or women. Stop living in fear of what others think of you or being easily hurt by what they say. This can start with the feeling that you are not good enough; hence, you want to constantly try to impress important people.

However, always remember that you don't belong to this world or to the people who know you; you belong to Jehovah, the Almighty God. So do not be angry or upset by people's criticism of you—and do not get too carried away with people praising you. Let the Holy Spirit guide you with wisdom. The only approval you need is the approval of God. So don't seek the approval of men or women; seek the approval of God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Corinthians 4: 5

Prayer: Father let me experience the victory that your approval brings in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Tithes And Offering

Text: Malachi 3:8-12

Wednesday, February 8, 2023.

"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts." Malachi 3:11 (KJV)

As we become mature in our Christian walk with the Lord, we soon discover the obligatory nature of tithes and offerings! Your willingness to pay tithes and offerings shows our Heavenly Father how grateful we are for all of his blessings. He has given us a way to thank him. Willingly paying tithes and offerings is one way we thank him. When we pay these offerings, we show that we love him (when you love, you give) and will obey his counsel. When we pay tithes, we show our faithfulness to the Lord.

We take a cue from Abraham, for he is the stone from which we are hewed (Isaiah 51:1-2). Abraham first gave tithes to the priest of the Most High God (Genesis 14:17-20). Tithes came from the law (Leviticus 27) and are further established in Malachi 3:8-12. Jesus Christ also approved tithing but rebuked the scribes for their double standards and deceitful compliance. Avoid paying only a part of the tithe. Partial or half obedience is equal to disobedience. It is also important that you give willingly.

The tithe is one-tenth of your income and one-tenth of your business profit. It is straightforward. An unending blessing is attracted by faithful, joyful payment. It is a promise from the Lord, both material and spiritual blessings. Try it, taste it, and see that the Lord is good.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Malachi 3: 10

Prayer: Lord, give me the grace to obey and trust you in paying my tithes and offerings in the name of Jesus. Amen.



In Times Of Crisis 1

Text: Acts 27:10-14

Thursday, February 9, 2023.

***"Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be as it was told me."
Acts 27:25 (KJV)***

It is true that we will go through times of crisis in life. "In the world, ye shall have tribulation," Jesus said in John 16:33. On Paul's voyage to Rome, they had great trouble (crisis) —a shipwreck. The story tells us some of the things we need to avoid if we are to get through a time of crisis successfully.

First and foremost, do not surrender to the storm. Paul had been taken captive by the Roman Empire, and they are taking him by sea to Italy. On the way, Paul prophesies that the ship will go down in a storm. But the sailors did not listen, and so their ship soon got wrecked. Usually, in life, we react just like the sailors on Paul's ship:"... when the ship was caught, and we could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive." (Acts 27:15). The first thing life's storms do is to make us go where the waves carry us. We let our problems toss us back and forth. You must avoid that!

Instead of surrendering to the storm, strengthen your grip of faith: ***"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised)... Therefore, do not abandon your faith, which has a great reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."*** (Hebrews 10:23, 35-36). If we hold on to God by faith, we will truly find out that He is faithful and has promised. What crisis are you facing right now? Keep it in mind while you meditate on Acts 27:25.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Corinthians 1: 9

Prayer: O Lord, silence every storm raging in my life and home in the name of Jesus. Amen.



In Times Of Crisis 2

Text: Acts 27:15-22

Friday, February 10, 2023.

"But cleave to the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day." Joshua 23:8 (KJV)

Yesterday, using the story of Paul's voyage to Rome, we began to consider some of the things we need to avoid if we are to get through a time of crisis successfully. We said the first thing is not to surrender to the storm. The second thing to do is you must not throw away what is important. In the voyage of Paul that led to the shipwreck, things got worse as they continued on the journey. And in Acts 27:18 & 19, they started discarding things (four categories) with their own hands from the ship: their cargo (that which is valuable and precious); the ship's tackle—the very thing that could have stabilized them; their food—that which they needed to sustain themselves; and after this, themselves—they all jumped overboard and started swimming to shore.

When we find ourselves in a crisis, we may be tempted to ditch the very things we need most—the things that are important to us. Under pressure, people can be forced to do things they don't want, but we must not throw away the important principles we have learned from God's Word.

But Joshua told the children of Israel, "But you are to hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have until now." (Joshua 23:8). Instead of being shaken or doubting God's promise to you, stand even more firmly on it. Instead of abandoning God's plan and purpose for your life, tighten your grip on it. Be steadfast, unmovable, and consistent. That is how you survive and thrive in a crisis. Please don't lose what God has given you because of temporary difficulty.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Corinthians 15: 58

Prayer: God arise, and preserve me as you preserved Paul in the storm in the name of Jesus. Amen.



In Times Of Crisis 3

Text: Psalm 33:18-22

Saturday, February 11, 2023.

"And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship." Acts 27:20, 22 (KJV)

Using the story of Paul's voyage to Rome, we have been considering some of the things we need to avoid if we are to get through a time of crisis successfully. The third thing is to not lose hope. One thing we must never throw away when we face a crisis is hope. If we throw hope away, that is the end. Are you wrestling with an issue that has been battering you back and forth? Have you come to a point where you have thrown things out, and now you are at the point of losing hope? Remember, the sailors on Paul's ship finally gave up all hope because they forgot that God was in control. They forgot that God had a plan. And they forgot that God can inject hope into a hopeless situation.

When the Bible speaks of "hope", it is not talking about luck or something that happens accidentally. We are talking about focused faith – Psalm 31:24: *"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."* See also Psalm 33:18-21.

Don't allow your heart to be cast down. The message for today is: Don't lose hope but put your hope in God always in any crisis. Go through Acts 27 again and read it. This time, consider Paul's reaction throughout the crisis. There is hope for a turnaround, whatever your situation because we serve an awesome God. God has already made a way. There is a way out (Psalm 42:5). Whatever is missing in your life will be restored in Jesus' name, and you will testify to the glory and power of God in the congregation of his saints. Amen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 31: 24

Prayer: My Father, make a way for me; let me not be put to shame in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Start The Day With Jesus

Text: Psalm 17:1-15

Sunday, February 12, 2023.

"Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life." Psalm 143:8 (NIV)

What is the first thing you think about when you wake up? Are your thoughts instantly focused on the day ahead, or are they centered on the Lord? Although most of us have busy lives and are involved in activities that consume much of our time and attention, the most important and time-saving part of each day is that which is spent in quiet solitude with God.

Yet many of us feel rushed that we don't think there is enough time for the Lord. We think spending time reading the Bible and praying each morning will result in having less time and lower productivity; it doesn't even cross our minds after some time in the pursuit of our targets. However, when we seek Christ's direction and wisdom for the day and invite him to control our lives, he will accomplish more through us than we can do by ourselves. He will give us wisdom for good decisions, increase our strength and energy, and free us from time-wasting anxiety.

Ask yourself, "Am I too busy for the Lord?" If the answer is yes, then you are denying yourself the blessing of an intimate relationship with Christ. When you make time for him, he will fill you with peace and joy, guide your decisions, grant you wisdom, empower you to obey, make you more productive, and comfort you with his love. Are you too busy for the Lord to start the day with Him?

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hosea 10: 12

Prayer: Lord Jesus, direct my steps and Father let me experience your lovingkindness today and every day in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Recovering Sight

Text: John 9:1-11

Monday, February 13, 2023.

"He has sent me to proclaim...recovery of sight to the blind." Luke 4:18-19

He was the last person in the world to think he would ever get better. The man, blind from birth, had lived a life of total darkness. He had never known anything different. He sat hour after hour on the hard pavement of Jerusalem's streets, beggar's hand extended, hoping he'd make a few coins to make it through the day.

And then one day he heard a group talking about him —someone rudely asking another: "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" The answer was stunning: neither. This happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. And Jesus went on to make a profound statement: *"While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."* Then the blind man heard Jesus spit, felt mud spread on his eyes, and heard Jesus tell him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. He groped his way through the narrow streets, across town to Siloam, and with the application of water, something happened for the first time in his life. He could see!

Though Jesus' lifetime was one of those rare ages of miracles, He didn't heal everybody. But He healed enough people that the sign was bold and clear: the power of God has come into the world and now everything will be different. We know that we do not get healed of all our illnesses and injuries in this life. From time to time, we witness miracles —and there is the promise that one day when God remakes heaven and earth, we will all see with better eyes than we have now. The Messiah was sent to proclaim 'recovery of sight for the blind.' God opens our spiritual eyes so that we go from ignorance to awareness. This is true spiritual healing! God wants us to get out of the darkness of sin.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Acts 10: 38

Prayer: Help me, O Lord, to do your will and bidding always. Let me see what I need to see today in Jesus' name. Amen.



Effective Prayers

Text: Mark 11:22-31

Tuesday, February 14, 2023.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. " James 5:16 (KJV)

Effective prayers are result-producing prayers that remove mountains and put joy in the heart. They are prayers that scatter the forces of darkness. Prayers that remove blockages, part the **"Red Seas"** and bring you into your **"Canaan"**, a land flowing with milk and honey—the Promised Land. They are prayers that affect healing, both physical and spiritual, and that bring permanent blessings from generation to generation.

Prayer is the wonderful communication God has given his beloved children to access his promises. When you engage in fervent, violent prayers, it releases faith that makes the impossible possible, bringing those things that are not to come into existence. This is the faith that sees life in death, prosperity from lack and poverty, fruitfulness in barrenness, and miracles amid insurmountable challenges.

The power that brought Jesus Christ from the dead will destroy every yoke, spell, bondage, curse, and attack working against your life in Jesus' name. Amen. Prayer, when it is effective, is a potent weapon that can produce results; therefore, don't joke with it, pray without ceasing, and when praying give thanks in everything.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Thessalonians 5: 18

Prayer: Grace to be prayerful effectively, falls upon me in Jesus' name. Amen.



In The Midst Of Languishing 1

Text: Psalm 42

Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

"Why are thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance." Psalm 42:5 (KJV)

Languishing is a state of mind. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, this state of mind was unfamiliar to many of us. But with the advent of the pandemic, we felt it, though we didn't know what to call it. Adam Grant, in an April 2021 article in the New York Times, defines languishing as "a sense of stagnation and emptiness... muddling through our days, looking at your life through a foggy windshield." It is a perpetual battle to find any semblance of hope.

The Bible text for today, Psalm 42, addresses spiritual languishing. It's a lament that wrestles with despair and discouragement. The Psalmist believes in Biblical truth, but he also lives in a painful world. Sometimes he is victorious as the truth eclipses the pain. But it's always a battle. And success is usually momentary. Spiritual growth in seasons of languishing is more about persevering through the struggle for belief than it is about arriving at a settled conclusion.

Laments embrace the battle of rehearsing the truth when life is hard. This lament is about a desperate determination to keep believing. The psalm, in verses 5–6 and 11, features a statement of belief that is repeated twice. It sounds like an internal pep talk. But it's a sermon that the psalmist is preaching to himself as he battles through his languishing. Think of "hope in God" as the sun around which his pain and problems orbit—a place of refuge and the destination of this lament! Whether it's belief and doubt, trust and fear, or hope and discouragement, biblical lament creates a spiritual category for the messy journey of perseverance. This lament is so helpful because learning to lament requires holding conflicting emotions in tension while you hope in God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 8: 24

Prayer: Father, thank you for the victory you have given me through Christ Jesus, and please destroy every doubt, fear, discouragement, and division in my life, family, and ministry in the name of Jesus. Amen.



In The Midst Of Languishing 2

Text: Psalm 42

Thursday, February 16, 2023.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37 (KJV)

Psalm 42 addresses spiritual languishing. It's a perpetual battle to find any semblance of hope. I am riddled with the battle of rehearsing truth when life is hard and, as a believer, a desperate determination to keep believing in the face of what to believe and doubt, trust and fear, or hope and discouragement. We continue from yesterday, where we saw that the goal is to end all pain, but that biblical lament is a spiritual category for the messy journey of perseverance in faith.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that the goal is the ending of all pain, the removal of every struggle, and a spiritual commitment that never wavers. Sometimes that might not be true, but it's not usually the case. More often, faithfulness looks like a determined choice to keep praying while wrestling with the nagging question, "Is God listening?" The normal Christian life is a fight to believe while doubts remain.

Psalm 42 invites you to do two things at the same time: to embrace the reality of your suffering while exulting in the biblical truths that define your life. In other words, you can be honest with God about your pain and choose to trust him. When your spiritual life feels foggy, stagnant, or empty, lamenting and crying to the Lord can help. It invites you to keep believing and trusting before the clouds lift. Psalm 42: Lamenting is a language for spiritual languishers who refuse to give up.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Timothy 4: 12b

Prayer: Lord, save me from the vicissitudes of life, the pains, and suffering that have engulfed the world, and increase my faith for your glory in the name of Jesus. Amen.



A Look At The Lord 1

Text: Matthew 5:1-7, 29.

Friday, February 17, 2023.

"And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." Matthew 5:29 (KJV)

When Jesus walked the dusty roads and fields of the Holy Land, he had just as much time as we do: 24 hours a day. 168 hours a week. And 52 weeks each year. According to the New Testament account, he never seemed to be in a hurry. However, he was the Son of God on a very big mission. His life was saturated with people. He had family, friends, work, worship, and rest. What can we learn from this about how we are to live our lives, not only successfully but in a manner that pleases God?

The Gospels show that connecting with his father was of the utmost importance to Christ. He spent time praying and studying the scriptures, often during situations of concentrated ministry. He consulted God before he selected his ministry team—the twelve disciples. He prayed while carrying out his mission's assignments, which included feeding 5,000 hungry people one afternoon. We observe the Lord praying as he was primed for a trying time—whether in the throes of a crisis or before his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. He also withdrew to pray when ministry threatened to overwhelm him.

Spending time communing with God to revitalize himself was elevated to the top of his priority list. He had hidden God's Word in his heart. Even Satan coming against him in the wilderness didn't have a chance. Jesus reflexively quoted Scripture from memory to combat the devil and his ploys. This is what you too should learn to do in similar situations and other real-life daily life activities.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 119: 105

Prayer: Lord, let your Word command blessings into my life in the name of Jesus. Amen.



A Look At The Lord 2

Text: Luke 7:1-9

Saturday, February 18, 2023.

"They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. " Psalm 34:5 & 6 (KJV)

Is being in the presence of God—connecting through prayer and Bible study—of paramount significance to you? Does your schedule prove it? Or are you content to check off a few quick prayer requests and do a little devotional dance before busting into your day? Do you say, "Yes to Jesus in the morning but then totally ignore him the rest of the day?"

At times, Jesus had a packed agenda while on earth, peppered with people and purpose. At times, His ministry involved preaching the good news to multitudes. He fed a hungry crowd or healed a woman who reached out to touch His robe in the midst of a throng of people (Mark 5:24–35). He had family members that included not only his parents but his four half-brothers—James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon—and his cousin John the Baptist. (Matthew 13:55; Luke 1:36).

He was also a great mentor to a lot of people. He poured into a group of 72, training them before they embarked on a harvest mission for the Kingdom (Luke 10:1-3). He hung out with the 12 disciples, teaching them how to live by example through His words and actions (Matthew 10:1–5; Mark 10:32–34). And the Lord had a close-knit inner circle that included Peter, James, and John. (Matthew 17:1-3; Mark 14:32-34; Luke 8:51-52). How are you conducting your affairs in the place and position God has placed you and the people He has blessed you with? He has set a perfect example for all of us.

The Word and Prayer

Word: John 14: 15

Prayer: Lord, let your grace be abundant in my life to perfect everything concerning me in the name of Jesus. Amen.



A Look At The Lord 3

Text: John 14:5-14

Sunday, February 19, 2023.

"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father." John 14:12 (NLT)

While Jesus had a lot going on all around him and with a lot of people in his life, he also had a plan. Through it all, He never let the people deter him from his main assignment (Luke 4:18-19). It fascinates me how Jesus stayed true to His mission but knew how to manage His interactions with people. He didn't let the crowd overcome him. He sometimes singled out individuals, such as the woman at the well (John 4:1-26), the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 4:24-35), and the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-23). He remained consistent in His calling and yet confident in His human interactions, knowing when to pour into others and when to withdraw to rest.

He could not be categorized as idle or lazy. He was serious about the Sabbath, although He was not legalistic. He recognized our need to follow the pattern shown in creation, laboring six days and resting on the seventh. But He did take into account emergencies that might occur on the Sabbath day. He avowed that the Sabbath was made for man, not the other way around. So, if an animal needed rescuing or individual needed healing, He altered his normal routine and tended to them on the day of rest. Jesus was an on-purpose person.

He wasn't a time waster. We don't see Him allowing the expectations and wishes of others to deter Him from His mission or make Him emotionally exhausted. He toggled work, people, and rest successfully, and in a way that pleased God. If we want to learn to be successful with both relating to our people and setting our schedules, we first need to tackle a topic that Jesus lived out—I'm talking about priorities. Follow His example always, as we have seen here.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Timothy 3: 14 - 15

Prayer: Lord, give me the grace to be patient through whatever situation I may be going through and to follow the example of Christ. In the name of Jesus. Amen.



Choices

Text: Genesis 13:10-12

Monday, February 20, 2023.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and unbraided not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5 (KJV)

Lot in the Old Testament, in the Bible, is a good illustration of hard, unguided choice-making. Lot is introduced to us as the nephew of Abraham who sojourned with him—a man who, like his uncle, became quite wealthy, and because of their combined wealth, they were forced to separate. Given the opportunity to choose where he could go, Lot made a choice, which on the surface was a good one, but as good as it may have seemed, it resulted in much sorrow and hardship for Lot.

As a result of his choice, Lot suffered war, kidnapping, oppression, and torment by the citizens of Sodom, the death of his wife, and the shame of incest with his daughters. All these things happened even though Lot himself was a righteous person. The example of Lot should impress us with the importance of making the proper choices in our lives. What choices do we make that greatly affect our lives? The one that will affect your life more than any other is the choice to follow Jesus. It will determine your place in eternity. It will have a bearing on every other choice you make.

The choice of a career can have a lasting effect on your marriage, family, and service to God; to a great extent, the choice of a spouse will determine your degree of happiness in this life. It will have a permanent bearing on your children and their emotional well-being. It is therefore important that we all make the right choices. In making the right choices, ask God for wisdom, seek and heed the word of God, and seek the advice of godly people. The wrong thing to do is to stick with your decision out of pride or for any other reason.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Job 28: 28

Prayer: Father, in the name of Jesus, help me to make the right choices. Give me wisdom in every situation in Jesus' name. Amen.



Divine Health

Text: Exodus 23:22-31

Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

" Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree." Galatians 3:13 NKJV

Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Saviour, cleansed lepers, opened the eyes of the blind, and made the lame walk; took our sins, sicknesses, and all curses upon him when He hung on the cross at Calvary. The curses meant for you and me because of our sins fell on Him, and He took it willingly. He became a curse in your place to redeem you from every curse that comes as a result of breaking God's laws. He has also redeemed us from sickness.

Are you experiencing an ailment that doctors have said cannot be cured but must be managed? Christ has redeemed you from all ailments and conditions. You only need to believe, then have great faith like the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15:28. No matter how prolonged the illness is, Christ is the solution. Christ has redeemed you from all curses and sickness; He has taken care of them. Believe it, confess it daily, and serve the Lord.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Exodus 23: 25

Prayer: If you have a particular sickness, say, "This (name the sickness) is part of the curse of the law. Galatians 3:13 says that Christ has redeemed me from the curse of the law. Therefore, I have been redeemed from (mention the sickness) in Jesus' name. Amen.



Assurance from Jesus

Text: John 14:15-17, 25-27.

Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever" John 14: 15-16

There must have been sorrow, anxiety, and hope in the air as Jesus talked with His disciples about his upcoming departure. This Upper Room discourse in the Gospel of John (chapters 13-17) was Jesus' final word to His disciples on the night He was betrayed. In it, He spoke about "another advocate" who would come to them. This is a word that means counselor, comforter, and one who comes alongside.

Thinking of God the Holy Spirit as our advocate is indeed one of the most comforting thoughts a human being can have. Who else would you want with you when you go through life's victories and struggles? Who else could work in the innermost recesses of our thoughts and feelings, helping us make good choices, have a proper disposition, and give us confidence when we need it?

When Jesus said, "another advocate," He was also teaching His disciples that what he was doing among them and for them was to be that kind of advocate. He had filled them with truth and hope, with a vision of who God is and a humbling concept of who they were. He would now leave them—a sorrowful prospect. But in all of these ways, God would still be with them. We weren't in that upper room, but if Jesus were here today, He would give us the same assurance. Consider this: what kind of counseling, comfort, or advocacy do you need from God at this time in your life?

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 94: 18 - 19

Prayer: O Lord, you are my helper and comforter. Let me enjoy the blessings of both in Jesus' name. Amen.



When Leadership Is Inspired 1

Text: Exodus 18:17-26

Thursday, February 23, 2023.

“Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.” Acts 6:3 (KJV)

The fact that not everybody is inspired to lead is the reason why we are confronted with a leadership breakdown today. No doubt, one way or the other, we have assumed leadership, and the reason we are not successful in that little circle of leadership is that we are not inspired to take up the responsibility. Most of us are parents, and in our homes, whether we believe it or not, we are leaders. How do you lead in your home? A lot of families are in crisis, yet there are leaders there.

Homes, churches, and countries are rooted in turbulence and crisis today because our leaders are not inspired by God. Many of them just want power; they are interested in commando-style leadership; in fact, they are more rulers than leaders. Their intentions are ungodly, and they surround themselves with bad advisers who are only interested in retaining their offices and the offices of their principals. They are not interested in providing inspired advice, and because they are bereft of creative ideas, they offer nothing because you cannot give what you don't have. They reel out policies that sink their subjects deeper into impoverishment.

Today in our country, almost everything has broken down: security, the economy, and when these things happen, people break down too, which is exactly the situation in Nigeria today. Elections are coming up, and Nigerians must ensure that those they elect as leaders are concerned about their welfare and wellbeing. As Nigerians, we must come to a collective agreement not to tolerate any form of bad leadership. We must reject anyone who has a proven track record of incompetence, corruption, greed, wickedness, and avarice to hold any position of influence in the country. If people understand that leadership is a divine trust that God has entrusted to them and that they are accountable to God, who gave them the leadership assignment, they will do better for themselves, and God and society will celebrate them. May God give us inspired leaders in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 31: 8-9

Prayer: Lord, make me a leader of uncommon transformation if given the opportunity anywhere in Jesus' name. Amen.



When Leadership Is Inspired 2

Text: 1 Kings 3:1-14

Friday, February 24, 2023.

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.” Proverbs 29:2 (KJV)

The Bible says in our memory verse of today that when the righteous are in authority, meaning when an inspired leader, a godly leader, is in place of leadership, the people rejoice, but when the wicked are in leadership, the people mourn.

There is mourning in our land today due to bad leadership and uninspired leadership. Our Bible text tells us that when Solomon saw the great responsibility placed in his hands to lead Israel, he ran to God to seek wisdom and understanding because he understood that leadership was beyond his human competence or capability, and God graciously assisted him.

As a leader in the church, your company, your family, how have you impacted the people around you, those whom you are leading? How has your leadership changed the living standards of people? How has your leadership been able to help people who had no hope in life become people of great hope?

If God doesn't inspire you, then satan will inspire you, and when satan inspires you, you will work against the people, and you will afflict your subjects with satanic leadership. Because Joseph was inspired by God, his leadership was inspirational, and he brought landmark achievements to both his people, the Egyptians, and the world at that time. Our leaders of today are either inspired by their corrupt friends, advisers, satan, or themselves. That is why there is no progress at all.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 78: 72

Prayer: Lord, please make me a worthy leader in my circle of influence and give our nation-inspired leaders in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



Get Knowledge

Text: 2 Peter 2:2-8

Saturday, February 25, 2023.

"Receive my instruction and not silver and knowledge rather than choice gold." Proverbs 8:10 (KJV)

Knowledge is another important factor in securing your desire as a believer and child of God. Information, as the saying goes, drives the world. How much you know will most often determine how highly you will be rated. Also, what you know will determine how much you get. After the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Simon Peter and his group went fishing at the instance of Simon. However, they toiled all night, vigorously putting in all their professional skills, but to no avail. That night they caught nothing (John 21:3). What happened? Perhaps, because they were not where they ought to be. They misappropriated the knowledge they had acquired for three and a half years and went back to fishing.

Give yourself time to acquire relevant information. Give yourself time to acquire wisdom. Acquire knowledge that will help you in your chosen field of endeavour. Expose yourself to reading relevant books not only in your field but also those written by chosen men of God that will edify you spiritually. Read journals, be familiar with the internet, and attend workshops and seminars that will add value to your professional skills and knowledge. ***"A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash."*** Proverbs 15:14 (NLT). Be positively occupied with the acquisition of knowledge. Ask yourself: what is my heart's desire for the next phase of my life? What are the requirements to get there?

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 23: 23

Prayer: O Lord my God, bring the knowledge that is requisite to my victory my way in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Rejoice In Praise 1

Text: Psalm 34:1-8

Sunday, February 26, 2023.

"...I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1 (KJV)

The lifestyle of every Christian should be praising God and thanking him. Praise that does not care how people look or see us as we praise God, just like David did, to the extent that his wife ridiculed him. God deserves our praise for His goodness and mercy toward us. Gratitude is like a boomerang - it comes back to bless the person giving thanks. On the other hand, ingratitude is a rebellion against God.

Giving thanks to God must be like a special meal that God likes. Therefore, prepare yours and offer it uniquely. Serve God with thanksgiving. That will bring a blessing that you will not forget in a hurry. When you combine thanksgiving with praise, you get the best from God.

Complaints devalue, whereas praise increases the value. Thanksgiving improves good health. (Proverbs 17:22). Praise is a ramp through which God comes into our hearts. Keep a gratitude journal. Every day, list things you have to thank God for. Concentrate on what you have and be thankful. Do not focus on the problems.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 106: 1

Prayer: Thy praise and testimonies shall not cease in my life, O Lord, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Rejoice In Praise 2

Text: Psalm 18:1-3

Monday, February 27, 2023.

***"O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: because His mercy endureth for ever."
Psalm 118:1 (KJV)***

There is power in praise and it is a fundamental ingredient of faith, as seen in Acts 16. Paul and Silas, having exhibited the power of God by silencing a girl with a spirit of divination, were cast into prison. However, at midnight, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God. Everyone around them, including the other prisoners, heard them. Through this ramp of praise, God visited them -there was a great earthquake so that the foundations of the prison were shaken, all the prison doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. This was a great miracle of praise.

This great miracle of praise also brought salvation to the keeper of the prison and his household.

David, described as a man after God's own heart, caught the revelation of this truth in Psalm 34:1. Whatever situation he found himself in, he said: ***"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."*** Also, see the way he poured encomiums on Jehovah in our Bible reading today. He proclaims God as his rock, his fortress, his deliverer, his strength, his buckler, his horn of salvation, and his high tower. He is an all-encompassing God and Saviour.

The knowledge of God, which David had, made him able to package special delicacies of praise to the Lord. The result was the greatness he acquired from a position of obscurity. God's favour followed David everywhere, and he in turn showered praise and thanksgiving on the Lord more than anyone else. Like we said yesterday, gratitude is like a boomerang – it comes back to bless the person giving thanks! Always be full of praise for God, and He will lavish His favour on you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 59: 10

Prayer: Father, set me free from every bondage of ignorance in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Second Chances

Text: 2 Chronicles 7:11-16

Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

"Come now and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18 (KJV)

The people's reaction when they saw the healing of the lame man by Peter and John brought forth the powerful word of revelation recorded in Acts 3:18 by Peter: ***"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."***

What is your situation on this last day of February? Have you in any way strayed from the presence of the Lord? Or are you passing through some unpleasant situation, a dry patch, or is there something in your life causing you pain? God allows some things in our lives to wake those of us who have fallen asleep spiritually. If you are going through some unpleasant, unexplainable situation, this is the right time to return to God and his throne of mercy for a fresh start.

Ahab was a wicked king in Samaria whose wickedness was compounded by his marriage to Jezebel, who perpetrated idolatry and all kinds of evil. However, one day, God sent Elijah to Ahab to deliver God's judgment to him. Because this evil king trembled at God's judgment and humbled himself, God deferred his judgment till the era of his son. For a second chance and a fresh start, humbly go before the throne of grace, pray and seek God's face, ask for mercy, and make a turn-around. God promises to hear from heaven and heal you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Peter 5: 6

Prayer: O Lord my Father, give me a new beginning and a fresh start in Jesus' name. Amen.



God Directs Our Steps

Text: Jeremiah 29:11

Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

"There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel - that will stand." Proverbs 19:21 (NKJV)

If we look back at our lives, we see how time after time God directs our steps. God orchestrates our lives right down to every detail. There was this sister of ours during the 9/11 bombings who was supposed to be at the World Trade Centre at exactly the time the bombing occurred. For some reason, one thing after another kept delaying her appointment on this day. Due to God's divine intervention, she miraculously escaped being a victim of the disaster. God causes us to be in the right place at the right time. He keeps us from evil as well as makes us meet the right people at the right place at the right time.

God is strategic in all his ways. He has laid out an exact plan for our lives, down to the minute details He knows where you should be as His child and the people you need to meet to fulfill your destiny. He knows when someone should be at a particular point to help you out of a difficult situation. He has it all figured out. In short, He orders your steps.

All you have to do to take advantage of this is to stay faithful to Him and follow His lead, knowing that whatever happens, He is in charge. His plan stands to the end. Always keep in mind that God is directing your steps as His own. Have you surrendered to Him? Can He call you His own?

The Word and Prayer

Word: Jeremiah 29: 11

Prayer: O Lord my father, let my life continually be in your hands in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Your Hands, His Hands

Text: 1 Samuel 1:20-28

Thursday, March 2, 2023

" And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground." 1 Samuel 3:19

The Bible says in 1 Samuel 2:26, 30b: *"And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men ... for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."* (1 Samuel 2:30 KJV)

When God uses you, your hands become His hands to do that which He chooses for His people. God will do things through you that leave you baffled and wondering about the love He has for you and His children. It is a wonderful thing to be used by God. God is still in the business of looking for people to use at various levels in His vineyard. So wherever you find yourself, serve the Lord faithfully.

Do not be slothful; be fervent in spirit while serving the Lord faithfully. Those that engage in frivolous activities cannot go beyond their present level. Also, do not provoke God to jealousy (Exodus 20:5) by robbing Him of His glory. Give Him all the glory in all things. Do not ascribe to yourself the glory that should go to God. Don't give Him glory with your mouth while your actions indicate otherwise. Whatever is happening through you is His doing. You are just an axe in His hands.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Corinthians 3: 13

Prayer: My Father in heaven, grant me the grace to be submissive to your leading and lordship in Jesus' name. Amen.



Be At Peace 1

Text: Luke 8:22-25

Friday, March 3, 2023.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27 (KJV)

To have tranquility or be at peace in the face of the storms of this world is only possible through Jesus Christ. I was one of the biggest "hustlers" in the city of Lagos and virtually did all that was humanly possible to make it and have it all, but peace and having it all eluded me until I found Christ. Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, promised us His peace. His peace is the kind that allowed Him to sleep through a fierce storm; without His peace, we will be helpless and afraid like the disciples in the boat.

With this peace given to us, we experience an inner calmness that is beyond human understanding in the midst of life's storms. However, to access the peace of the Lord, we must meet certain conditions. The first requirement is to receive Jesus Christ. The scripture says: *"and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross."* Colossians 1:20 (NLT)

The fear of failure, lack of resources, or fear of death is the major reasons we lack peace. However, all these disappear as we have a relationship with Christ as our Lord and Saviour. The Holy Spirit keeps reminding us that our future is secure as we serve our loving, sovereign God, who will see to it that we have everything we need as well as when we do.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 44: 3

Prayer: Father, I thank you for the peace which you have given me, that is beyond human understanding in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Be At Peace 2

Text: Luke 18:1-9

Saturday, March 4, 2023.

"But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. ²⁴Then he arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water, and they ceased and there was a calm." Luke 8:23-24 (KJV)

The guarantee of all-around peace is the promise and provision of our Father for us. In this troubled world, with the collapse of the world's various systems— socio-economical, financial, and others— as well as the recent events of the pandemic, fear has taken hold of everyone.

To combat fear, you must trust that God controls all things. Keeping this and knowing that He is in control keeps us calm and gives us peace. Acknowledge His sovereignty over all the affairs of your life and you will begin to see the manifestation of His power over everything that concerns you. First, make Him number one and commit everything to Him.

Understand that God knows our needs and has promised to meet every one of them. He is a loving father who derives joy in making His children happy. You may notice that you might not receive all you want, but God will give you whatever is necessary to fulfill His purpose for you at the time you need it. God's peace is yours to receive. Allow what God has said to guide you and make it the basis of your feelings and actions, not your circumstances. Doing this will give you peace even in difficulties. Jehovah is in charge, and He makes all things work for our good.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 8: 28

Prayer: O Lord, place your hand of peace on me in Jesus' name. Amen.



Continue With The Lord

Text: 1 Samuel 1:1-28

Sunday, March 5, 2023.

"Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way." Matthew 15:32 (KJV)

Continuing with the Lord is about setting aside one's abilities and skills to trust God's abilities and activities. It speaks of constant reliance on God because He is always working for our good, even if we don't always feel or perceive it. His work and timing are always for our good, even when we cannot see this. We take it by faith because we know Him and trust His character.

From the portion of Scripture above, the multitude, hearing about Jesus, followed Him and saw what He did, tarried with Him for three days, abandoning all their businesses. In the end, their choice to continue with Jesus was not in vain. They were well fed— not only spiritually, but physically, too! Continuing with God demands time and patience (James 1:4).

Abraham continued with God for quite a number of years in patience, and in the end, he received the blessings that God promised to give him. Hannah continued with God even when she was called a drunkard; she did not give up, and in the end, she got her heart's desire. Continuing with God involves having hope and confidence in God and expecting that He will act on our behalf in His good timing. It brings assurance of rest and protection.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Chronicles 16: 9a

Prayer: O Lord, give me the ability and the willing heart to continue with you, and please put disappointment to shame in my life in the name of Jesus. Amen.



God Loves A Cheerful Giver

Text: Proverbs 11:24-25

Monday, March 6, 2023.

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7 (KJV)

Some people say you need to "**give till it hurts,**" but the truth is that God doesn't want gifts given in pain. He wants our giving to be done with joy! This is why God added His promise of abundance to His command of cheerful giving; the two are connected (2 Corinthians 2:9). Cheerful giving is done in faith—that is the key that unlocks the treasure house of God. The concept of "giving till it hurts" does not come from God. He would rather you give 10 naira with great joy than 20 naira grudgingly. The Apostle Paul demonstrates this in 2 Corinthians 8:11-12, He urges the church in Corinth to give with cheerfulness, not grudgingly. That is the kind of giving that pleases God!

If you have not been giving cheerfully before, make a firm commitment to start today. Repent for the times you have given grudgingly. Then spend some serious time with God and His Word in your personal time with Him so that when you next give, you can give from a willing heart. Put the pain of giving behind you. Become a cheerful giver who gives joyously and without hesitation. As you do, your blessings will abound as God has promised.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Deuteronomy 15: 10

Prayer: Lord, all that you have for me, I receive it in the name of Jesus. Lord help me to arise to give cheerfully and generously; and also do your will always. Amen.



New Clothes 1

Text: Genesis 3:21

Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

"If then God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?" Luke 12:28 (KJV)

The Bible text for today says, *"And the LORD God made garments of animal skins and clothed Adam and his wife."* Adam and Eve had already tried making clothing for themselves. They weaved together leaves as they hid from God following their sin. They tried to hide their shame and their nakedness. It was a man-made solution to a spiritual problem. But a God-created, spiritual solution is needed to solve the problem of sin and shame.

As God delivered judgment on the serpent, He revealed the promise of redemption to the children He formed from the dust of the ground: the offspring of the woman would crush the head of the serpent. There would be a Saviour, a solution to the curse and pain that sin had ushered in. God then made Adam and Eve garments from animal skins and covered them.

Throughout the Bible, God uses the illustration of clothing to communicate His mercy and grace toward His people. Not only did God physically clothe Adam and Eve in the garden with animal skins, but He continually covers them and all His people forever with His perfection as a gift.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Jeremiah 17: 5

Prayer: Father, this is my appointed time, help me today in the name of Jesus. Amen.



New Clothes 2

Text: Isaiah 61:10-11

Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garment of salvation, He hath covered me with the garment of righteousness." Isaiah 61: 11a ?

Isaiah uses clothing to show how God's righteousness covers our iniquities, likening our relationship with the Lord to that of a bride and a groom; that is the gist of the Bible passage for today. In the final book of the Bible, Revelation, the white robes of the saints are mentioned as they stand before the Lord's throne -Revelation 7:9.

The illustration of being presented holy and blameless with clothes that God Himself makes is a beautiful reminder that our salvation is a gift. It comes to us from the Lord and it will last forever. Let us meditate on this: just as it was for Adam and Eve, our spotless righteousness was lost in the fall of humanity. We can be tempted to try to fashion our own spiritual righteousness, but we must come to the Lord, acknowledging that we need His mercy and His grace to clothe us. We must allow God to give us His gifts instead of trying to weave something to cover our own shame.

God is our salvation; we must trust Him and not be afraid. He is our strength and salvation. You must totally depend on Him in whatever situation you find yourself in today. Do not go about a self-made human solution. Human solutions cannot solve spiritual problems; leave everything to the LORD.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 25: 9

Prayer: Lord, give me the spirit of total obedience so that I will not sin against you in Jesus' name. Amen.



New Clothes 3

Text: Romans 3:22b-24

Thursday, March 9, 2023.

"Behold God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation." Isaiah 12:2 (KJV)

Today, come to the Lord, acknowledging that you need His mercy and His grace to clothe you. Allow God to give you His gifts and don't try to put something together of your own making to cover your shame. Perhaps you make excuses for your sin. Perhaps you deny that you ever sinned in the first place. Perhaps you compare yourself to others and justify yourself, saying, "Well, at least I'm not as bad as that other person!" These are feeble attempts to present yourself as righteous before the Lord when, in fact, all you need is faith in Christ.

"For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." – Romans 3:22b-24

This is what some theologians refer to as "the great exchange." Our sin is placed on Christ. He bears all of it on the cross. His perfect life, complete law-abiding, and perfect loving attitude toward God are all credited to us at the same time. Jesus gives us all that is His to us, and it is a perfect gift. God has been so gracious to provide us with a covering for our shame. He clothed Adam and Eve physically, and then clothed us all spiritually with the "robes of righteousness." Always look to Him for your comfort, peace, and salvation.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Revelation 16: 15

Prayer: Dear Mighty Father, when I am tempted to look inward or construct false righteousness, help me to repent and look to you instead, from whom all grace comes. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.



Grace – God's Riches

Text: Matthew 25: 1 – 13

Friday, March 10, 2023.

“And be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” 1 Peter 5:5.

Grace has been defined as God's Riches at Christ's expense. Today's reading speaks about the five wise virgins and the five foolish virgins. A virgin is someone pure and undefiled, who has kept him/herself clean and is chaste. A virgin in Christian terms is a person who has been made clean by purging and cleansing by the blood of Jesus Christ; prepared for heaven.

An important lesson from this parable is that there were 10 of them and all had equal chances, however not all were chosen or entered with the bridegroom. The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 9:24 – 27 that for us to make it and receive the prize of heaven, we must bring our body under control to be able to obtain that indestructible crown. Through the grace of God, you have been brought into the glorious light of Jesus Christ. Now you must work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

You have been given the grace; now identify your inadequacies and do not allow them to stop you. His grace is more than sufficient for you to meet the requirement of the situation you are currently facing. Take advantage of what God has provided for you as His son and daughter who is obedient. Build up the fire of the spirit, make sure your lamp is lit and that you carry extra fuel. God's grace is more than sufficient for your life and ministry.

The Word and Prayer

Prayer: Father Lord, propel me to grab and utilize every grace you have provided for my life, career and business in Jesus name.



He Is Leading You Somewhere

Text: Isaiah 30: 21

Saturday, March 11, 2023.

“And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.” Isaiah 58: 11

One of the commitments you must pursue sincerely and faithfully this year is to obey and serve the Lord. Job 36: 11 – 12 reinforces the fact that in faithful obedience and service, you will receive guidance that will keep you from danger. 1 Kings 17 tells of the judgment of God on Samaria due to their sin and those of their king Ahab. For three years, there was no rain and there was famine in the land. However, the Lord guided the bearer of His word, the Prophet Elijah to a place of comfort and survival; the brook Cherith where of all things – ravens (who are usually selfish and self-centered) brought him food. After some time the brook dried up and God took Elijah to another place of sustenance, the house of the widow at Zeraphath. Elijah heard the word of God and obeyed - 2 Kings 17: 7 – 9.

You must continually take time to listen to God for guidance and direction, do not rush into things. After that waiting on the Lord (fasting and praying), listen and be vigilant to His voice. You might have to leave that your comfort zone! The fact is that where you are feeling so comfortable might just be a stepping stone to a larger place where He wants to bless His people. That was the situation with the widow of Zeraphath. God's instruction to Elijah to go to Zeraphath was the panacea for the survival of the widow and her family from the famine. The grace to always yield to His guidance and leading, God will grant you in Jesus name. The implication of not yielding to His voice and the leading of the Holy Spirit is that that “Brook Cherith” will dry up and there will be no more provision to back you. God leads and guides to what is best and will benefit you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 78: 72; 2 Corinthians 3: 5 – 6

Prayer: Father Lord your grace is sufficient for me, let it please overwhelm every area of my life and ministry in Jesus name.



Don't Despair

Text: Numbers 11: 10-15

Sunday, March 12, 2023.

"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going." 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 Living Bible

As Christians, we will have trials but the Lord is with us. God has us engraved in His palms, whatever the affliction or trials, He is with us and we shall overcome in Jesus' name. However, you must be prepared always, so that you will not be caught unawares.

As demonstrated by the Acts of the Apostles, persecution will always arise but note that you are not forsaken. Persecution will make you experience the fulfillment of the Divine promise that Jehovah will never leave or forsake you. As God did for the Apostles, he would do for you. God always interposed to aid them and saved them from their enemies; and where He chooses not to give ready support, to manifest His sovereignty, He ensures the enemies never go scot free.

Are you going through a state of despair, confusion or discouragement? Abraham the great father of faith laughed at God in a moment of doubt when his faith was strained almost to the breaking point - Genesis 17:17. Elijah who shut the heavens and called fire down from the same heaven, in his moment of tribulations, troubles and difficulties, asked God to kill him. So do not give up. Do not be doubtful of your decision to follow Him fully or make that commitment, the One who has sent you on that mission is with you. Look up to God today and He will make a way for you.

The Word and Prayer

Prayer: Father Lord, let my periods of despair and trial refine me like silver and gold for your use in Jesus name (Zechariah 13:9 and Malachi 3:3).



The Fullness Of God

Text: Ephesians 3:14-21

Monday, March 13, 2023.

"May He grant you out of the rich treasury of His glory to be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the [Holy] Spirit [Himself indwelling your innermost being and personality]." Ephesians 3:16 AMPC

Even as Christians, we tremble, shake, and become anxious, burdened, and concerned when we can't resolve our problems, we can't control our environment, and we can't take charge of our circumstances. Life can be very much like that sometimes. So the Apostle Paul is saying, *"Look, I don't want you to be the kind of people who lose heart because of my trouble, so, for this reason, I'm going to pray for you that rather than being weak and vacillating and dishearted, you're going to be pre-eminently powerful people, exceeding your expectations of what God could ever accomplish through you. I don't want you on the short end, stumbling around in weakness, just trying to crawl up to the average level. I want you to live beyond your expectations."*

If we ask for it, God, in His infinite power and mercy, will give more strength to our inner man. In Ephesians 3:16, Paul asked the Lord to strengthen the inner man of the believers in Ephesus. We need to understand this prayer because it is one of the most important prayers we can pray. Our inner man is our soul, made up of our mind, emotions, and will. It is the place where we directly connect and interact with Jesus. It may sound unusual, but it is necessary to focus some of our prayers on our own inner man by asking the Holy Spirit to strengthen us internally, in our hearts.

The most important part of our lives is our inner man, so it should be our main focus when praying for our personal lives. God longs to bless our inner man with strength and might, but He is waiting for us to ask Him. This strength is essential for our hearts—it will help us to walk upright and enjoy abundant grace.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Genesis 39: 21 - 23

Prayer: Lord, strengthen my inner man in Jesus' name. Amen.



Press Forward

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; 5:1

Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

***"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 3:14 (KJV)***

Has your journey been long and hazardous, and you have taken shelter in a temporary spot? The word for you today is that it is time to keep going and move forward. Maybe you have come to terms with your present situation and become '**comfortable**' with it, or maybe you have come to accept that your dream can never come to pass or that your health and/or finances are never going to improve. Today I am asking you to stir up your spirit, gather yourself and start moving forward. It's a fact that there has been a disappointment or a delay in the journey of your life. It should not halt your destiny. Today can be your new beginning.

Jehovah Almighty, the creator of the heavens and the earth, is breathing new life into your spirit. He has lined up victories and testimonies for you. Renew your mind today. The first place where the battle of life is lost is our thinking (in the mind). Think success, think victory, think that you can accomplish your dreams and you are already on the way to your testimony and victories.

The Lord has said that no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. Get rid of all negative, defeatist thinking, and make room for the new thing God wants to do, allowing Him to lead you into your promises. In whatever area of your life you feel stagnant, take positive action today and begin to press forward.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Numbers 13: 30

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for the strength to go forward in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Cultivate And Show Love 1

Text: 2 Corinthians 13, John 13:33-38

Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:34 & 35 (KJV)

God's supreme desire for us is that we experience His love and then share that love with others. No wonder our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ said: ***"A new commandment I give unto you..."*** (John 13:34). The apostle John, one of Jesus' original 12 disciples, in defining the Christian life, wrote in 1 John 4:20, ***"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"***

All our understanding of the scriptures is of no value without love. It's more important to have the right attitude than to have the right answers. If my answers are wrong, God can change them in a moment through the revelation of His truth. But oftentimes, it takes a whole lifetime to change an attitude. It is better to have the right attitude and be wrong than the right answer and the wrong attitude.

The Apostle Paul placed a strong emphasis on speaking in tongues and that gift as the primary evidence of the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit. However, he tells us that if those same people don't have love, speaking in tongues is a noise made by hitting a cymbal, which sounds like brass. It may serve as primary evidence of the Spirit's presence, but it does not demonstrate love. May everyone see the love of Christ manifested and evidenced in you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Corinthians 16: 14

Prayer: Father, help me to show Christ-like love to everyone I come across in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Cultivate And Show Love 2

Text: John 15:9-17

Thursday, March 16, 2023.

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." 1 John 4:8 (KJV)

I have discovered that the key to compassion is understanding and empathy. Prophet Ezekiel in Ezekiel 3:15 said: *"...I sat where they sat..."*, i.e., from the other person's perspective. We are always seeing things only from our side but try and look at them from another perspective.

As we minister to people, whether a group or fellowship, whether it's a home Bible study or a church of ten thousand people, we need to make certain that one of our major themes is love. That love must be demonstrated by our own actions, attitudes, and lives. You must constantly seek to be understanding and compassionate, seeing people in and through the compassion of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Sometimes we are bound to come across people who irritate us because of their mannerisms or characteristics that are distasteful to us. Look at the reason why you dislike that person again. Are they not a mirror to you? Aren't we always seeing ourselves in others? My prayer for you is that the Lord will grant you the grace to carry on and show compassion as Jesus will do in every situation you find yourself in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 5: 44 - 45

Prayer: Father, let Christ-like compassion envelope my life in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Sow Righteousness 1

Text: Hosea 10:12-13

Friday, March 17, 2023.

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." Psalm 103:8 (KJV)

What have you been sowing into existence? People often wonder why certain things turn out in certain ways and they wonder why certain things happen to them. The truth of the matter is that your life is the submission of what you sow. It is what you do to others that end up turning around and coming back to you.

The Bible says, ***"If you sow the wind, you will generally reap the whirlwind" Hosea 8:7.*** Whatsoever you give to life is what you will get in return. You need to examine your life and be careful what you do. The mistake a lot of people make is that they give nothing to life and they expect a lot of things back in return. Galatians 6:7 says, ***"...whatever a man soweth the same shall he reap."***

People need to look at themselves and see what they have given to life; a lot of people think that life has treated them unfairly. They go around hurting and destabilizing people, not realizing that they have hurt those people. Every single action that you take hits somebody else, either positively or negatively, and may affect the whole world. Life is a collection of exchanges. A lot of us are not kind to people. We are very bitter, exhibiting unkindness and wickedness all the time.

A lot of us get away with a lot of things in life because God is very merciful. Most of the time, God does not respond to you as He should, and as a result, we take God for granted. Be careful what you give to life.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 11: 18

Prayer: Lord, grant me the Spirit to worship you appropriately in holiness and righteousness in Jesus' name. Amen.



Sow Righteousness 2

Text: 2 Samuel 11:1-15

Saturday, March 18, 2023.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10 (KJV)

What has kept most of us from getting the full measure of the harmful seeds we have sown is the fact that our God is full of compassion, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He would rather that we repent than die in our sins.

In 2 Samuel 11, David, the father of Solomon, slept with another man's wife and also got the man killed. God sent the prophet Nathan to David to let him know that his sin was not hidden from God and that he needed to amend his ways. David confessed to Nathan, and Nathan said to David, ***"The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die." (2 Samuel 12:13). However, as a result of the sin he committed, he got a judgment: "Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thy house."*** David's children reaped what their father sowed. Beware of what you are sowing today.

Finally, a lot of us sow nothing. We give nothing into life and we get nothing in return. 2 Samuel 25 tells the story of a man called Nabal who, despite all God had given him, gave nothing back in life. The Bible says all he had was withdrawn. What have you given to God to get the best out of life? For some of us, that which we already have has been withdrawn because we have given nothing. We have walked through life with no effect on it. What have you given to life? Start by sowing righteousness!

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 51:1 & 2

Prayer: Lord, I come to you today. Let there be a resurgence of your Spirit in my life in the name of Jesus. Amen.



The Power Of The Holy Spirit

Text: Joel 2:28-32

Sunday, March 19, 2023.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8 NIV

The Bible says that the source of power in the believer's life is the Holy Spirit, and so that power should not be anything to be afraid of or embarrassed about. Jesus walked in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14), and promised the same thing to the disciples, in Acts 1:8, **our memory verse.**

The Holy Spirit's power can come upon us, filling us, and this power can manifest itself in either physical or spiritual ways. Physically, we know that the virgin named Mary conceived Christ in her womb through the power of the Spirit, for the angel Gabriel promised her in Luke 1:35, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born[a] will be called holy, the Son of God*" **Luke 1:35 RSV**

Through the physically-evidenced power of the Spirit, Jesus, too, healed people. "*... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him...*" **Acts 10:38 RSV** and Paul told the Romans that Christ had accomplished visible signs and wonders through him "*in the power of the Spirit*" (Romans 15:19). Ask for the power of the Holy Spirit in your life today.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 63: 1 - 2

Prayer: Father, let the power and anointing of your Holy Spirit fall on me in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Your Siege Is Over

Text: Ephesians 6:10-12

Monday, March 20, 2023.

"Now Jericho was straitly shut up because the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in." Joshua 6:1 (KJV)

Many people are experiencing stunted progress in life without really knowing the cause of it. They work like elephants and eat like rats, and still attribute the cause of their plight to other sources. People invest a lump sum into life and get nothing back from it. It is quite frustrating to mark time in the same spot for a long time in life. All the above may be consequences of a siege that such a person must spiritually combat in life. A siege is an instrument used by the enemy to delay or totally hinder you from reaching your destination or **having access to things you need to succeed** in life. A siege is not the will of God for any believer in Christ.

The children of Israel experienced a siege and stagnated at Jericho on their way to the Promised Land. The wall of Jericho caused them to be stagnant because the gate was shut against them to prevent them from advancing through the city to Canaan, their promised land. Unfortunately, the Israelites had no alternative route to Jericho at that time. Their journey to the Promised Land came to a standstill at that junction until God intervened and caused the wall of Jericho to fall down for them to advance through the city.

Note, however, that the breakthrough did not happen without them going around the walls of the city seven days and seven times with praise and thanksgiving. In other words, you have to take that step of faith as you proceed in the journey of this year in order to break down any wall of Jericho standing in your path, which is causing a siege in your life. Take a moment to ponder if there is a siege hindering your progress right now or that of anyone you know, then go to God in prayer to remove the siege.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Corinthians 10: 3 - 5

Prayer: Father, I thank you for always granting me victory in life. I declare that every yoke of stagnation on my path is destroyed completely today in Jesus' name. Amen.



God's Victory

Text: Hebrews 6:12

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." Genesis 50:20 (KJV)

Adversity can bring about a positive change, although this is not always the case. It is positive when one passes through a painful traumatic experience that now results in a rebirth. In the Bible, we are told that despite all the adversity surrounding us, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ (Romans 8:37). However, we must learn to wait for God's victory. The Bible says it's through faith and patience that we inherit God's promises. We are also encouraged to have long-suffering (Ephesians 4:2, Galatians 5:22) to be able to walk with the Lord in patience.

Joseph was betrayed by his family members and sold into slavery. He got to Egypt and, as one would have said, he had some respite; he was falsely accused of rape and subsequently unjustly imprisoned; but through all this, the Lord was with him. After the death of his father, Jacob and his brothers were ridden with guilt and became apprehensive, Joseph looked back and said: ***"God intended it all for good."*** The key to our overwhelming victory is seeing God in all our circumstances and situations. Trusting Him when everything seems upside down and you can't even understand the situation and knowing that He has your best interest at heart is hard to beat.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 8: 31 & 37

Prayer: O Lord God, let all things work together for my good and in your perfect timing, in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Power To Get Wealth

Text: Deuteronomy 15:18-11

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

"For the LORD thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee; and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee." Deuteronomy 15:6 (KJV)

God is not opposed to you becoming wealthy, even extremely wealthy, but He does want to know if you can manage wealth. There are principles to getting wealth, but what many fail to understand, and you need to realize, is that the power to get wealth is with God. I pray for you that you will know how to sustain God's blessings in your life in Jesus' name. Amen.

The divine principle of getting wealth is enshrined in the word of God: In Deuteronomy 15:10 it says, *"Thou shalt surely give... because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto."* This principle has been termed '**Giver's Gain.**' It states that when you give, you gain; when you do not give, you do not gain. This principle cannot be compromised, particularly for the children of the kingdom of God. There will always be needy people, so no one has an excuse for not giving (Deuteronomy 15:11).

Our Lord Jesus Christ expressed this same principle in Luke 6:38, ***"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom..."*** God is the source of your wealth. The misconception that wealth leads to hell is not according to the word of God. The refusal to manage it according to God's principles is what makes wealth the root of evil. Recognize that it is God that gives the power to get wealth and so always obey the principles in His word. Always give your tithe of anything you receive. Work hard and diligently because He promises to bless the work of your hands.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 22: 29

Prayer: Help me, O Lord, to be fruitful so that you can entrust me with great wealth to the glory of your name in Jesus' name. Amen.



Life Choices

Text: Deuteronomy 30:9-20

Thursday, March 23, 2023.

"See, I have set before thee this day life and good... In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and judgment, that thou mayest live and multiply and the LORD thy God shall bless thee..." Deuteronomy 30:15-16 (KJV)

Life is full of choices. From the time you get up in the morning until you go to bed at night, you are faced with all sorts of choices. Most of these choices are for a short term goal. Then there are those that are for a longer-term goal. Most choices that you make have little or no real consequences attached to them. It doesn't make a whole lot of difference whether you eat peas or carrots, or which job you do first, as long as you do the rest. Certainly, the majority of choices that you make have no eternal consequences.

For 40 years, the children of Israel had been wandering in the wilderness. During that time, all the Israelites who left Egypt had died, except Moses. Joshua and Caleb. The new generation of Israelites was ready to enter the Promised Land, and Moses, because of his sin of disobedience, was not permitted to enter with them. Moses, therefore, repeated the laws of God to this new generation who were not present or were too young to remember the first at Mount Sinai. After repeating the laws of God, Moses, as God's spokesperson, presented the Israelites with a choice. It's the choice of life or death. Moses told Israel what choice would result in life.

This is a choice that has eternal consequences. This is the choice, which God places before you today. Where and how you will spend eternity depends on the choice that you make. ***"Behold, I have set before you today life and prosperity, as well as death and destruction."*** Loving God and showing that love by walking in His ways and keeping His commandments will result in life and blessings. Loving God leads to eternal life.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 John 5: 12 - 15

Prayer: Lord, thank you for granting me life in you through your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



Live By Faith

Text: Hebrews 10:32-39

Friday, March 24, 2023.

"But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith." Galatians 3:11 (KJV)

The phrase, "the just shall live by faith," is taken from the book of Habakkuk. It is the response of the Lord to the prophet's complaints about how long he must wait for justice and why God was allowing the wicked to destroy nations more righteous than they. God answered: ***"Wait patiently. The wicked will die, and the righteous will live by faith"*** (Habakkuk 11:2-4, 12-17, and 2:15).

The point is that Habakkuk urges believers to be patient and have tenacious faith in the face of incredible adversity. Living by faith means obeying God, waiting for God's intervention, and trusting God. Martin Luther once said: ***"God made all things to depend on faith so that whoever does not have faith will have nothing."***

Acceptable service to God has always been based on active, obedient faith. Those who please God follow His instructions, regardless of their own understanding. How could Noah spend 120 years building the ark? What motivated Abraham to leave his homeland? How could he willingly take Isaac and offer him as a sacrifice to God? Then what about Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Joshua? Also consider Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the Prophets as well as the Apostles. What characteristics do all these individuals have in common? Faith. They were willing to trust and obey God. Are you?

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrews 11: 6

Prayer: Father, strengthen and increase my faith today in the name of Jesus. Amen.



The First Things

Text: 2 Chronicles 20:20-25

Saturday, March 25, 2023.

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16 (KJV)

One of the first things we must do when we have a problem is to establish a purpose with God Almighty. From our Bible reading, Jehoshaphat did not turn to God after he had tried everything else, like so many of us, do. Rather, the very first thing he did when trouble came was to seek the Lord. We must come bodily to God's throne of mercy as Jehoshaphat did when trouble came knocking.

You gain more confidence each time you encounter a problem, and you look back and see what God did for you in the past. That is exactly what Jehoshaphat did. God did not save you to abandon you. His name is **'I AM', not 'I WAS'**. If you have seen Him work in your life in the past, believe that He will do so in the future. God is able to bring something good out of every circumstance in your life.

King Jehoshaphat humbled himself before the mighty hand of God. He did not go about showing off with an arrogant attitude because he was a beloved child of God. Instead, he and his team admitted they didn't have the strength, the resources, or the knowledge to overcome the enemy. They called out to God. Before the battle even began, they offered praise to God. So often, we want to get into the fight or get to work without pausing to thank God for the blessings and victories He will bring. There is nothing more important than worship in preparing to battle problems. The man who kneels before God can stand before any problem. The Almighty will win all your battles for you as you go forward in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrews 4: 15 - 16

Prayer: Father, help me to always trust and put you first in all circumstances, in Jesus' name. Amen.



A Portrait Of God's Salvation

Text: 2 Kings 5:1-19

Sunday, March 26, 2023.

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth” – Philippians 2:10

Naaman was an outstanding man. He towered above his peers. Let's see how the Bible introduced him: *“Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria; he was also a mighty man in valour but he was a leper” – 2 Kings 5:1.*

Naaman was an instrument working for God in Syria, but he was a leper. He was someone God was using to accomplish His purpose. He was all that you would expect in a great man, however all these was covered by a 'but' – leprosy; beautiful inside but repelling outside. Naaman is not alone as quite a number of us have one 'but' or the other in our lives. As you have started this year with the Lord, any 'but' in your life shall vanish away in Jesus name.

The healing of Naaman, the leper is not just a story of the healing of a man from one of the most dreaded diseases of ancient times, but it is a story of salvation, one which illustrates the spiritual salvation man finds only in Jesus Christ and how men come to find that salvation in Christ. Money, power and wealth cannot save us, make us spiritual, effective witnesses, or deserving of responsibility or leadership in the body of Jesus Christ. Only God's grace and his gifts and blessings in Jesus Christ can do that. Naaman represents the seeking soul, one in need of the Lord. Remember, God was using his leprosy as a means to bring him to a knowledge of the Lord.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Acts 17:27

Prayer: It is my turn to be favoured in the name of Jesus.



Godly Children

Text: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Monday, March 27, 2023.

***"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6 (KJV)***

Good parenting and raising godly children are tasks that cannot be completed on your own. It is only with God's help that you can do this. Our Father in heaven is a parent, a perfect one indeed, who understands and knows all that is involved in parenting and bringing up children in His ways.

To succeed in this task, you need to partner with God. By partnering with God, you make your task easier because it is God that gives you the wisdom and grace to do everything right. To be God's partner and friend, you must give your life to Jesus Christ and continually follow Him by living a righteous and holy lifestyle. A close walk with God and leaning on Him is what will make you a successful parent.

Your child was made for God's glory and, therefore, his/her life must be dedicated to the purpose of God. You must therefore ensure that from infancy he/she is trained to be acquainted with God's nature and statutes ***"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children ..."*** (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). We must pray and work such that our children will grow in faith to know and accept the Lord and to serve Him.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Ephesians 6: 4

Prayer: O Lord my Father, forgive me where I have neglected my responsibility as a parent, and help me to move on the path you have laid for me in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Fear Not

Text: Isaiah 41:10-18

Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isaiah 41:10 (KJV)

In Matthew 10:26–31, God tells us that if He has such care for inconsiderable creatures, how much more will He take care of us. His promise in these verses should silence all our fears. So, what is that thing that is causing you to fear? Ill-health, loneliness, financial difficulties, failure, family, uncertainty about the future, etc. When we are going through situations causing us to fear, we tend to think it's only us. We forget that whatever it is we are going through, someone has gone through it before, and whatever it is we are going through, there is always room for thanksgiving.

One of the reasons we fear is that we forget God's previous favours for us. An example is the children of Israel at the Red Sea. They quickly forgot all the things the Almighty had to do to bring them out of Egypt. Another reason we fear is that we are not willing to wait. In Habakkuk 1:2-4, the prophet complains about how long he must wait for justice. Humans have developed fast cars, fast foods, fast trains, fast airplanes, fast home appliances, fast divorce, and even fast worship – all in an effort to speed up or decrease the need to wait.

The third reason we fear is when we shift our focus from Jesus. Peter the Apostle, when Jesus asked him to walk on water, as Jesus did, only began to sink when he shifted his focus from the Lord and allowed fear into his heart (Matthew 14:19-30). The Bible encourages us to place our focus on the author and finisher of our faith— Hebrews 12:2.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Timothy 2: 7

Prayer: O Lord God, give me the grace to always place my focus on you no matter what may be happening around me, in Jesus' name. Amen.



You And Your Household

Text: Acts 16:14-15, 25-32

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

*"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."
Acts 16:31 (KJV)*

The God we serve is a strategic God. When God saved you, He had a strategic plan in place not only for you but also for your family. He did not just have you in mind. He had your whole family in mind and had made provision for their salvation also. That is why the Bible says: *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."*

However, this does not imply that once you believe and are saved, your family members will automatically be saved. What it means is that you have opened the door of your house for God to move into your family and touch every member of your family. God has a plan in place to reach them. Maintain your part through prayers supported by practical and unconditional love, as well as an exemplary Christian lifestyle.

God's desire is for your entire household to be saved. Maybe right now some of your family members may be giving you a hard time, but because you are a Christian, a big door has opened for God, our heavenly Father, to touch and save them. Pray for your unsaved family members today.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Ephesians 3: 3

Prayer: Father, I decree today that as for me and my family and household, we will serve you in the name of Jesus. Amen.



The Word Of God

Text: Psalm 119:162-167

Thursday, March 30, 2023.

"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." Psalm 119:165 (KJV)

Our journey as Christians in the world we are in today is laced with a lot of jeopardy. The only way out for us as believers, who desire to walk wisely through these perils is something more dependable, more reliable than human instinct. What we require is divine guidance to guide us. This entails close communication with God. One of the ways to achieve this is through an intimate study of God's Word.

The Bible is the key to knowing God and doing His will. If you want to be certain of the Lord's perspective on any issue, go to the Holy Bible - to fill your spirit with the truth of God. There are certain strongholds in our minds that need to be pulled down. It is made up of the principles we were taught as children, the habits we have formed, as well as information from sources that we accept as true, which we must unlearn with the help of the Word of God.

Part of the strategy of the devil is to work on our minds and subconsciousness to gain a mental and spiritual foothold. Some of the things that satan throws at your mind may seem harmless or even good. This is the main reason you must not live by your **'human instincts'**. When your mind and spirit are saturated with the Word of God, it will reject whatever is sinful, ungodly, poorly timed, incorrect, or just not good for you. Saturate yourself with the Word of God always.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 John 2: 5

Prayer: Father, thank you for your love for me. Help me by giving me the grace to dwell in your holy word in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Perfect Protector

Text: 2 Kings 6:8-17

Friday, March 31, 2023.

"For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her." Zechariah 2:5 (KJV)

God is our ultimate perfect protector, and He declares this to all of His beloved children. The Bible in Psalm 105:14-15, says *"Yet he did not let anyone oppress them. He warned kings on their behalf: "Do not touch my chosen people, and do not hurt my prophets." (NLT). Satan said to God concerning Job: "Hast not thou made a hedge about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast the work of his hands and his substance increased in the field."* (Job 1:10).

God has a covenant of protection with you, His child. In our Bible text today, when Elisha's servant was afraid for their lives because of their being surrounded by the enemy, Elisha requested that God open the eyes of his servant. The servant then saw that innumerable horses and chariots of fire surrounded them.

God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). God has not changed and cannot change—He still uses the heavenly wall of fire to protect His own. If you are truly a child of God, living daily to please Him, He will always protect you. Put your household and family under His control, just as Abraham did (Genesis 18:19).

The Word and Prayer

Word: Exodus 23: 22

Prayer: O Lord my God, I come before you today. Let me and everything concerning me be enveloped by your fire in Jesus' name. Amen.



Your Life Is A Witness

Text: Exodus 18:1-27

Saturday, April 1, 2023

"And Jethro, Moses' father in law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God: and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses' father in law before God." Exodus 18:12 (KJV)

Jethro was Moses' father-in-law. He was from Midian, and he belonged to a community that worshipped many gods. But God revealed Himself to Jethro over the course of 40 years, during which time Moses worked as a shepherd for Jethro. Jethro was able to watch God at work, molding Moses into a leader. So, when Jethro saw and heard from Moses what God had done for the Israelites, he needed no further evidence for the supremacy of Moses' God over all other gods.

Jethro's recognition is a critical reminder that unbelievers may watch our lives much more carefully than they listen to our words for evidence of God's power. Paul said to the Corinthians, ***"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men."*** (2 Corinthians 3:2). The quality and genuineness of our relationship with unbelievers critically influences the effectiveness of our witnessing to them. More than 40 years passed before Jethro was ready to commit to God. Are you willing to be patient as you live out your witness in front of those you love?

Always remind yourself that others are watching you; you are the Bible that many unbelievers (including even some believers) will read before they come to know the Lord.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Exodus 18: 10 & 11

Prayer: Father, thank you for the mighty things you are doing in your church and in my life; grant me the grace to be a better witness of Your saving grace in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Giving

Text: 2 Corinthians 9:5:12

Sunday, April 2, 2023

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38 (KJV)

Every Christian ought to give. You have probably heard people pray, ***"Lord, bless those who can give and those who cannot."*** While that may sound good, it's not scriptural. **Everyone** who is a Christian should give no matter how small. It is one thing if you cannot afford to give; it is another thing entirely if you don't want to give. Do you think you will impoverish God by not giving? Will you hinder God's cause by not giving?

Every person who is a Christian and chooses to give should consecrate their gifts to God. God is not only interested in what's in your hand, but what's in your heart. It's not just the amount, but also the attitude. That is why He accepted Abel's sacrifice but rejected Cain's. A boy was saving some choice meat for his dog when his dad said, ***"You eat your meat and your dog can have the scraps."*** After dinner, the boy went to his dog with the scraps and said, dejectedly and apologetically, ***"Spot, I wanted to give you a love offering, but all I can give you today is only a collection."***

Once the heart and mind are joined in arriving upon giving a certain gift, the hands are to take hold of that gift as an offering given to God. We are compelled to give by character, conscience, and Christ. Every Christian who chooses to carry through with his consecrated gift without carnal compulsion should give cheerfully. The word cheerful means 'joyful, jovial, hilarious.'

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 4: 10 - 19

Prayer: Father, I rededicate my life to you. Let my life be a living sacrifice to you on a daily basis in Jesus' name. Amen.



Pergamum: The Church That Trusted Their Own Power 1

Text: Revelation 2:12-17

Monday, April 3, 2023.

" I know where you live – where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name..."¹⁴ "Nevertheless, I have a few things against you..." Revelation 2:13&14a (NIV)

At the time of John's writing, thousands of people flocked to the Asclepion, a location outside the city of Pergamum dedicated to therapy. There, traditional medicine, magic, and psychiatry were combined to treat various illnesses. The Asclepieia was dedicated to Asclepius, the god of health and medicine, and ancestral therapy, resulting in visions of snakes in patients. Serpent worship was therefore widespread as visions of snakes were believed to accompany healing and the touch of the god Asclepius.

So, when John writes the words of Jesus to this church, *"I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is"* (Revelation 2:13), Jesus is being specific about their adoption of false religion. The serpent images, human sacrifices, persecution of unbelievers, and the obvious danger of mixing politics and religion in the exercise of power - are involved in the reference to the throne of satan in Revelation.

Through the great symbolism of its images, the book of Revelation aims to make us aware of the origin of evil being unleashed and running rampant across the earth. What is the situation in the country where you find yourself today on this planet known as Earth? Apart from this, what is your personal situation? Have you set up your own altar and throne in your corner of Christianity, relying on and believing in your wisdom, power, and wealth to solve all life's problems? Today offers you an opportunity to go back to the Lord, who is the Alpha and Omega, and who is able to do all things.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Corinthians 10: 4 - 6

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, because you are the Rock of Ages and our solid defense and security in Jesus' name. Amen.



Pergamum -The Church That Trusted Their Own Power 2

Text: Psalm 91:1-end

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

"But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. "
Exodus 34:13&14 (KJV)

Today you are admonished to destroy every evil altar and satanic throne in whatever form they appear in your life or environment, all environments - church, business, and work. Yesterday, we saw that Jesus was specific about the fact that the church at Pergamon had adopted false religion.

The adoption of false religion is to achieve individual and sometimes collective or group interest, and it's self-serving. A lot of paraphernalia and religious structures are set up to facilitate this. The book of Revelation makes us aware of the origin of the evil of false religion being unleashed and running rampant across the earth.

Do we, like the church of Pergamum, trust our own earthly powers and knowledge above God's power and divine knowledge? Have we been duped by the '**thrones of Satan**' that exist in churches in our world today? We must hold fast to the truth that whatever form evil takes over the ages, the time will come when satan will be defeated by the One whom Revelation reveals: the Lamb of God, the risen Christ, who will be seated on the throne for all eternity. He is the One who has conquered sin, death, and the devil, and He will equip us, as we follow Him throughout our lives, to have total victory.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 18: 30 - 32

Prayer: Father, we thank you for your mercies and protection over us and our families and the provision of certain victory in Jesus' name. Amen.



Praise And Increase

Text: Psalm 67:1-7

Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

*"The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."
Numbers 6:24-26 (KJV)*

Psalm 67:5-7 says: *"Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him."*

One of the reasons we celebrate God is that when we do so, it makes Him bless us and it brings forth resounding increase. I want to tell somebody reading this that the earth is going to bring forth its increase for you in the name of Jesus Christ.

A few months ago, one of my sons came to the church from South Africa, and he said that in his office in South Africa, he celebrates God. He does it by going round the office every lunch time with a colleague of his, praying and decreeing what he wants into that office, what he wants to become in that office, and glorifying the name of our God. He said the second way he celebrates God is by giving twice the amount he is supposed to give as a tithe. In a miraculous way, within a few months, his salary increased to the amount of tithe he paid. Then he doubled his tithe again and within 6 months his salary went up again and it kept increasing until he had a testimony of about 2 to 3 promotions within the space of 18 months.

As you celebrate God, the ground, wherever God has planted you on planet earth, will bring forth its increase for you continually.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Malachi 3: 10 - 12

Prayer: Father, cause me to experience supernatural increase that will bring glory to your name in Jesus' name. Amen.



Learn From Reuben

Text: Genesis 49:1-28

Thursday, April 6, 2023.

"Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch." Genesis 49:4 (KJV)

Jacob summed up the life of Reuben best when he said that he was ***"unstable as water"***. He meant that Reuben could be dependable one moment and deceitful the next. Let us consider some key moments in his life: Reuben displayed a lack of courage when his brothers concocted a plot to kill Joseph. On the one hand, he agreed with his brothers, but on the other hand, he was trying to make a plan to save Joseph. That plan never worked out since the brothers sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites. Reuben also demonstrated a severe lack of self-control when he slept with his father's concubine, Bilhah.

Later in life, Reuben offered to take responsibility for the safety of young Benjamin on a proposed trip to Egypt. Reuben told Jacob (Genesis 42:37). *"Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again."* Some see this offer as courageous. Others view it as yet another example of Reuben's weakness since he was willing to sacrifice his sons but not himself.

All in all, Reuben's life was like a double life. He is not the most evil character we find in the Bible. Yet nothing about him is really worthy of emulation. At the end of Jacob's life, rather than bless Reuben, he cursed him. May our lives attract blessings and not curses in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Genesis 48: 15 - 16

Prayer: Lord, help me and establish me in faith and in your Word in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Sacrificial Lamb 1

Text: Luke 23:26-49

Friday, April 7, 2023

"... Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." Luke 23:34 (KJV)

Our memory verse today is from that memorable day when our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, was crucified on the cross. The crowd said, **"Come down from the cross if you are the Son of God!"** **"He saved others, but he cannot save himself,"** religious leaders said, **"If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."** The soldiers' bitter words were acidic laced with sarcasm and hate. Wasn't it enough that He was crucified and shamed as a criminal? What about the crown of thorns and the flogging with severe brutality? For some, apparently, it was not enough.

The Apostle Peter, a writer not normally given to using many descriptive verbs, says that the passersby **'hurled'** insults at the crucified Christ. They hurled verbal stones. They had every intention of hurting and bruising. **"We've broken the body; now let us break the spirit!"** The question I ask myself is, what kind of people would mock a dying man? Who would be so base to pour salt of scorn upon open wounds? You can be sure that satan and his demons were the causes of this. And then the criminal on cross number two throws his punch, **"Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"**

The words thrown that day were meant to wound and hurt. And there is nothing more painful than words meant to hurt. That's why James called the tongue "fire". Its burns are every bit as destructive and disastrous as those of a blowtorch. Beloved, watch your tongue and never step on someone who is already down; instead, raise them up with kindness and love.

The Word and Prayer

Word: James 3: 8; 11.

Prayer: Lord, give me the grace to live according to your word and commands in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Sacrificial Lamb 2

Text: Matthew 23:26-49

Saturday, April 8, 2023

"For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it." 1 Peter 3:10&11 (KJV)

No doubt you've had your share of words that wound. You've felt the sting of a well-aimed gibe. Maybe you're still feeling it. Someone you love or respect slams you to the floor with a malicious slur, a slip of the tongue, a little indiscretion. And there you lie, wounded and bleeding. Perhaps the words were intended to hurt you; perhaps not; but that doesn't matter. The wound is deep. The injuries are internal. Broken heart, wounded pride, bruised feelings.

If you have suffered or are suffering because of someone else's or a group of people's words, you will be glad to know that there is a balm for this laceration. Meditate on these words from 1 Peter 2:23, *"He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly"* (New Living Translation).

Jesus did not retaliate. He "entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly" Or, put simply, He left the judging to God. He did not take on the task of seeking revenge. He demanded no apology. He, on the other hand, spoke in their defense. *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* Despite his aching body, Jesus spoke on behalf of the unkind people. Never have I seen such love. **This is the amazing grace of Christ.**

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 84: 11

Prayer: Lord, give me the grace to show love under all circumstances to the glory of your name in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Victory And The Cross

Text: Revelation 12:1-11

Sunday, April 9, 2023

"They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not love their lives in the face of death." Revelation 12:11 (HCSB)

For believers, victory and the cross are inextricably bound. The apparent end of a radical rabbi on a hillside outside Jerusalem is thought by His enemies to be a magnificent triumph. Yet the bloody and gruesome death of Jesus of Nazareth is the fulfillment of the Father's eternal plan of redemption. Just as the high priest declares, ***"It is finished,"*** on the Day of Atonement when sacrifices will no longer be accepted, so Jesus shouts for all the world to hear that salvation has come to a lost and dying world because of His death.

As the apostle, Peter writes, ***"For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from the fathers, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was chosen before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the times for you."*** (1 Peter 1:18-20). And John writes in 1 John 1:7 that ***"...the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."***

W. A. Criswell comments: ***"We have acceptance and standing in heaven because of the blood of the sacrifice of the Son of God. And an old Talmudic tradition among the Jewish people says that Satan, the arch enemy of God's people, accuses the saints day and night except on the Day of Atonement. Every day and every night for the Christian who looks to the blood of Jesus is a day of atonement."***

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 John 2: 7, Hebrews 9: 22.

Prayer: O Lord, grant me the garment of righteousness and faithfulness so that I will be among the chosen in your kingdom in Jesus' name. Amen.



Christ Takes Away Our Sins

Text: John 1:29-34

Monday, April 10, 2023

"The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29 (NIV)

At the beginning, before Jesus had even called His first disciples, there was a moment of revelation. A wild-looking prophet named John, who was baptizing people in the Jordan River and preaching about God reigning as King, encountered Jesus. He looked at Jesus (who was his cousin), and God opened John's eyes to the fact that this was the One he had been prophesying about. Then John gave this testimony: *"I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One"* (John 1:34).

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" is what John said. What he meant was: *"Look! There is our salvation! There is the One to whom all sacrifices in the Old Testament point. God has promised to take away our sin-and now that is becoming a reality!"* The big question for you today is: Is this reality present and active in your life?

The dilemma all of us face is this: what can we do with all the mistakes, transgressions, shortcomings, and sins we commit? What does God make of us? Is it possible that God is willing to forgive? God doesn't merely forgive sinners. He **'takes away' our sins**. The sign that God has done that is that Jesus, like a sacrificial lamb, took our sin upon himself and carried it away. Now ponder this: what makes it hard for us to believe that Jesus has taken away our sins? Is it because sometimes we hold on to it? And if so, for what reason do we do this? You are free! On the cross of Calvary, Christ took our sins upon Himself.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Acts 10: 43

Prayer: Lord, draw me closer to you so that I might enjoy more of your grace and mercy. Give me the spirit to hunger and thirst for you in Jesus' name. Amen.



Make Prayer A Priority

Text: Luke 11:5-13

Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

"Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months." James 5:17 (KJV)

Prayer is a part of the Christian calling and an active ministry. It is not the last resort-response or what we do when there is an emergency. We are to take time to focus on God and His will and ask Him to act. The person who benefits most from prayer is the one who prays. We are not informing God of what He doesn't know; He knows it all. Instead, when we pray, we focus on our Father and gain the opportunity to see our situation the way **He sees it**. This is why Paul, in 1 Timothy 2:1, urges Timothy to pray regularly.

How can you make prayer a priority? First, you should make it a habit. Set a time to pray, discipline yourself, and shape your life after the Lord in this manner. He prayed all the time, starting early in the morning (Mark 1:35). He also spent the whole night praying (Luke 6:12). Second, set no limit on what you will pray about—big or small. The enemy will come and say, ***"Oh, you can handle that on your own or, of course, God won't answer that!"*** Don't believe it. Don't set any limits. Always put your heart before the Father.

Lastly, make prayer your first response so that you let nothing become a substitute. Before you reach over to pick up the phone and share your needs with another person, pray. Before you ask somebody for guidance, pray. Before you worry about it, pray. Take it to God. If you do, He will provide you with insight as well as His grace. Make prayer a priority in your life and business.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Peter 5: 7

Prayer: Father, help me with your grace and mercy to build up my faith and to put prayer first in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Supernatural Victory

Text: 2 Chronicles 16:7-9

Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." 2 Chronicles 16:9a (KJV)

The 20th chapter of the second book of Chronicles tells the story of a king called Jehoshaphat and the victorious, supernatural victory he had because he relied on God wholly. Jehoshaphat epitomized the power of praise in victory. A great multitude gathered against him and his people made up of the children of Moab and the children of Ammon. Though very afraid, he set himself to seek help from the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout Judah to seek the face of the Lord.

This brings us to the story of another king of Judah called Asa, who reigned over Judah for 41 years. He had a good reign and it was recorded for him in the Bible in 2 Chronicles 14:2-3. God showed Himself strong on his behalf by giving him victory over his enemies and also blessing him with several prophets to guide him. However, toward the end of his reign, he committed two grave mistakes. I pray for you that you will finish well in Jesus' name. Amen.

In the 36th year of Asa, Baasha the King of Israel (Asa reigned over Judah, which is made up of two of the twelve tribes of Israel) began to prepare for war against Judah, and Asa became very afraid. He was so afraid that he forgot the marvelous things the Lord had done for him, including the great battles won for him by God. He went for help from the king of Syria, giving him silver and gold from the House of God. He only gained a short respite, and he lost the opportunity to overcome Syria (2 Chronicles 16:7-9). Also, in the 39th year of his reign, he became diseased in his feet until it was great, yet he did not seek the Lord. I pray for you today that you will not be blind to anything that will cause you to stumble in Jesus' name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Chronicles 20: 20

Prayer: Father, give me the grace to remain focused on you and to finish well in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Our Redeemer Lives

Text: Job 19:25-26

Thursday, April 13, 2023

***"And they overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony..."
Revelation 12:11 (KJV)***

The life of Job in the Bible is a great example of what can happen in the life of a child of God. There is nothing you can think of that Job did not experience, yet in the end, he had the joy of the Lord. Job experienced famine; he saw a lack after a great abundance. He had a terrible experience, losing so many things in every area of his life, yet he boldly confessed his hope in Jehovah and His Word – Job 19:25–26.

Job said: ***"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."*** Job relied on the Word of God amid the worst tribulations anyone can experience. He took the Word of God he knew and concluded that, despite everything, he was going to see God (1 John 3:2).

Put your hope in God's word and confess it consistently and regularly. It is only God that can bring about a change in any situation. So instead of complaining, why not speak to God about it? Tell Him exactly how it is and He will bring about the desired change for you. Share that burden with the Lord in the place of prayer. He is waiting to answer you today.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 11: 28 - 29

Prayer: My God, remove doubt and unbelief from me today. Let me enter into the realm of faith that moves mountains in Jesus' name. Amen.



Something Good Is Going To Happen

Text: Exodus 2:1-10

Friday, April 14, 2023

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV)

God, as a loving Father, keeps track of what is going on in His children's lives. No wonder the Lord Jesus Christ told Peter the Apostle that Satan wanted him, but that he had thwarted Satan's plan. When God sees that His children's abilities and efforts have been exhausted, He readily comes to our aid. As long as such efforts are not where your trust is, God does not expect you to sit around not doing something. He is therefore not opposed to you taking legitimate steps to protect yourself and your interests, as long as they are not where your trust is. Learn not to lean on your understanding but trust in the Lord with all your heart (Proverbs 3:5).

This brings us to the story of Moses and his mother in our Bible reading today. If Moses had not been protected by his mother as a baby, maybe he would have been eliminated along with the other male children killed by Pharaoh in Egypt. Moses' mother asked Miriam, his sister, to keep a close watch on him when he was deposited on the river. They were both concerned and wanted to see what would happen to the baby. Both of them knew the danger that Moses was in, but from the actions they took, one can reasonably conclude that they expected good to happen to him, and something good did happen.

Your expectations will not be cut off in Jesus' name. Amen. At all times, you must have a positive expectation and run away from every negative thought and expectation (Job 3:25-26). In that special thing, you are expecting this year, the Lord, Jehovah Almighty, in His goodness and mercy, will bring it to pass in Jesus' name. Amen. Be expectant. Something good is going to happen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 109: 26 & 27

Prayer: Father, at this juncture of the journey of my life, connect me to all the helpers you have ordained for me in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Next Level

Text: Luke 9:28-36

Saturday, April 15, 2023.

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:22 (KJV)

Fervent prayer is a key to encountering God's glory and empowerment. Just as God, in His mercy and kindness, reaches out to His beloved children, so too, we can reach out to our heavenly Father in fervent prayer. ***"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*** (James 5:16b).

From our text, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, separated Himself and took Peter, John, and James and went up into a mountain to pray. This led to the transfiguration experience. You need to separate yourself from all the vagaries of life from time to time to access a higher level of God's presence, to transform your life. A person who fails to separate him/herself from all entanglements regularly, through fervent prayers will soon meet with inadequacies and failure. Before starting or continuing any project or given task, seek the grace of God. Reaching out to God demonstrates to Him that you are reliant on Him and that you cannot do it alone.

Another notable fact gleaned from the Bible reading today is that you have to go through the process; there is no shortcut to God's presence and for His grace to manifest. You cannot decree yourself into God's presence except through praise, worship, and fervent prayer. From today, step up your prayer level. Have quality time to praise the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Almighty Jehovah, worship Him, and be thankful. This season you will encounter God's glory like never before and it will transform your life in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 100: 4

Prayer: My Father, I thank you, for you are the God that makes all things possible for me. Amen.



Faith To Do Exploits

Text: Daniel 1:17-20

Sunday, April 16, 2023

"But the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." Daniel 11:32b (KJV)

The children of Israel had sinned and God made sure they were taken into captivity in Babylon, partly because of their sin, but more importantly, to reveal His might in the heathen country they would be carried to, which controlled **'the larger part of the then known world'**. Among the captives were special children of God with special gifts. God had given them knowledge and skill in all learning, wisdom, and understanding, as well as in dreams and visions. With their gifts, four of these captives distinguished themselves and were ten times better than their Babylonian counterparts. They were excellent, and the king gave them a special place (Daniel 1:19-20).

What is that gift, which God has deposited in you and how are you using it? Out of the four, Daniel especially stood out and became a ruler over the whole province of Babylon and the chief governor over all the wise men (Daniel 2:48).

Things came to a head with King Nebuchadnezzar when he made a golden image to be worshiped by all his subjects. Refusal to bow to this image was punishable by death in a fiery furnace. The three Hebrew boys refused to bow to the golden image of Nebuchadnezzar. God who Himself is a consuming fire, stepped into the furnace, neutralized the fire, and delivered them. God is on the lookout for strong faith, and whenever He sees it, He responds to it. Are you facing a situation like that of these Hebrew children? Demonstrate strong faith and belief in God, and He will respond by neutralizing that 'fire'.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 43: 2

Prayer: O Lord my God, you are a consuming fire. Today consume every evil fire and trial in my life in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Faith Of The Centurion

Text: Matthew 8:5-13

Monday, April 17, 2023.

"He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions." Psalm 107:20 (KJV)

When Jesus came to the northern city of Capernaum, a centurion came to Jesus seeking healing for his servant. We do not know what caused the centurion's servant to become paralyzed and suffer so terribly, but Luke 7 records that this servant was at the point of death. Jesus says he will **'come'** to heal the servant. This is always how Jesus has performed miracles – by being physically present. The centurion gives a surprising response to Jesus's statement that he will **'come'** to the servant. As far as we know, Jesus has never healed someone from afar. Jesus did not know this servant's name, what he looked like, or where he was. None of this gave the centurion reason for doubt. He believed Jesus' words could heal.

The centurion understood that he and Jesus were in similar positions. Jesus did not have limited power. Jesus was sent by the Father with the power and authority of the Father backing him. Though the centurion could command people, Jesus carried authority over all nature. There are no barriers to healing that He cannot overcome. When He speaks, nature responds.

Ephesians 3:20 says that God is ***"able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think,"*** but the centurion would not have experienced this magnitude of power if he did not have faith. Though there will be times that Christ may prove himself to us even when we doubt, if we remain in unbelief of His infinite power, we will not experience it. Can you imagine having faith like this? When the centurion walks away from Jesus knowing his servant is healed, he shows us what true faith is like.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 55: 10 - 11

Prayer: Faith that makes the impossible possible is mine today in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Growing In Faith 1

Text: Ephesians 11

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report." Hebrews 11:1-2 (KJV)

The writer of Hebrews wrote about the subject of faith; he defines and qualifies it as what we have used as our memory verse above (Hebrews 11:1-2). The chapter continues with records of the heroes of faith in the Old Testament. We should note that these heroes of faith were far from perfect. Noah believed in God, built the ark, and saved his family. But when he came out of the ark, he got drunk.

Abraham was known as a friend of God, yet he lied to save himself and even put his wife at risk. When God told Sarah she would give birth to a child at 90 years old, she laughed in unbelief. Rahab was a prostitute, yet God listed her as a woman of great faith. Jacob pretended to be Esau to get his father's blessing. Then there's King David, whose adultery led to committing murder.

Every one of these people was as human as we are. They faltered and went through times of failure. They made mistakes and went down paths in their lives that led them away from God's plan and purpose. Their only qualification is that they trusted God and He honoured their faith. Likewise, God will honour our faith each time we put our trust in Him. We all make mistakes, and we all fail, but when we trust God through it all and keep our faith strong, we will also stand out among others.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 12: 1

Prayer: Lord, I commit myself unto you; keep me in faith till the end in Jesus' name. Amen.



Growing In Faith 2

Text: Isaiah 52:13-53:1-12

Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

"Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you." 2 Chronicles 20:17 (KJV)

In life, when we go through hard times, there is a tendency to easily doubt God and lose our faith. Hence the need to grow in faith daily and all the time. Faith honours God, and God honours faith. In fact, our challenging times can actually be used by God to strengthen our faith rather than cause us to lose it. When Job lost his wealth, health, and children, the Bible says he ***"fell down upon the ground, and worshipped."*** (Job 1:20). Job did not worship God because of his circumstances, he worshipped God despite his circumstances. He did two important things which we can learn from.

First, he looked up to God. Job recognized God's sovereign right to decide all things. He trusted God's loving character and believed that God would ultimately do what was best for him. You must learn to do that, too. Secondly, he was ready to learn. Job realized that his testing time was also a teaching time, so he declared, ***"But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."*** (Job 23:10). Like gold being processed by the refiner, Job trusted God to bring out the best in him. And this is not always easy for human beings.

As humans, we often want the hard times to end rather than think we are going to learn something from them. The fears, anxieties, and problems that we envisage and that lie ahead can make us afraid and discouraged. But we need to position ourselves in faith. Be encouraged by what God says to the people of Judah: ***"Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you..."*** (2 Chronicles 20:17). Are you going through a tough time? Ask God to use it to bring the best out of you and to teach you something.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 53: 5

Prayer: Father, I need your empowerment to overcome fear and doubt in my life in Jesus' name. Amen.



Growing In Faith 3

Text: Psalms 56

Thursday, April 20, 2023.

***"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."
Proverbs 3:5 (KJV)***

One way to think about faith is to compare it to a muscle in our bodies: the more we use and stretch it, the stronger it becomes. The same is true for faith. For example, King David was continually hounded by his enemies. Even as he was anointed to sit on the throne of Israel, Saul was still occupying it. Instead of losing faith in God's promise, David declared that ***"the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him."*** (Psalm 4:3). When he ended up in a cave fleeing from Saul's jealous rage, he said, ***"... be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast."*** (Psalm 57:1).

David faced some very tough situations. And he could have given up on his faith. He could have stopped trusting God, given in to despair, and doubted whether God really had promised him the throne. But he chose to keep his faith through it all. The truth is that we are not guaranteed a problem-free life just because we are Christians.

Jesus said we would have problems in life (John 16:33), but He gives us assurance of victory. So, every time we choose to trust God and expect His promises to come true, even when everything appears to be going wrong or God appears to be silent, we should, like David, cling more to the Lord, and our faith will be strengthened. And the more we strengthen our faith, the easier it is to have faith when the next trial comes. The more you turn to God, even when it seems really hard, the stronger your faith will become.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 3: 5 & 6

Prayer: Father, lead me to trust you like David did, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Running The Race

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:1-8

Friday, April 21, 2023

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." 1 Corinthians 9:24 (KJV)

The Apostle Paul likened the Christian life to a race. The Christian race ends up with eternal rewards, which everyone that runs well would receive. The major keys to running the Christian race are focus, passion, purpose, and discipline. These keys would ensure that we do not give up, no matter the situation or challenge.

The emphasis in our memory verse today is ***"run, that ye may obtain."*** In other words, run to win. This tells us that some may be disqualified, as the Apostle Paul emphasised. So, we must be courageous and persevere with all our strength. We must not yield to fleshly desires, lusts, and appetites. Our bodies must be disciplined.

This race is to be run with all the sense of determination to press forward; we are to run in the way of righteousness, holiness, faith, and truth. The aim of the race is to obtain a prize - the incorruptible crown of eternal life, the crown of glory, the crown of rejoicing, and so on. Our God Most High, our righteous judge, will bestow these crowns. May you run to win the eternal rewards that await you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Corinthians 9: 26 - 27

Prayer: O Lord, empower me as I run this race set before me successfully in the name of Jesus. Amen.



When You Fast

Text: Isaiah 58:1-12

Saturday, April 22, 2023

"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward." Isaiah 58:8 (KJV)

A fast that is acceptable to God is accompanied by love for Him and genuine concern for those who are oppressed. This involves you acting to *"... to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? ...To deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" (Isaiah 58:6-7).*

This is God's prescription for you for a fast that is effective and acceptable to Him, which will then attract the blessing in our memory verse of today. The Bible reading for today tells us that God's people were complaining that God would not help them - this was why their worship and fasting had not yielded any positive results. The people were seeking God every day as though they desired to know His ways, yet at the same time, they were living in sin and indifference to the Lord's righteous commands.

Don't look further for the reason why help has not come forth for you concerning that challenge or problem and you are complaining that God has not helped you. God knows that your worship and fasting are hypocritical and not from a pure heart. No religious act has any value to God if it does not come from those who humbly seek to obey His commandments and passionately reach out to those in need.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 59: 1 & 2

Prayer: Read Psalm 51 and put it into your prayers.



Have Mercy On Me

Text: Mark 10:46-52

Sunday, April 23, 2023

"And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me." Mark 10:47 (KJV)

In Mark chapter 10, Bartimaeus reached the breaking point as regards his lack of sight, but what I want to draw your attention to is his depth of the spiritual, because when the moment of the encounter came, he cried out with spiritual knowledge. He never considered himself to have the right to claim healing or anything from Jesus. He felt disqualified because he was familiar with the Lord Jesus and His teachings; that was why He addressed Jesus Christ as ***"Thou Son of David"***. He knew he was not qualified.

From Bartimaeus' reaction to the Lord, we can safely say and conclude that someone must have shared Jesus with Bartimaeus and put that fire we saw inside of him. He heard about the miracles of Jesus and did not doubt his own miracle would happen. He must have been meditating on it continuously and perhaps, like the woman with the issue of blood, came to the conclusion: ***"If only I could get to meet this Messiah!"***

On the day that Jesus passed by, someone must have told him that Jesus was passing by and ignited the fire in him. Bartimaeus raised his voice above the crowd and cried out: ***"Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me."*** He cried out for mercy and attracted the Lord's compassion. Are you demanding God's blessings as a matter of right? Stop doing this and instead humble yourself and seek mercy.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrew 4: 16

Prayer: Father, let me experience your compassion and have mercy on me in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Time And Opportunity

Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

Monday, April 24, 2023

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:15-16 (KJV)

Use the opportunity you have wisely. Time and opportunity are treasures that must be appreciated. Appreciate the opportunities that come your way. God has made available to each and everyone the opportunity to become whatever they would like to become in life. Unfortunately, many of us do not realize the opportunity when it comes. Opportunity is a gift; if we fail to recognize it and get ready to take it when it comes, we may miss it forever.

Any opportunity not taken at the right time may become a struggle thereafter. For example, the opportunity to receive Christ's offer of salvation is only available while we are alive. That opportunity expires at death. Therefore, take advantage of the time you have now. ***"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."*** (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Your success in life has little to do with speed, but much to do with timing and making the right decision when the time is right. If the right time has passed, then your preparation will do you no good. Let us be wise to use each moment we have to do the right things that will edify us and glorify God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Ecclesiastes 9: 10

Prayer: O Lord, give me the grace to maximize every opportunity I am given in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Prayer Makes Things To Happen

Text: Isaiah 38:1-8

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. " James 5:16 (KJV)

God revealed a certain secret to Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7:14, which says: *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

Jehoshaphat, the king, keyed into this, and he got deliverance for himself and his people (2 Chronicles 20:9). The question before us today is: Does prayer really change things? Many of us keep asking ourselves and even ask God this question. We are also told by the Bible to make our requests known to Him (Philippians 4:6), but can the Almighty God, who is sovereign Lord of the universe and the Alpha and Omega, really be persuaded through our prayers to change His mind on a matter or alter His plans for other things?

Prayer can and does make a great difference in the outcome of events in the affairs of human things. A very cogent example comes from our Bible reading, Isaiah 38:1-8, where we see Hezekiah, after receiving what could be called a death sentence, turned his face to the wall and penitently went before the Lord. He got answers to his prayers.

There might be occasions when our prayers seem to be unanswered or are not answered when we expected or the way we wanted them to be answered. Prayer is not only about God answering us, it's about our relationship with God in order that we might know Him and involve Him in all our ways.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Jeremiah 17: 5 - 8

Prayer: Father, help me to trust your will for my life even when I don't fully understand it. In the name of Jesus. Amen.



Praise The Lord

Text: Psalm 100:1-5

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

"I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies." Psalm 18:3 (KJV)

According to Psalm 22:3, God dwells in the praises of His people. However, when we are faced with battles or problems, and when we should invoke his presence as the Mighty One in battle, we seem to forget this powerful secret. Our God is a Man of War and He has never lost a battle. He not only fights for His people, but He also ensures that they have total deliverance as He did for the Israelites after taking them out of Egypt – He gave them permanent and total victory over their enemies. Praise is the greatest secret of God for the victory of His people.

Experience has shown us that many of the battles we fight are better won through our praising the '**I AM THAT I AM**'. Praise will manifest the presence and glory of God, and in the presence of the Lord, there is liberty. God will not share His praise with anyone (Isaiah 42:8), so give Him the praise He richly deserves, no matter the situation you may be in, and see the manifestation of His glory in your life and that situation. King Jehoshaphat, in 2 Chronicles 20:20-24, obtained supernatural victory through great praise and worship. Are you facing a situation that is overwhelming today? Praise God in the beauty of His Holiness, He will overturn the situation and give you victory.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Chronicles 20: 20

Prayer: Lord, remove every trace of unbelief from my life in the name of Jesus. Amen.



The Gift Of Repentance

Text: Psalm 103:8-14

Thursday, April 27, 2023

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18 (KJV)

One of the greatest gifts from God to mankind is the gift of repentance because it helps us escape the wrath of God. When God wants to destroy a person, the first thing he loses is the ability to repent. This can be seen clearly in the case of Pharaoh and Judas. Both Pharaoh and Judas had their hearts hardened so much that they forfeited the goodness of the Lord that could have led them to repentance.

Pharaoh died in the Red Sea because of disobedience to God. He went after the people of God. He went after them even after the sea parted before them, not knowing how this happened. Pharaoh's servants strongly advised him, but he would not listen. For Judas, the Lord warned him, but he would not listen. Jesus said, ***"The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born."*** (Matthew 26:24). Do you know that Judas went ahead to ask Jesus: ***"Master, is it I?"*** The Lord responded: ***"Thou hast said."*** He was identified as the betrayer in the open. The Lord cursed the person who would betray Him, but Judas went ahead and betrayed Jesus. He couldn't repent of the act because the goodness of God had eluded him.

Repentance leads to forgiveness, and it is the only way out of the bondage of sin. Seek and take advantage of God's goodness today.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 16: 6

Prayer: Lord, I humble myself before you. Have mercy upon me and keep me from sinning against you in Jesus' name. Amen.



Keep Anxiety At Bay

Text: Romans 8:28-39

Friday, April 28, 2023.

"Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything (every circumstance and situation) by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your requests known to God." Philippians 4:6 (AMP)

After the several testimonies you have had in your walk with the Lord over these years, do you not wonder that you sometimes still fret and have anxiety over certain things, to the extent you become unmindful of how God has been faithful throughout? This must not be so. Remember, God always arises for you when you least expect it and sometimes in ways you don't expect.

The Word of God for you today, particularly in that particular situation you are in, is the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to His church in Philadelphia: ***"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and has not denied my name."*** (Revelation 3:8).

Beloved, you have been faithful. You have kept God's word, and like the church in Philadelphia, you have been involved in the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In obeying the Lord, doing His will, following His divine instruction, and working out your faith, there is no place for fear or anxiety. He knows your strength and will not make you go beyond what you can bear. His grace is more than sufficient for you. He knows what is best for you and his timing is perfect.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 41: 13 - 14

Prayer: Oh Lord my Father, I am depending on you. Help me. Renew my faith and remove every fear, doubt, and anxiety from me in Jesus' name. Amen.



Help In Trouble

Text: Psalm 46:1-3

Saturday, April 29, 2023.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1 (KJV)

We have all found ourselves, at one time or another, in need of refuge. We may need shelter from the storms of life or the oppression of the enemy. Whatever the problem, we often seek help in the form of some type of refuge.

God is that refuge for the believer. He is our source of peace and comfort. He is our strength when we are weak. He is our *"ever-present help in trouble"*. David knew that. We know that. How often have we found our peace in the presence of Jesus through prayer and reading the Bible? How strong and secure is this refuge? The earth could quake and crumble, but our God will not be moved, according to David. The mountains could slide into the ocean and our Lord will stand firm. The storm waves may tower over us, but our refuge still holds us up. That is how secure we are in the hands of our God, our Creator.

Isn't it comforting to know that He is so involved in our lives— that He cannot be moved? I don't know what you are going through. It makes no difference to God. He is bigger than all of our problems rolled into one. There is nothing too difficult for Him. Nor is there anything that He cannot overcome.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 32: 17 & 18

Prayer: Lord, grant me the grace to stand firmly in solid faith without wavering and to live for you only in Jesus' name. Amen.



Who Are You On The Inside?

Text: 1 Samuel Chapters 9-10

Sunday, April 30, 2023.

"And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people." 1 Samuel 9:2 (KJV)

The way the Bible describes the outward appearance of some people is quite significant. For example, in our memory verse of today, we read about Saul being a 'choice young man.' He was physically imposing and came from a prominent, wealthy family. Some Bible scholars even believe that Saul was exceptionally handsome. Saul's appearance, however, could not make up for some severe character flaws. As king, he repeatedly disobeyed God and made unwise, impulsive decisions. And he also lacked confidence, which led to extreme jealousy towards David. He became a murderous, unstable, and paranoid ruler. Who could have foreseen that such a promising guy would become such a terrible king?

It is unfortunate that many today are obsessed with appearance. They spend a lot of money on clothes and other material things, which are all to make them look better on the outside. But how much time, money, and resources are we willing to invest to improve who we are on the inside? Commit today to spend more time and resources strengthening your character. Study the Beatitudes. Spend some good time in prayer. Ask God for the strength to eliminate bad habits and start cultivating good ones.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 13: 9

Prayer: Father, help me to finish well in the name of Jesus. I shall not fail in my divine appointment and assignment in Jesus' name. Amen.



Godly Wealth

Text: Genesis 30:25-43

Monday, May 1, 2023.

"The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." Proverbs 10:22 (KJV)

In recent times, there have been lots of get-rich-quick schemes going on in the world. You see, adverts that promise rich wages for doing almost nothing, and this attracts a lot of people. But what is God's way for us to get wealth? Let us consider the story of Laban and Jacob. Laban knew that Jacob contributed to his prosperity. So, he convinced Jacob to stay and work a while longer, and Jacob came up with a clever way to calculate his wages. He asked Laban for the speckled and spotted sheep of his flock. This seemed like an innocent bargain, but apparently, Jacob has also devised a clever way to make the arrangement favour him.

To those around him, Jacob was just being a smart businessman with a diligent work ethic. But his story also reveals a temptation to which many believers are exposed when they pursue success by worldly standards. Though Jacob acknowledges that blessing comes from God (verse 30), his behavior suggests that he believes he also needs to manipulate his way into God's blessing.

There is no "get rich quick" scheme in God's plan- for Jacob or for us. But we do have the gift of God's unmerited favour in Christ, which leads us to do our work for the Lord and not for human masters. May the finished work of Jesus inspire you to faithful service and solid wealth as you go about your business and work now and always.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Colossians 3: 23 - 24

Prayer: Lord, help me to rest in your grace and blessing in the name of Jesus. Amen.



He Must Become Greater

Text: Galatians 3:8-14

Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." 1 Timothy 6:17 (KJV)

The best course of life, for every Christian, is to daily appreciate and leverage the graces God has bestowed to us, and to serve God with them. This is what Paul has described as: *"Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."* (1 Timothy 6:19).

Life is God's gift to us, and He has appointed us the number of days of life (Job 14:5). Let us, therefore, spend those days serving the Lord joyfully and with gladness of heart. Don't hoard what He's given you; instead, use it wisely to bring glory and honour to His name. It goes beyond you, wherever He has placed you or in what capacity you find yourself on Earth. Demonstrate His grace and mercy, as well as carry out His plans here on earth.

Beware the deceit of the devil that the blessings and anointing are all because of your holiness, fasting, prayers, and generosity. The healing ministry, signs, and wonders, words of knowledge, and insightful and inspiring teachings are all gifts of God and are not works. Do not be boastful. The more you see the manifestation of God's grace, the more humble you must become. Do not look down on others or your leaders because of the recent manifestation of success in your life. It is the grace and mercy of God in action. Today, as always, acknowledge the goodness of God toward you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Galatians 6: 3 and Romans 12: 3 (NIV)

Prayer: Lord, thank you for your sufficient grace for me and for establishing your Word in my life and ministry in Jesus' name, Amen.



Learn From David 1

Text: 1 Samuel 17:23-29

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

There cannot be great achievement and fulfillment in life without purpose. Our Bible text for the day recounts how Goliath, the Philistine giant, verbally tormented the army of Israel for days until young David took up the challenge. What prompted David to take on a giant?

David was concerned about taking away reproach from the army of Israel. He was concerned that an uncircumcised Philistine should be defying the army of the living God. David was determined that all the earth should know that there was a God in Israel who could do battle without spear and sword. He purposed to stand up against a man several times his size because he trusted in Jehovah, who could save him from Goliath, just as He had saved him from a bear and a lion.

At his father's house, David was not counted among the 'big boys'. As a matter of fact, he was kept in the background in his family, considered only fit to care for the flock. So, when David appeared at the camp of the army of Israel and began making enquiries about the Goliath challenge, his brothers reprimanded him (1 Samuel 17:28-29). Every time you embark on the pursuit of purpose, you will be confronted with oppositions even from those who should be supporting you. David was a person not reckoned with in the family, but he became the cornerstone of the family. He pursued his life purpose head-on. Stand up against your Goliath and in pursuit of your life purpose today.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 37: 5

Prayer: Every giant and enemy working against the purpose of God in my life is dismantled today in Jesus' name! Amen.



Learn From David 2

Text: 1 Samuel 17:32-35

Thursday, May 4, 2023.

"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." Colossians 3:23 (NLT)

Yesterday we started the story of David and how purposeful he was in pursuit of his purpose. David rose to significance through courage and faith in Jehovah. One meeting with destiny transformed his story from that of a shepherd boy to that of a celebrated cornerstone of his family and nation. The word of the Lord for you: no matter how long you have been in that situation, just one divine encounter will turn that hopeless situation into a success story and testimony.

Before defeating Goliath, David had to look after sheep, fight a lion and bear, and even serve his brethren, who didn't regard him much. For some reasons, God allows you to pass through certain challenges and face certain mountains. It is not to destroy you, but a divine set up for your glory.

At the threshold of David's breakthrough, opposition arose from family members, whom he would have hoped to receive support and encouragement from. What is your situation today? Have you been rejected, abused, used, and dumped? Has your situation been labeled as hopeless and irredeemable? God, the Jehovah Almighty, who brings something out of nothing, and who calls those things which are not as if they are will announce you to the world by doing the miraculous in your life in Jesus' name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Samuel 30: 6

Prayer: Lord, order my steps according to your purpose for my life in Jesus' name. Amen.



Money – A Test Of Character

Text: 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

Friday, May 5, 2023.

"Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked; for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous." Psalm 37:16-17 (NIV)

"When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost. But when character is lost, all is lost." These are the words of Billy Graham, the late well-known evangelist. To re-echo his words, you must never lose your character under any circumstance, whether in the pursuit of wealth, fame, or ambition.

The love of money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10). The first rule you must follow to tame the love of money is not to spend money that you don't have or that is not yours. You must have discipline and character to deal with money. This also implies that you do not take, without permission of the owner, that which is in your possession but does not belong to you. This is the true test of character. Adam and Eve faced the same temptation: they took what did not belong to them but was in their possession.

Money and other resources are entrusted to us by God, so proper character and discipline must guide you in relation to money. When you are able to look at your own money with some measure of self-control, becoming rich will not be elusive. Develop discipline and character in your finances and handling of money; both are critical for success.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Deuteronomy 8: 19

Prayer: Lord, I declare you are the source of my life. Give me the grace to live in awe of you, in Jesus' name. Amen.



All Things For The Master

Text: 2 Samuel 23:14-17

Saturday, May 6, 2023.

"We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 1:3 (NIV)

The Bible passage for today talks about an incident that happened during one of David's military campaigns. While David was hiding in a cave surrounded by the Philistine army, he thirsted for water from the well at Bethlehem (2 Samuel 23:15). Three of his mighty men broke through the ranks of the surrounding enemies and fetched water from the well for David. David was so touched by their action that he considered the water to be their blood and would not drink of it but poured it as an offering to the Lord (Leviticus 17:10).

What loyalty! What devotion to a leader! These men did this for a man. What is the proof of your love for the Lord? If you love the Lord, it will show in your actions and conduct. If you love the Lord, you will keep His commandments. You will honor Him not only with your words but also with your wealth. You will do the work He has assigned to you. Of what essence is our love if it is not evident in our lives?

True love of the Father will show in your giving as well as the way you praise and worship Him. It will show in the way you conduct yourself and your business as a living gospel to others. It will show in the way you talk and preach about Him to others. It becomes a burden that you can't help but release, just as someone in love will always talk about it. Do you love the Saviour? Then do all things for the Master, to please Him - show your love.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 John 4: 19 - 20

Prayer: My God and my Father, give me the grace to dwell in you so that your love will take over all of me. In Jesus' name. Amen.



With God Always

Text: Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, May 7, 2023.

"Forsake me not, O LORD: O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation." Psalm 38:21-22 (KJV)

God is not just someone we need at times of trials and temptations. It is paramount that you have a personal one-on-one relationship with your creator, just like you would with an intimate personal friend. Communication between two close intimate friends is always ongoing. Prayer is communication. We should make prayer the fulcrum of our lives. The Bible orders us to ***"pray without ceasing"*** (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

There is no moment that you do not need God's help, and we must not wait until we run into trials and temptation. God wants to hear all of your concerns. He wants to listen to you talk about how your day went or is going. He wants you to speak with Him like you would your earthly parent.

We are like little children trying and just learning to walk and who need the parent's aid and encouragement to successfully step forward. Therefore, say aloud today: ***"Forsake me not, O LORD; O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation."*** Cry out to the One who can keep you. Ensure that you keep and maintain an intimate personal relationship with the Lord. Call on the Lord today and always, whether the journey is smooth or rough.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 55: 22

Prayer: O Lord, I confess today that you are my strength and my help. Show me your salvation today, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Old-Time Religion

Text: 1 Corinthians 13

Monday, May 8, 2023.

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV)*

You may be preparing yourself for one of those "we need things to be like they were in the good old days" writings, but that's not what I have in my mind. We need churches to ignore the opinions and criticisms of their surrounding subculture and do whatever it takes to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ in the context of the present generation. This will, in most cases, require louder music, fewer pipe organs, and a big surge forward in the area of living with integrity and character.

Recently I read a quote from Greg Surratt (Founding Pastor, Seacoast Church, in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, 'reaching unchurched people', USA) that caused me to pause and think. He said that *"spiritual growth shouldn't be measured by how much we know but by who we love, and if we're growing, we will love more people"*. My interpretation of this is that we should love more people and everyone. Growing in Christ makes me love everybody. Think of this phrase for a second - *"It makes me love everybody."* If that phrase were to describe a mature church, what would the dynamics of such a church be?

Could we grow in such a way that we come to love everybody? Could we love the terrorist as much as the victim of the terrorist's plot? Or the kidnapper as much as the victim of a kidnap? We could if we were growing in our love for Jesus. This should be the "Old Time Religion" you must embrace today.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 15: 17

Prayer: Father, give me an understanding and accommodating mind and let your love fill my life in Jesus' name. Amen.



Old Time Religion 2

Text: John 4:4-26

Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

"... Will you give me a drink?" John 4:7b (NIV)

Jesus once met a woman at a well and loved her in a way that five of her husbands had not. He rescued a young lady from being stoned and loved her into a changed life when some rock-carrying legalists were ready to mete out justice by angrily pelting her to death. Jesus also promised a crucified thief a spot with him in paradise while his partners in crime mocked him. These are royal examples of love and the old-time religion, as shown to us by our Saviour.

I often wonder what the church would look like if it accepted the challenge to love everybody. I don't have all the answers, but I suggest that you give until it hurts so that the gospel can be proclaimed to all nations. Create a safe place for addicts to come for honest confession, support, forgiveness, and acceptance. Remember that everyone has a past and that our present unhealthy choices are often the result of deep, leftover pain. Weep when tragedy strikes the human family on the other side of the globe, no matter their status, race, colour, gender, or tribe. Also, sit with the sick and dying. Give a cup of "cold water" in Jesus' name.

The old-time religion worth emulating is found much further back in the era of the New Testament when Jesus was recruiting, disciplining, and commissioning His church to go, teach, and baptize. How would your church look different if it embraced that old-time religion?

The Word and Prayer

Word: John 15: 5

Prayer: Lord, I ask that you do not allow me to fall or fail but to grow upward in all things in Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.



A Day Of Positive Action 1

Text: Luke 19:2-6

Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." 1 Corinthians 1:27 (KJV)

In the boarding houses of the secondary schools of those days, we used to have daily portions, that is, compulsory morning duties that must be fulfilled daily. I don't know if there's anything like that in today's boarding houses. The daily portion formed discipline and a sense of participatory responsibility in us. This is the way our faith functions and grows. We must put our faith to work daily until it becomes our character. It is what we put to work that will work for us.

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was of such small stature that he could not see over the heads of the crowd. However, he did not allow this to stop him. He ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a tree. He took a practical step— a positive action. He did what he could do, and Jesus recognized and honoured his faith. When Jesus got to the place where he was on the tree, He looked up and saw him, and said unto him: ***"Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house."*** (Luke 19:5)

All Zacchaeus had to do was climb a tree. He did what he could. He couldn't do what others could do because he was of small stature. Do you consider yourself of little stature in some ways? Are you inadequate intellectually or spiritually? Are you short of money or resources? Come to Jesus as Zacchaeus did. Take positive action about it as Zacchaeus did. Discover that thing that you could easily and adequately do better than other people. Zacchaeus did not complain about his lack of a stature, which put him at a disadvantage. Rather, he took positive action towards his desire. He acted on his faith. You too may be lacking on several fronts, but you can act on your faith. Get ready to welcome Jesus as Zacchaeus did, with positive action.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 40: 29

Prayer: Lord, I depend on you at a time like this; let my expectations be met by your supernatural power in Jesus' name. Amen.



A Day Of Positive Action 2

Text: 2 Kings 3:16

Thursday, May 11, 2023.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV)

Our conclusion yesterday was that God does not expect you to do what's beyond your abilities, but He does expect you to do what you can with what you have. When you put your faith to work, you provoke the power of God to move on your behalf.

On a certain day, Jesus and His disciples entered a village passing between Samaria and Galilee. As they entered the village, ten lepers, standing afar off, cried out. ***"Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."*** His response was to give them an instruction: ***"Go shew thyself unto the priest."*** (Luke 17:13 & 14) – a requirement by law for the cleansing of a leper. The scriptures say they were healed as they were going. As these lepers heeded the instruction of the Lord, doing what was within them to do, God performed a miracle for them. Today I prophesy into your life that you too will have that impossible situation you have been facing reversed in the name of Jesus.

Rehab was a heathen and a harlot, but she acted on her faith in the God of the Hebrews, and she saved herself and her household. Today, take that step of faith. Let today and every day of your life be your day of positive action. A child of God who was a bank manager acted in faith on a still voice that spoke to him as he dressed for the office. Instead of the usual continental suit on a Monday morning, he wore African attire. The instruction of faith saved him. The assassins who were lying in wait for him were expecting a target in an English suit. God is waiting for you to take that step of faith you have been inspired to so that He will do the impossible for you. It's your day of positive action.

The Word and Prayer

Word: James 2: 17, 26.

Prayer: God of all possibilities, visit me today by driving away every impossibility from my life in Jesus' name. Amen.



You Are Chosen

Text: Luke 5:1-7

Friday, May 12, 2023

"Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power." 2 Thessalonians 1:11 (KJV)

It was one of those days when business was poor. Peter had worked all night on the sea looking for fish, but they seemed to all have decided to evade Peter and his men that night. It was like one of those days when everything seemed to be working against you. Peter and his colleagues were frustrated and sad as they washed their nets, resigned to their fate. They noticed a crowd gathering around a Rabbi who was teaching with some unusual authority. Everybody seemed to stop to listen to him. The Rabbi had a huge crowd and he wanted them to hear him clearly, so he climbed onto Peter's boat.

In what initially appeared to be a way of appreciation, the Rabbi approached Peter and told him to get back into his boat, into the sea, and let down his net. It did not sound like professional counsel, especially coming from a carpenter and a Rabbi. But Peter just obeyed. They had such a huge catch that their nets began to break. They had to call for help to contain the catch.

There were other empty, free boats at the shore, but Jesus chose Peter's. Peter readily loaned his boat to the Rabbi. Whenever God chooses you for any assignment, no matter the size, take it as a special privilege and be diligent at it (2 Peter 1:5). If God had not chosen Peter that night, the breakthrough would have gone to somebody else.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Galatians 2: 20 - 21

Prayer: God of all grace, please grant me the grace to justify your call, endowment, and blessings upon my life for your glory in Jesus' name. Amen.



Deliverance

Text: Isaiah 43:18-21

Saturday, May 13, 2023

"And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name." Isaiah 62:2 (KJV)

One of the marks of God's visitation is deliverance from fetters and shackles of bondage. God's divine visitation also brings about transformation in your life and ministry. When God visits, it is evident and you cannot hide it. When God visited Paul and Silas in prison, there was a great earthquake, and everyone's bond was loosed. Your deliverance and transformation in this season will make you become a blessing to many in Jesus' name. Amen.

When God visits, new things happen - things that have never happened in one's life. Such was the case with Hannah when God visited her - for the first time she became pregnant, and she felt a baby growing in her womb. The Lord is about to do something new in your life that will advertise His glory and fill your mouth with laughter.

Finally, when God visits you, it will be like a dream (Psalm 126:1-6). Old things will disappear; the way you do things will change. Now, get ready to welcome your own 'Samuel'. Your change is coming. You are moving to another level because God is visiting you and has opened a new door for you (Revelation 3:8). Just trust God, believe Him, and be expectant of His special visitation. You can welcome divine visitation into your life by visiting somebody and meeting their needs. Believe!

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 56: 5

Prayer: Lord, I expect your visitation; visit me in a new way in Jesus' name. Amen.



Deliverance 2

Text: Matthew 13:24-28

Sunday, May 14, 2023.

"Device your strategy, but it will be thwarted; propose your plan, but it will not stand, for God is with us." Isaiah 8:10 (NIV)

John 10:10 reveals the three-fold mission of the enemy— to steal, to kill, and to destroy. What he cannot steal, he kills, and what he cannot kill, he destroys. The scripture draws our attention also to another fact: ***"But while men slept, the enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way."*** This is made explicit in our Bible text: we find a man sowed the good seed of wheat in his field, but the enemy, to destroy the expectation and harvest of the sower came in secretly in the night to sow his seed of havoc.

I pray earnestly for you as you read this, that God will uproot whatever has been planted in your life against His good thoughts and plans for you in Jesus' name (Matthew 15:13). Every plantation of wickedness is rooted out and destroyed in Jesus' name. Amen. God's goodness is planted in its place as per your heart's desires and prayers.

According to the scriptures, the enemy can also plant evil through word of mouth, curses, or decrees (Numbers 23: 7-8). By the blood of Jesus, I cancel all such evil pronouncements and declarations. Whatever the device or weapon the enemy is using against you is rendered powerless today according to Isaiah 54:17 in Jesus' name. Amen. Have you been under harassment by the enemy through one denial or the other over the years? In this season of grace, God will speedily avenge you. God's promise of speedy deliverance will be made available to you and will happen in your life in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 54: 15 & 17

Prayer: Arise, O Lord, and let your enemies and every enemy of my destiny be scattered in Jesus' name. Amen.



Can These Bones Live?

Text: Ezekiel 37:1-10

Monday, May 15, 2023.

"And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest." Ezekiel 37:3 (KJV)

When God's Spirit took Ezekiel through a vision to the valley of dry bones, what he saw were in fact, like the remains of a whole nation's army slain in battle with no one to gather their bones and give them a burial. Our memory verse today contains the question of importance, posed by God to the prophet: *"can these bones live?"* The answer should be an outright 'No.' This is because the matter should be adjudged impossible. However, the prophet gave an answer inspired by faith. Ezekiel believed that anything could happen if God wills it, so he wisely replies by saying, *"Only God knows."*

It brings us to the question, why is it so difficult to express our faith in this age? A lack of understanding of God's nature is the major problem. It affects our natural mindset. The prophet wisely emphasized that the outcome depended on God and followed all injunctions that followed. Beloved, the only key to the realm of possibilities is faith in God's unlimited omnipotence. Such faith will lead to obedience to every instruction we receive from the Lord as we fellowship with Him. He who made the dry bones to live can address any matter. Trust Him. Present your case with faith and leave the rest to your heavenly Father. Open your mind and believe that all things are possible with God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 19: 26

Prayer: Father, thank you for revealing yourself as a trustworthy Father; help me to continue growing in faith to actualize all your plans for me and to use every grace you have provided for my life and ministry in Jesus' name. Amen.



Jesus Is Passing By

Text: Luke 7:11-15

Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem." Isaiah 66:13 (NIV)

We often find strength and consolation from the good people who surround us with love when we suffer loss or are going through hard times. Sometimes, though, the loss we suffer weighs so heavily on our souls that we just cave in emotionally, spiritually and mentally. Some pains won't just be shared. Some burdens just come crashing down on us. That was the case with the woman simply called the Widow of Nain. What word, what hug, what comfort could suffice for a widow who just lost her only surviving son?

It was a long procession in Nain on the day this widow's son would be buried. There was no more hope for this woman. But Jesus was passing by that afternoon. And, what joy, what comfort, what hope, what goodness when the widow's son was brought back to life. Proverbs 11:8 says the righteous are delivered from trouble. Daniel was delivered out of the mouth of lions. The captivity of Job was reversed. Noah and his household survived a flood that destroyed the earth.

Have you recently suffered a loss or some failure? Are you faced with fear and anxiety? Is the hope of a recovery gone? Jesus will show up on your behalf, and everything will take a turn for the better. Your sorrow and weeping will turn to joy. He knows what you are going through, and He cares for you. Just take everything to Him in prayer. Jesus is passing by you today. He hears you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 126: 1 - 6

Prayer: My heavenly Father, I know that with you all things are possible. Step into my situation now and increase my faith, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Choose Kindness And Patience 1

Text: 2 Peter 1:3-10

Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." 2 Peter 1:5-7 (KJV)

What is occurring in our lives can affect how we respond to the situations we face. Outside pressures or uncertain circumstances can bring out the best or worst in us. And sometimes, letting out the ugly can seem a bit easier than displaying the good stuff. But regardless of how we feel, we can choose kindness and patience and use them to help others and make our world a better place.

Our feelings are a way of letting us know where we stand, but they should not govern how we act. Whether we are in a difficult time as a family, church, nation or individually, we cannot let fear or worry overtake us. These negative emotions can dictate our lives to the point where we feel as if we have lost control.

What if we don't allow our negative feelings to control us? What if we followed Christ's example and loved other people as He loves them? We have the power of the Holy Spirit to give us strength in our weaknesses. When Christ works through those weaknesses, we are strong. We can choose kindness and patience even when it's challenging to do so. The concluding verse of our Bible text today is verse 10, and it tells us and assures us that, *"if ye do these things, ye shall never fall"*.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Corinthians 12: 9 - 10

Prayer: Lord, let your grace be sufficient for me and move me forward in my life and ministry in Jesus' name. Amen.



Choose Kindness And Patience 2

Text: 2 Peter 1:3-10

Thursday, May 18, 2023.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:9-10 (NIV)

Once again, our feelings are a way of letting us know where we stand, but they should not govern how we act. We must not allow our negative feelings to control us but follow Christ's example and love other people as He loves them. Christ's example is what you should always follow, and the Holy Spirit will give you strength. Choose kindness and patience, even when it is difficult and challenging to do so. What can you do to put this into practice?

First and foremost, decide to choose kindness. We possess a sinful nature, so it's easy for us to operate with a lack of kindness, patience, and love. It takes little effort on our part to **'act natural,'** so we have to adjust our mindset. We must seek God's help and decide ahead of time to act like Christ, in ways that help and bless others. And the more we do it, the more of these kinds of acts will come naturally to us. Picture yourself being kind, patient, and loving - in words and actions. It does not take much to distribute love, kindness, and patience to a world in need of them. Let's be aware of all the ways God is allowing us to make a difference in the lives of people. When we follow Christ's example and impact others positively, the world becomes a better place.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Ephesians 4: 32

Prayer: Lord, encompass me with your presence and the Holy Spirit always to give unction to follow Christ's example in Jesus' name. Amen.



Inferior Substitutes

Text: Genesis 3:7-11

Friday, May 19, 2023.

"The house of the righteous contains great treasure, but the income of the wicked brings them trouble." Proverbs 15:6 NIV

The good thought of building a house for the Lord came to the heart of David. And when this man, who was described as a man after God's heart, sought God's guidance for the project, God told him to rather commission his son for the project. David, therefore, commissioned his son and successor, Solomon, for the project and personally made great treasures of gold and precious materials available.

So, the house of the Lord, the Temple, which Solomon built, was a storehouse of many treasures. However, several years later, Rehoboam, Solomon's successor, sinned, and God allowed his enemies to invade the land. The land suffered huge losses, and the worst hit were the treasures in both the temple and the king's palace (2 Chronicles 12:1-2). God was however merciful to them when, at the warning of the prophet of God, Shemaiah, the leaders of the nation and the king humbled themselves.

After losing all the precious treasures, Rehoboam replaced them with inferior materials such as bronze. Unfortunately, he never saw anything wrong with that. Today, many have allowed their superior divine blessings to be replaced with poor substitutes due to carelessness, ignorance, a lack of surrender, and their carnal nature. Don't settle for an inferior substitute. Return to the Lord today in humility, and you shall be restored fully to your original state and more.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 68: 19

Prayer: My Father and God, help me to maintain your blessings upon my life and not replace them with inferior, poor substitutes, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Deliverance From The Enemy

Text: Psalm 41:1-4

Saturday, May 20, 2023.

***"God is to us a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death."
Psalm 68:20 (ESV)***

Deliverance comes by traving in prayer. Deliverance erupts when we take hold of God's word. Deliverance can also happen through prophetic declaration. Deliverance will also answer to sacrificial seeds. But the key to deliverance that the Lord wants us to explore is caring for the poor and needy. The Bible declares that when you deliver the poor and needy, you will not be delivered into the hands of your enemies. God remembers the one who remembers the poor.

According to the scripture, you thus become God's creditor. The more you meet their needs, the stronger you draw God's attention to yourself. He never owes anyone. So don't stop giving; your day of divine remembrance is close. Giving to the poor also protects and preserves your life and delivers you from enemies. The Bible says: ***"Blessed is he who considers the poor! The Lord delivers him in the day of trouble; the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; thou dost not give him up to the will of his enemies."*** (Psalm 41:1-2 RSV).

There is also a third dimension to this. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 1:3 that he remembers Timothy in prayer day and night. You too can sow seeds of remembrance by interceding for the brethren. There are brethren you know who need your support in prayer and words of encouragement. Apart from financial and material help, you can also pray for them. As you pass through tough times that nobody, but God knows about, intercede for other people. It won't be long before your day of remembrance will come, and the Almighty God will come through for you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Galatians 6: 9 - 10

Prayer: O God, remember me today after the order of Nehemiah, in Jesus' name, amen.
(Nehemiah 13:14, 22b, 31b)



A Tree Planted Beside The Waters

Text: Proverbs 3:1-9

Sunday, May 21, 2023.

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is." Jeremiah 17:7 (KJV)

The Bible compares the one who trusts in the Lord to a tree planted by the riverside. A tree planted beside the water can access a regular supply of needed water and nutrients and will, therefore, not only live longer but also be more fruitful. Your faith, hope, and trust in God guarantees not only your sustenance and survival but also your fruitfulness, satisfaction, and comfort (John 4:14). The more you trust and hope in God, the less you focus on man's help.

From your interaction with God and because of who God is and what He has already done for you, trust Him even more for the future and have no doubts that He will continue His wonder-loving plan in your life. When you trust in the Lord, He makes sure nothing touches or moves you from where He has planted you or where He is taking you.

There is a reason that the Bible details God's character and nature. The Bible seeks to build trust in the hearts of men and women towards God. It seeks to show that God is completely reliable when we cross bridges, face storms, and confront dilemmas. God wants us to trust Him when life is good and pleasant as well as when it is stormy and uncontrollable. It doesn't matter if we are surrounded by friends or are trapped in the lair of our adversaries. There is never a time when we should displace our trust in the Lord Jehovah. Learn to trust God completely in all things.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 91: 1 - 2

Prayer: Father, I thank you for being my all in all, hope, and helper in Jesus' name. Amen.



What To Yearn And Strive For

Text: 2 Peter 1:3-10

Monday, May 22, 2023.

*"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."
Hebrews 10:23 (NIV)*

Jesus had 70 disciples, whom he endowed with spiritual enablement to preach the gospel, heal the sick, and cast out demons (Luke 10:1). He had 12 apostles who worked closely with him. Among the 12, he had three who were even closer to him. These three had special privileges over the other 12. These three were the ones who had the privilege of seeing the Transfiguration of Christ. Peter was one of the three privileged apostles. In our text for the day, Peter exhorts us to advance in Christian grace and to yearn for spiritual growth.

Beloved, it is what you yearn for that you will earn. To fulfill your race, succeed on earth, and make heaven, you must yearn for and strive for spiritual growth. When your yearning for spiritual growth is lost, spiritual enhancement and earnings will stop.

What does this growth involve? It is abstaining from the corruption that is in this world and taking advantage of the grace given to us. It is taking on the divine nature of Christ (2 Peter 1:3-7). It is doing good to all, both to those within the household of God and to those outsiders. Let it excite you to grow in grace and holiness.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Colossians 3: 16 & 17

Prayer: Holy Spirit, connect me to Christ, the True Vine, always for assured nutrients in Jesus' name. Amen.



Conquerors Through Christ

Text: Romans 8:37-39

Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:57 (KJV)

Considering the situations surrounding his world, the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome, saying: ***"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us"*** (Romans 8:37). From the Greek sources, the phrase ***"we are more than conquerors"*** is a single word, *"Hupernkomen,"* meaning, 'we are over and above victors and conquerors.' He is reminding us that we are super victors as believers in Christ.

As Paul talked about, we are constantly faced with battles within and without our souls. You must refuse to conform to the world and any form of ungodliness. The only thing we must accept is God's standard as revealed in His holy Word. Do not listen to what is going on in the world; only hear and respond to what the Holy Spirit says to you and His church.

You will therefore not exist in the ordinary, barely getting by in life's everyday difficulties, but exist by the supernatural grace of the Almighty God. Though the world is compromised and every one of its systems is therefore failing, we cannot be victims if we abide in Christ. The power of the risen Christ inside of you guarantees your exceeding victory every time and everywhere. Abide in the Vine, for without Him you can do nothing. Cling to the Lord with all your heart.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 8: 28

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I thank you for making me more than a conqueror and a super victor in you, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Choose To Make The Right Choices 1

Text: Matthew 19:4-6

Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

"...This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Gen. 2:23-24 (KJV)

To have a successful Christian life, you must have a good one-on-one, personal relationship with God. Your relationship with God must then transcend the worldly views and practices of today. This is the basis of a good and successful matrimonial relationship and home, which are absent in today's world.

What is happening in the world now is that instead of going into matrimony, they go into an unholy partnership, a relationship of cohabitation, and to cap it all off, same-sex marriage—an unholy wedlock whose fire is spreading throughout the western world.

Just like Moses placed before the new generation of Israelites ready to enter the Promised Land the choices of life or death, you too are faced with the choice to stand for godly values or to stand with ungodliness. It is a choice of life or death. Choose to make the right choices in your marriage and family. The home is the bedrock of peace and harmony for the nations of the world.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 13: 49 - 50

Prayer: I choose to live for Christ. I choose to live for godly values. I choose to live for eternal values in Jesus' mighty name. Amen!



Choose To Make The Right Choices 2

Text: Genesis 2:21-25

Thursday, May 25, 2023.

"And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." Genesis 2:25 (KJV)

Many people today, including Christians, ask whether the Bible's guide and advice on marriage are outdated. Some people are even in conflict with the Biblical stance on marriage. Jesus faced the same questions that we now face. In answering them, Jesus went to the very beginning of the institution of marriage—Genesis 2: 21–25.

Despite the sore rate of dysfunctional homes and marriages, many marriages are doing fine and bring happiness and stability to individuals, families, and communities, forming the bedrock of our society and nations. But the point to note is that marriage, like a car, needs good care and regular maintenance to keep it going and running well.

The Bible provides workable advice and guidance on how to maintain and strengthen marriages. The Scripture never said that every marriage will be without hiccups, but it is imperative for you as a married Christian to lessen the troubles and increase the joy for your spouse by following the laid down Biblical principles (1 Corinthians 7:28 NIV). When it seems you are going apart, apply Philippians 1: 9–10. Never seek your own interests only. Do not concentrate on the faults of your spouse. Learn to forgive always, and God will always make a way for you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Colossians 3: 13

Prayer: O Lord, let your kingdom be established in my life, marriage, and home in the name of Jesus, amen.



365 Times

Text: Romans 8:1-16

Friday, May 26, 2023.

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." Romans 8:15 (KJV)

It was a typical day for Jesus and his apostles— healing the sick, teaching and preaching, and attending to the personal needs of the people. They had worked so hard and were so tired. Jesus instructed the apostles to sail the boat to the other side of the lake. After a hard day of preaching under the hot sun, Jesus fell asleep in the boat. Then a storm came. The experienced fishermen knew there was imminent danger with that kind of storm. They were so afraid and ran to wake him up. Jesus saw the fear on their faces, but He rebuked the raging storm first, then He rebuked their lack of faith.

There are 365 *'fear not'* in the Bible; take one for each day of the year. As a believer, you must not be bound by fear (Romans 8:15–16). Whatever wind or storm may be raging against you, and from wherever it may be coming, it will submit to the command of the Lord.

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him." (Isaiah 59:19b). You have a sure promise that keeps your soul, body, and spirit steadfast and sure when billows roll.

Pray today that the Spirit of Him who raised Christ will descend on you, and whatever has been giving you fear will become a testimony in Jesus' name. Amen. You will not be put to shame! Stand strong in faith and be courageous. Your help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Job 22: 29

Prayer: I come against every storm that is raging in my life, and I command peace in the name of Jesus! Amen.



God Visits His People

Text: Judges 13:2-4

Saturday, May 27, 2023.

*"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"
Psalm 8:4 (KJV)*

God gave men a spirit so that He could relate to them because He is Spirit. He gave a man a soul so that man could relate to himself and other humans. And God gave a man a body so that he could relate to the physical world. Human beings are made of relationships. God has an eternal desire to have fellowship with humans. In Genesis 3, we read that God paid regular visits to Adam and Eve. He came down to them to meet them at their level, to relate, commune, and fellowship with them.

Today, God still desires your fellowship, and He does visit His own. God still visits His people today. It is a great miracle that the Lord God Almighty would become man and live among us (Luke 1:78). It is the highest honour that the Most High would seek no better dwelling place than inside of us. The Lord visited Abraham and Sarah, and they became parents even in old age. The Lord visited Moses, and he became the deliverer of a nation. The Lord visited Mr. and Mrs. Manoah, and they became the parents of Samson, the deliverer of Israel.

The days of your visitation and favour have started. God will visit you in a different and special way. Make yourself a friend of God today so that He might visit you like a friend. There are things in your life that cry out for a divine visit. Be prepared for His visit today because He will visit you suddenly in His mercy.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Luke 1: 68 & 71

Prayer: Everything in my life preventing divine visitation is destroyed by fire in Jesus' name. Amen.



No Longer a Child

Text: Galatians 4:1-7

Sunday, May 28, 2023.

"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." 1 Corinthians 13:11 (KJV)

It's the expectation and hope of our Father in Heaven that we grow up into maturity. He calls us to mature into the full stature of Christ. This is for us to maximize God's provisions and fulfill His purpose for our lives. When you gave your life to Christ, you became a child of God. But God does not want you to remain a child. He wants you to mature so you can begin to enjoy the utmost benefits of your royalty.

Maturity is not automatic. Just like physical maturity requires nutrients, you need spiritual nutrients to grow spiritually. When a child does not grow, it is like the efforts of the parent were a waste. When you refuse to grow, it is like building again the things that God, through Christ, has destroyed in you (Galatians 2:18–20).

How do you gain the nutrients for maturity? Meditate on and study the Word of God daily; keep a daily fellowship appointment with God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you so that the life of the Spirit and God's supernatural power will always take preeminence in your life. The deep riches of the kingdom belong to the mature children of the kingdom.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 50: 4

Prayer: Let the goodness and mercies of God now overwhelm me in the name of Jesus, amen.



Put All Things Before The Lord

Text: Matthew 10:29-30

Monday, May 29, 2023.

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jeremiah 33:3 (KJV)

There are many reasons why we do not find the time to commune with God. Sometimes it is because we are so distracted by the pressures of work, family, and life. Some other times, we just feel we can handle some things all by ourselves and needn't bother God. But God has given us an open and free invitation to His presence. He says, ***"Call unto me, and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."*** You have a visa to be in God's presence, one-on-one.

There is this great man of God who loved to spend quality time with God, alone. He has a room set aside for that purpose. He would suddenly disappear into the room and suddenly emerge from there when he was through communing with God. Nobody disturbed him once he entered that room. He has this favourite four-year-old son to whom he always gives money to buy some candies. There was this evening when this man of God entered the room to commune with God, and this young man was everywhere looking for his father to get his money for candies.

He remembered that Daddy had a secret chamber that he would usually enter and then suddenly come out of. He went to the door and knocked. He knocked again and again yet received no response. Other adults around tried to dissuade him from disturbing Daddy, but he would not just stop knocking. He kept knocking until the man of God came out of his room and gave the boy some money.

Do not feel foolish or awkward bothering God with the seemingly little things of life. It is the delight of our Father to answer every prayer. He wants to be involved in every little detail of our lives. If something is important to you, it is important to Him as well.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 4: 6

Prayer: Lord, give me faith like that of a child, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Build A Good Foundation 1

Text: Matthew 7:24-27

Tuesday, May 30, 2023.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Ephesians 6:13 (KJV)

In tertiary institutions of learning, results of exams are posted on notice boards, as in the good old days of yore. If you cannot find your name on the board, you know you are in trouble, and it means you have failed. Such a person quickly runs away from the notice board before anyone asks about his or her result. However, there are other situations where you cannot hide your failure. If you hide your failures in school, you won't be able to hide the extra year you must spend in school. Life works that way too. We are bound to face the consequences of our poor preparations.

Christ said a wise man makes good preparation by building on the rock, so when the rain, flood, winds, and storm beat on the house, it will remain firm. Whereas a foolish man built his house on the sand, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, and it fell. The first man who built his house on the rock was well prepared because he knew that the storm would inevitably come, though he did not know when. The second man chose the easier way out by building his house on the sand.

The lesson here is that the foundation of a thing determines its character. Your talent, skills, qualifications, and credentials may get you to the top, but if your character base is weak, you won't be able to stay there. Attitude determines altitude. Storms are inevitable, but they reveal our character. You must be well grounded in God's Word and possess a vibrant personal relationship with Him. Then, when life's storms and winds come, my dear friend, I can tell you that they will surely come, and you will be able to say, ***"Although I do not have the answer, I am trusting God to do what He promised to do in His word."***

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 1: 17

Prayer: My heavenly Father, give me the grace to live by faith in Jesus' name. Amen.



Build A Good Foundation 2

Text: Mark 6:45-51

Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

"...The LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands." Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV)

Our conclusion from yesterday's lesson is that our preparation must be based on our trust in God as well as His Word and promises. How you prepare for life and how you face life—your practical steps and approach—reflects the level of your Christian life. The state of your relationship with God determines the spiritual atmosphere in your life. I pray for you today that the Lord will clear away every negative spiritual activity operating in and around your life in the name of Jesus.

The result you get in life will reveal how well you have done and how much you have learned in the storms of life. It will also determine how you are likely to react in any given situation. However, whatever the situation you are facing today, you must have an attitude of gratitude, knowing that He who has promised is faithful.

See how far He has brought you. Recount His goodness and kindness even when you don't deserve them. Thanking God for great and miraculous things can be easy, but showing gratitude when things are contrary and falling apart can be difficult. God commands us to give thanks always because it is His will for us (2 Thessalonians 2:13). Therefore, part of your preparation and building a good foundation for life's battles is to have an attitude of gratitude.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 43: 19

Prayer: Father, as I totally surrender my life and all to you, cause a revival in my life in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Covenant Of Preservation

Text: Psalm 91:1-10

Thursday, June 1, 2023

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty... Because thou has made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.” Psalm 91:1, 9&10

King David, in writing Psalm 91, mentioned some challenges and difficulties that could possibly show up in the life of any human. He noted the snare of the fowler, the irritating pestilence that walks in darkness, and the terror of the night. Then, there is the arrow that flies by day, and the destruction that wastes at noonday. However, the psalm goes on to promise us that even if thousands fall in our vicinity, destruction will not come near us. No evil will befall us nor plague come near our dwelling place because God will give His angels charge over us.

As His child, God is committed to keeping us in all our ways. God directs our affairs and brings us to a place of safety. Coming into alignment with the purpose and plan of the Almighty God for our life, ensures that we end up in in the right place in life, the place of safety. As we go through life, many challenges and difficulties will certainly cross our paths trying to frustrate, destroy, terminate, limit or cause abnormalities in our lives. But in Christ, we are more than conquerors. God is always ready to fight on our behalf. His covenant of preservation will work for us.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Genesis 12:3

Prayer: Let every counterfeit blessing leave my life now in the name of Jesus. Lord, preserve and help me in Jesus' name.



The New Dimension 1

Text: Luke 15:11-32

Friday, June 2, 2023

“Father I have sinned against heaven, and before thee.” Luke 15:18b

In our Bible text today, we see the awesomeness of God's magnificent love exemplified through the story of the prodigal son. It represents the new dimension of God's love. The prodigal son asked for his father's life by asking for his inheritance. And well, he gets it. However, it doesn't take too long for him to lose his fortune and become destitute. The word prodigal means *'waste fairly extravagant'*.

Realizing his foolishness, he makes the U-turn home with the intention of begging his father to allow him to become one of the hired servants. Since he had severed his relationship with his father through his reckless act, he felt it was the best that could come out of the situation. But the father wasn't counting the sin against him; he welcomes him home and celebrates his return.

Jesus told this parable to His disciples, the Pharisees and religious leaders. It was the last of the three parables he told about loss and redemption; the other two are the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin. Jesus told these parables when He was accused of welcoming “sinners” and eating with them. The father's joy at the return of the prodigal son reflects the **intensity of our Heavenly Father's divine love, His boundless mercy and the limitless measure of His grace towards us.**

Are you like the prodigal son? The Father is asking you to come back home. Return to the Heavenly Father today, He is earnestly waiting to graciously welcome you back to where you belong; with boundless mercy. His arms are outstretched, waiting for you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 32:5

Prayer: Be merciful unto me, O Lord. In thee do I put my trust, deliver me from shame and death in Jesus name.



The New Dimension 2

Text: Luke 15:11-32

Saturday, June 3, 2023

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

Although the parable of the prodigal son is recorded only once in the Bible (in Luke 15:11-32), it has been described by the Expositors' Bible commentary as ***'perhaps the crown and flower of all the parables.'*** There are a few things to learn from this important parable.

The first is that the prodigal son did not get into trouble until he left the safety of his father's house. Then, he **'wasted his substance'**. As a child of God, you must be careful not to heed Satan's call for pleasure and enjoyment. If you do, you will lose the very substance of who you are and what God called you to be. Secondly, **'he joined himself to a citizen of that country'**. Do you want to know where you are spiritually? Look at the people you consult and hang out with. Who calls you and who do you call? The Bible admonishes, ***“My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them.....do not go along with them, do not set foot on their path”.*** (Proverbs 1:10, 15 NIV).

The prodigal son did not come to himself until, **'he began to be in want'**. In his father's house he never lacked anything, now he began to lack and be in need. He started eating food meant for pigs, meeting a legitimate need in an illegitimate way. Are you in the same situation? The Psalmist said, ***“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” Psalm 23:1.*** Who is that promise for? Only those who live in the safety of the sheepfold of the Lord and who stay close to the Shepherd.

It was not too late for the prodigal son, and it's not too late for you. The Father is waiting with open arms to welcome you and return you to your sonship. The key to this is your repentance.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrews 3:15, Psalm 102:13

Prayer: Lord, I receive your word today; soften my heart and give me your limitless grace and boundless mercy as I repent and come to you in Jesus name.

**Today's devotional was adapted from - www.lifehopeandtruth.com
The online article is: *The Prodigal Son: Parable with Overlooked Meaning.*
<https://lifehopeandtruth.com/change/repentance/the-prodigal-son>*



What Do You Fear? 1

Text: Isaiah 41:10

Sunday, June 4, 2023

“You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety.” Job 11:18

Fear is very common to man. There are fears commonly known as phobias. Even renowned and famous people in history suffered from different types of phobias. Edgar Allen Poe and Harry Houdini suffered from claustrophobia. The billionaire, Howard Hughes had a pathological fear for germs. He practically separated himself from everything that could transfer germs or make him contract germs. He went to great lengths to do that, almost bordering on insanity. That great general, Napoleon, must be mentioned here for the crippling and irrational fear he had for cats. And the father of psychoanalysis Sigmund Freud also had the fear of crowds and public places, agoraphobia.

Though successful in some respects, these people suffered in other areas. The point is that many of us deny our phobia. Yet, phobias can hinder our journey to growth and progress. If you are crippled with any form of fear, you need to face it in order to reach your God-destined potential. Your fear could be a feeling or situation you habitually avoid or leave to others to handle. Interestingly, you might not view that **'thing'** bothering you as a fear or phobia. Whatever it is, the only way to overcome it is to call it by its name, confront it, and draw on God's guidance and strength. Know that God offers you His strength in all situations to do all things.

Our memory verse for today, Job 11: 18, underlines safety and rest as the rewards for turning over our fears to the Lord.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrews 13:6

Prayer: The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid of anything or situation in Jesus name.



What Do You Fear? 2

Text: Joshua 1:1-9

Monday, June 5, 2023

“They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting the Lord.” Psalm 112:7

One fear that can affect a Christian's life and journey is the fear of failure. This is because this fear can keep one from fulfilling their God-given vision and destiny. God has given us every assurance of success, as evident in His word. The same word He gave to Joshua in today's Bible reading is what He gives to you. Be courageous.

Courage does not mean you will not be afraid. Courage means you do not let fear stop you. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Mistakes and failures are tools that sharpen and make us better. As you keep trying, you get better. The irrational fear of failure causes stagnancy in the long-term. Put your trust in God.

Failing doesn't make you a failure, quitting does. Not learning from your mistakes and failures, and refusal to get back up again, when you fail is what makes you a failure. Hold on to the promises and gifts God has given you, step out and take a risk on faith, trusting God for your success. When you do these, you will have good success (Joshua 1:8).

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 138:7-8

Prayer: Good success is my portion, because Lord, you will perfect all that concerns me in Jesus name.



God's Promises Are Sacrosanct 1

Text: Luke 1:26-45

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

“Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

When God brought the whole nation of Israel out of Egypt, they travelled the wilderness for 40 years. God fed them, healed them, brought water from the rock for them to drink, preserved their shoes and clothes, and even boasted that He could have brought honey out of the rock for them (Psalm 81:16).

Decades earlier, we see God give a couple their first child when they were aged 90 (Sarah) and 100 (Abraham). He also made an immigrant slave to become the Prime Minister in the greatest nation of his time. There is nothing God cannot do with your life. You are the only limit to what God can do with you. God is able to perform all He has promised to do for you. Only believe.

God does not consult our past or our natural capabilities to make a miracle of our lives. He is the Lord God of all flesh and nothing is impossible for Him to do (Jeremiah 32:27). God will bring to performance those things He has promised in His words about you if you will only believe. (Number 23:19).

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 37:5

Prayer: Father, make good all your promises for me today in the name of Jesus.



God's Promises Are Sacrosanct 2

Text: Luke 1:15-20

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

“For with God nothing shall be impossible.” Luke 1:37

Scriptures demonstrate that there is nothing God cannot do. God can do things outside of what we consider normal. Zachariah and his wife wanted a child and the angel of the Lord came to him where he was ministering in the temple and said: ***“Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth”*** (Luke 1:13-14).

Zachariah doubted because they were already old. Yet, his doubt did not abort his miracle, although he was dumb until the child was born. When the same angel appeared to the virgin Mary and told her she shall have a child by Holy Spirit conception, her response was: ***“Be it unto me according to your word”*** (Luke 1:38).

Can you see the sharp contrast between these two believers - Zachariah and Mary? Both were told seemingly impossible things. Come think of it, it was easier for Zachariah to believe, at least, if he remembered Abraham's experience. Yet Zachariah was looking for proof. But Mary, in a simple act of faith, said, ***“Be it unto me according to your word.”*** Mary did not think of what people would say and she did not think about the reaction of Joseph, her fiancé. She knew that if God said it, He would go ahead of her and sort everything out.

We do not walk by sight! Get your mind and reasoning out of the way and you will see God make the seemingly impossible happen in your life. Today, this shall be your testimony in Jesus name. Believe and have hope in God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Luke 1:74-75

Prayer: Father, give me the grace to walk with you by faith today. Let me experience the wonders of your power and promise always, in Jesus name.



Restitute

Text: Luke 19:1-9

Thursday June 8, 2023

“.....Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.” Luke 19:8

According to the scriptures, Zacchaeus was a corrupt public servant. He had a bad reputation with the public. He got rich by cheating people, and everyone knew him to be so. When Jesus met him, He offered to spend the night at Zacchaeus' house. This elicited murmuring from the crowd, most of whom wondered why Jesus wanted to visit a famous crook, a sinner.

The fact that Jesus spent the night at Zacchaeus' house shocked the religious community. However, that night Zacchaeus became a new man. We are not privy to what Jesus told Zacchaeus but it caused him to respond: *“Lord, here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody, I will payback four times the amount.”* The answer Jesus gave Zacchaeus was even more wonderful: *“Today salvation has come to this house”* (Luke 19:9 NIV).

Here, we have an important lesson to learn about becoming whole. The basis of true emotional healing rests on your willingness to forgive and, where necessary, make amends with those you have hurt. If you owe someone a debt, go pay it. If you have hurt someone, apologize, and try your best to restore the relationship (Matthew 5:23-25). The Bible says as far as it concerns you, try and live at peace with every person (Romans 12:18). Pray for grace to do this.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Timothy 2:24-26, Ephesians 4:32

Prayer: Help me O Lord, to do your will always in Jesus name.



Are You A Member Of Christ's Army?

Text: Matthew 4:17-25

Friday June 9, 2023

“And He saith unto them, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19

Jesus started His ministry by building a team. He put together persons who were later called Apostles. These were hearers of His words, who afterwards became preachers of His doctrines and way of life. They witnessed His miracles and were able to testify to His works. To recruit these men, one of the places Jesus went was the Sea of Galilee. This shows us that diligence in one's honest calling is pleasing to Christ and is not a hindrance to holy living. What was the response of these fishermen? They left all and followed the Lord (Matthew 4:20).

Are you a member of Christ's army? Are you a member of the team? A team is made up of several people working together, to achieve a common goal. Belonging to a team means being part of something larger than you. It also has to do with your understanding of the mission or objective of that group. Do you belong to a group, team, or department in your church? Do you work with others to produce results and set targets? Are you unified with others to achieve the overall objective, which Christ set for us all, that is soul winning?

Are you aware of your role and the contribution you need to make to the body of Christ? Do you recognize that we are all co-labourers in God's vineyard? Do you value other team members? Are you humbly working collaboratively – sharing thoughts, ideas, concerns, hymns, psalms, prayers and fasting, supporting one another onto edification? (Romans 14:19).

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 12:5.

Prayer: Father, I thank you for your many resources in my life and ministry. Help me to use the resources in collaboration with other labourers in your vineyard in Jesus name.



Gideon's Army

Text: Judges 7:1-8

Saturday, June 10, 2023

“Let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; For the LORD your God is He that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.” Deuteronomy 20:3b-4

Our Bible reading today presents to us the details of an army mobilized by Gideon to confront the Midian-led coalition, which had come not only to plunder as they used to do but also to crush and destroy Israel. The coalition army was enormous, numbering more than 135,000 whereas the Israelite volunteers were only 32,000. The disadvantage in strength was obvious to everyone.

From the position of Gideon's army by the well of Harod, they had a clear view of the enemy in the valley of Jezreel. 22,000 of Israel's 32,000 soldiers opted out due to fear. Given the supernatural interventions God had made on behalf of Israel on several occasions, one could say that the soldiers' fears were baseless. Nevertheless, the remaining soldiers displayed rare courage and cooperated with God all the way, even when their little army was again whittled down to a mere 300, at the instruction of the Lord (Judges 7:7). At the end, they had the victory.

A believer neutralizes fear by faith, and faith is only cultivated by constantly hearing, meditating on and contending for the sanctity of the word of God (Romans 10:7). With faith in your heart, dear child of God, you have no cause to be afraid in your Christian walk as you carry out every God-given assignment. Like Gideon's army, know that He has your back. Have faith!

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 8:15

Prayer: Father, I thank you for giving me the spirit of love and power in Jesus name.



Change That Is Right

Text: 1 Timothy 6:6-12

Sunday, June 11, 2023

“Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite. The LORD lifted up the meek: He casteth the wicked down to the ground.” Psalm 147:5 & 6

As Christians, it is important to appreciate the power of God in all our affairs and in every area of our lives. The psalmist says in Psalm 115:3, ***“But our God is in the heavens. He hath done whatsoever he hath pleased”***. Your Father is sovereign and is actively standing and working for you.

The world today is thirsty for fame, riches, success and glory. Many desire to be rich, at all costs. Our Bible text admonishes us as Christians to learn contentment and satisfaction. It also tells us that such desperate people often end up in deep troubles; they end up biting more than they can chew, some even to the peril of their soul.

There is nothing wrong in being driven or wanting to make a success of life, but we have to be careful to not make it an obsession and turn such into a god in our hearts. As you desire progress and advancement in all areas of your life, be rest assured that God is powerful enough to handle all those burdens. As you desire change and growth in every sphere of life, learn to thank God for where you are, set goals and take the right steps in the fulfillment of your dreams. Be content; relax and trust Him, that His power is mightily working on your behalf.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Cor. 5:17

Prayer: Father, I choose to be content with whatsoever I have, as I patiently wait for the change I desire in Jesus name. Amen!



God's Time

Text: Exodus 2:11-25

Monday, June 12, 2023

“But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire wanting nothing.” James 1:4

Moses lived the entire of his youth in Pharaoh's palace. However, at a point Moses felt it was time to commence his ministry. Very early in life, he had realized his place was not in the palace and that he was born for a special purpose in the life of his people, the Israelites. He knew he was to be a deliverer but the type, shape and scope, he had no clue about.

When God has a particular plan He wants you to execute, He communicates it to you personally. Sometimes, it may be through a strong conviction or a strong passion that develops in you. When this happens, you do not need a prophet to tell you it's the mind of God. So, after his 40th birthday, Moses took the bull by the horn to start his mission. However, it was not God's time for him to begin the work and not the method God wanted, so he got into trouble. Jumping the gun led Moses into exile for 40 years at the backside of the desert.

God has a plan and purpose for you. But you cannot just go ahead of God. You can only make true progress when you walk side-by-side with God. Humbly seek His timing, and process, and key into it, then good success is certain. His timing is always appropriate and perfect. Happy is the person who learns to wait as he prays and never loses his patience. God's time is the best time.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Samuel 22:31; Ecclesiastes 3:11

Prayer: Lord, help me to understand that it is about You, and not me, to fulfill my calling in your time, in Jesus name. Amen.



Be Flexible For Change

Text: 1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

Most times, people are wary of change and slow to accept and adapt to new ways of doing things. This attitude is also found in the church. The early church was given a command to take the Gospel to every part of the world, but they remained in Jerusalem. God had to stir up persecution to scatter them.

Every child of God must be open to change. Change has been well said to be the only constant thing in life. Everything continues to transform with all forms of change, at various speeds and paces. As long as the wheel of time rolls, this will be the case. Most people shy away from this truth. Yet, change is what we really need many times.

God has a purpose for taking you through various callings. You have no idea of the fullness of all that He is preparing you for, concerning the future. Your response in all situations should be, Lord, what do you want me to do? Be flexible for changes as regards where God is taking you. The blessing of God will only locate you where God has sent you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Corinthians 7:17

Prayer: Lord, if am wrongly located, please in your mercy and power, relocate me today in Jesus name.



Enemies In Disguise

Text: Psalm 41:1-10

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

***“Your enemies will be clothed in shame, and the tents of the wicked will be no more.”
Job 8:22***

From our Bible text, David's enemies conspired to hurt him and spread evil news about him. To crown it all, he described his enemies as: ***“...mine own familiar friend in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me”*** (Psalm 41:9). Betrayals from loved ones is a tough thing to deal with. However, our consolation, which was the psalmist's too, is that the Lord raises us up and will not allow the enemy to triumph over us (Psalm 41:10-11).

Those words of David, hundreds of years later, were also fulfilled by Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ. He ate, slept and went everywhere with the Master. He was even appointed the treasurer; he was so near to the Lord, yet so far from Him. His heart was set on betraying Jesus.

Many Christians likewise today, are betraying Jesus in different ways. How are you handling your assignment in the house of God? Have you turned yourself into another “Pharaoh”, lording it over those God has put under your care as their leader. Do you just bear the name of Christ, yet give and take bribes, and manipulate figures in your office? Do you live a double-standard kind of life, thereby allowing people to blaspheme the name of Jesus? God is calling on you today to repent. Do not be a betrayer of the Lord Jesus. Don't be God's enemy in disguise.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 55:6-7

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for the power and grace to conquer opposition. Thank you also for helping me not to be an enemy in God's camp in Jesus name.

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No Hopeless Situation With God

Text: Acts 3:2-8

Thursday, June 15, 2023

“The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.” Proverbs 10:24

The Bible in Acts 3:2-8 draws our attention to the lame man at the Beautiful Gate. His disability set his life in a rhythm of unpalatable routine. Daily, in the morning he was dropped at a particular spot at the gate, where he begged for alms. Later in the evening he was ferried home again. So, he went forth and back, nothing really changing for him. It was a hopeless state he was used to, one which he had come to accept as normal.

However, God intervened to say enough is enough. So, on this day, Peter and John came along and they only asked him to look at them, which he did expecting alms. However, he got more than he bargained for. His expectation was for alms but he got a permanent solution to his problem. His life turned around for good forever.

Whenever a hopeless case is brought to the God of all hope, it has no choice but to do a somersault and change form. What is that hopeless state? Have you been on the same spot for a while now? Do you know that according to the word of God that dry situation, that dry bone, shall live again? The Lord will make you fruitful all-round. He will turn your situation around and rewrite your story for good.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Genesis 50:20

Prayer: Every root and tree of unfruitfulness and hopelessness in my life, be uprooted by fire and roasted in the name of Jesus. My fruitfulness begin to manifest in Jesus name.



Ever-Present Help

Text: Exodus 14:13-18

Friday, June 16, 2023

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountain be carried into the midst of the sea....The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.” Psalm 46:1-2 & 11

In 1 Kings 22:5, Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, *“First seek the counsel of the Lord”*. This golden advice would serve us as Christians, for all time and in all situations.

When confronted with challenging situations, where, and who do you turn to? When faced with difficulties, some believers run to the world. Others run to Egypt, that is, the things that they have once been delivered from. Yet, others hasten to covens of darkness, to receive help from satan. But David knew exactly where to go – God Almighty.

Beloved, in the midst of troubles and challenges, learn to put your trust in God. Complaining and grumbling does not help matters. Only believe and trust God to come through on your behalf. Are you going through difficult times? I urge you to turn to God, the source of all good things. He is the very present help in times of trouble.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Jeremiah 17:7-8

Prayer: Every step I take now will begin to bring me to my God-ordained purpose in Jesus name.



Devil's Bait

Text: 1 Timothy 6:9-10

Saturday, June 17, 2023

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: while some coveted after, they have from erred the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” 1 Timothy 6:10

Life sets many traps for us, even as Christians. One of them is the **'love of money'**. Paul in his letter to his son in the Lord, Timothy, lets us know that it is the root of all evil. Note that it is not money itself but the love of money. This has divided families, separated good friends, caused confusion and bitterness, and even resulted in death. Almost every evil act can be traced to the love of money.

God indeed wants His children to prosper and there is a godly path to prosperity. Pursuing wealth, prosperity or acquisition of money by all and any means is not godly. Going through shortcuts, and get-rich-quick schemes are all designs and traps of the devil to lead you to destruction. Any business you cannot confidently disclose to your spouse or any one you respect is something you should be wary of as a child of God. If money is the denominator in all you do, please beware, you are already entering into satan's trap.

Another bait, which is closely related to the first is greed (covetousness). If all you ever do is want everything for yourself alone and you also have an uncontrollable appetite for things, this is greed. Just like the love of money, greed has led to division in families as well as among friends. Greed and covetousness have made many people lose precious opportunities through over-invoicing and false declarations. Never allow greed to take control of you, it is cancerous. Repent today and put the Lord Jesus Christ first in everything. Greed must not hinder your breakthrough.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 6:23

Prayer: Lord, let every root and tree of love of money, greed and covetousness in my life dry up and be destroyed in Jesus name.

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Yahweh Jehovah 1

Text: Exodus 6:2-8

Sunday, June 18, 2023

“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.” Psalm 145:3

In Exodus 6:2-8, God assured Moses of His intention and ability to deliver His people from the hands of Pharaoh. First, He reminds Moses of His name: YAHWEH (from Exodus 3:14). In other words, God was telling Moses: Remember that 'I Am Who I Am'. I have not ceased to be God. I do not change. You will be delivered.

In the third verse of Exodus 6, God reminded Moses of another name. He said, ***“I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah I did not make myself known to them”***. Why did God say this to Moses? How does this encourage Moses that God's promised deliverance was really in the offing? It seemed that God's point was something like this: The name Jehovah is a greater name than the name God Almighty. With my name Jehovah, you have a greater revelation of my character and power.

In other words, God was saying, “If as God Almighty I made a solemn agreement with your fathers to give them the Promise Land, then how much more, now that you know me as Jehovah. Can you at least have confidence that I will deliver these people and fulfill my covenant to bring them into the land of Canaan? The name Almighty implies that God has all might to do anything He wants to do and nothing or no one can stop Him. This is the word for you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 4:19

Prayer: Our Great God, I thank You for all Your goodness and mercy towards me and Your church in Jesus name. Thank You for Your mighty power and revelation of Your character to me.



Yahweh Jehovah 2

Text: Luke 1:30-38

Monday, June 19, 2023

“Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.” Psalm 24:7-8

We celebrate our God because we know that He is the sovereign God. He is our Lord and there is none else like Him. He is our God who has not put us to shame, who has not given our flesh to the teeth of our enemies, who has not allowed us to be embarrassed, who has kept us. He has been with us, strengthened and blessed us. He also made His angels watch over us and directed our paths.

Giving is a habit I have long cultivated. I give to the sick, the needy and the jobless. I give to those trying to get on their feet in life. Everyone needing help always goes with something. Whenever people confront me about giving so much, I usually reply, *“My God is a great God and He will never let me down.”* I am a man of faith and I know God can do anything. And if He does not do it, let it remain undone.

I recall a certain occasion, when our accounts were in red and we were finding it difficult to pay salaries. Burdened about the situation, I went to the little corner in my bedroom, where I often commune with God. I fell on my face and cried to Him, to save me from the embarrassment. Later that day, I met with a certain young man who had been wanting to see me for some time. I had never met him before, and he was not a member of our church. But somehow, we met that day, and all he had to say was: *“I just wanted to meet you and give you something.”* The 'something' was the sum of ₦50 million! We have a great God – He is great and mighty. He is the great deliverer.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Luke 1:37, Exodus 6:2-3

Prayer: Father, thank You for the great and mighty things You are doing in Your church and in my life in Jesus name.



The Lord Will Fight For You

Text: Isaiah 59:1-3

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

The Bible in Romans 8:31-33 says, *“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us who can be against us? He that spare not his own son, but delivered Him up for us all how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifies.”*

These are serious and powerful questions. Who is that person, principality, power, or spirit that can stand against God's chosen ones? None! The Lord always fights for His people. That is why He is called the mighty Man of War. According to our memory verse, 2 Peter 3:9, God is sometimes silent not because He does not know what is going on, but because He is giving room and opportunity for repentance. The Lord might be allowing that delay to answer to get you properly equipped to handle your blessing. Or He might be making room for escape from an evil incidence (Zechariah 4:6b). God knows the end from the beginning.

On the other hand, there are messy situations we create by ourselves, which may tie God's hands and make it appear that He is unaware of your plight. Beloved, surrender all to Him. Cast all your cares on Him and follow His instructions and watch Him fight for you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Peter 5:7

Prayer: Father, give me the grace to surrender all to you in Jesus name.



Respond With Generosity

Text: Luke 12:16-21

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

“He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.” Ecclesiastes 5:10

The proverb of Solomon, the son of David, tells us in the 11th chapter and 24th verse that: ***“There is he that scattereth and yet increaseth and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty”***. It goes further in the next verse 25 to say, ***“The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.”***

As Christians, we have received the riches of God's grace and therefore, we ought to respond with generosity. We are called to a life of service, sharing and stewardship - as shown by the apostles in the book of Acts. We have an obligation to do good freely, not withholding from anyone to whom it is due. When we truly give ourselves to the Lord, we will learn how to give generously, and greed and miserliness will have no place in our lives.

Jesus talking about greed said, ***“Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth”*** (Luke 12:12-21). Know that when you use your wealth to help others, you gain treasures in heaven. Cultivating this habit helps us keep our hearts on heavenly things, instead of being focused on earthly, temporary things.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 6:21

Prayer: My Father, let the spirit of Christ richly dwell in me so that I will be heaven-focused. Help me to be rich towards You and all those You bring my way in Jesus name.



How Do You Respond To Impossible Situations?

Text: 1 Samuel 30:1-8

Thursday, June 22, 2023

“When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.....The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.” Psalm 126:1, 3

David's problems began as soon as he was anointed king! The anointing, for David, was like a huge sign around his neck that invited trouble. 1 Samuel 30 records one of the severest tests in David's life. This terrible circumstance forced him into a 'do or die' situation. His response to this test would confirm his destiny as king or destroy him completely.

How do you respond to impossible situations? How do you react when everything you hold dear is taken from you? The first reaction is quite natural, quite human, and quite understandable – distress. Every one of us will, at time in our lives, come face-to-face with something similar to David's experience at Ziklag. It might seem like everything you have in this world is being taken away from you or burning down right before your eyes. When things like this 'come to pass' in your life, you have a choice. You can get bitter and defeated, or you can get better.

A lot of people are on the verge of giving up because of a terrible experience that has left them wounded, hurt, bitter, disillusioned, jaded, frustrated, and disappointed. Brothers and sisters, this can either be your graveyard or your greatest opportunity. The decision is yours. Encourage yourself in the Lord. Pursue, recover, and move forward like David did.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Job 19:25-26

Prayer: Father, help me through the changing scenes of life to never give up and always look up to You in the name of Jesus.



Thanking God For Everything

Text: Psalm 103:1-14

Friday, June 23, 2023

“And God [is] able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all [things], may abound to every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

In Psalm 103:3-5, at least five marvelous benefits of the Lord are mentioned. How wonderfully invigorating it is to the soul, to savour and meditate on these blessings. They are expressed with the following verbs: forgives, heals, redeems, crowns (with lovingkindness), and satisfies. So, then, God offers us forgiveness, healing, redemption, love and satisfaction in life, amongst countless other blessings!

As the psalm closes, it calls on all creation to join in the praise of the Lord and offer Him glory and adoration He deserves. Sincerely, we can only scratch the surface of His blessings, if we were to begin mentioning them. Think of your home, family, friends, church, health, material and financial blessings. Your blessings are enormous and uncountable! Your thanksgiving and praise ought to be exponentially proportionate to your blessings. Are they?

Go ahead today and thank our Heavenly Father with a grateful heart, praising Him with all your being, for every good and perfect gift You have received from Him. Recognise those good things, both large and small, with which He has blessed you. Also recognize your forgetfulness in giving Him thanks each and every day and ask Him to forgive you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: James 1:17, John 1:16

Prayer: Father, may I learn to thank You for the good; And may I trust the evil to be made good by You. For You alone are worthy of our praise and thanksgiving. Amen.



Spiritual Warfare 1

Text: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Romans 5:3-5

Saturday, June 24, 2023

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18

Many Christians are defeated in their Christian walk because they are not seriously engaged in the warfare to which we are called. J.C. Ryle wrote, *“The saddest symptom about many so-called Christians is the utter absence of anything like conflict and fight in their Christianity”*. He went on to say that they only go through the motions of attending religious services each week, *“But of the great spiritual warfare....its watching and struggling, its angels and anxieties, its battles and contest....of all these, they appear to know nothing at all”*.

Perhaps these people came to Christ under false sales pitches. They were told, “Jesus will solve all your problems. He will give you peace and joy. He will give you a happy family life. Come to Jesus and enjoy all these blessings and more. He promises you abundant life”. And so they signed up for what they thought would be a wonderful, trouble-free life of ease and happiness.

All those claims are true, but they're only half of the picture. Jesus promised to give us abundant life (John 10:10), but He also said that He was sending us out as sheep amid wolves (Matthew 10:16). Jesus promised peace, but in the same breath, He said that in this world, we would experience tribulations. He however encouraged us to be cheerful because He has already overcome the world (John 16:33). Embrace God's mighty strength in every way you feel weak and powerless.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 John 4:4

Prayer: O Lord my God, help me to stand firm and strong in every area of my life in Jesus name.



Spiritual Warfare 2

Text: Ephesians 6:11-18

Sunday, June 25, 2023

“Above all, taking the shield of Faith, where with ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” Ephesians 6:16

The scriptures, in various places, teach us about spiritual warfare. Apostle Paul specifically wrote about it in Ephesians 6. He compared the spiritual weapons God has given us to the equipment and fittings of a Roman soldier: a helmet to protect our head (mind), a breastplate to cover our chest (heart), shoes to stand firmly, the belt of God's truth to guide us, the mighty and powerful sword of the Spirit (the Word of God) and the protective shield of faith.

Our adversary, the devil, always sends fiery arrows in the form of temptations, doubts, and anxieties. Hoping to find a vulnerable spot, he keeps shooting silently and swiftly. When our shield of faith is in place, such attacks fail. However, when we lower our shield of faith, we run into trouble. The shield of faith is the word of God. We must immerse ourselves in God's word, read it and confess it always. Psalm 119: 105 says *"Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."*

If our shield of faith is always intact, none of Satan's fiery darts can get through to us, whether he sends them at night or in the day; and whether they come one at a time or in their dozens. Whenever temptations come, the shield of faith is powerful enough to deflect them.

The Word and Prayer

Word: James 1:3, Hebrews 11:6

Prayer: Father, bless and strengthen my faith as a soldier of Christ the name of Jesus.



The Word Of God Is New Everyday

Text: John 15: 1 -8

Monday, June 26, 2023

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” John 15: 7

The word of God is new everyday and as you imbibe His word each day, He opens a new vista to you each time.

Our reading tells us that Jesus Christ is the True vine; the branches are His disciples while the Gardner is God the Father. As a disciple and a branch, you should bear fruits. Our reading tells of two types of branches – one that bears fruits and one that does not. The branch that does not bear fruits is the one not connected to the Vine - Jesus Christ. You have no reason not to be well connected to Jesus. If you have severed your connection, reconnect now and make sure that you are well connected, and you will be much fruitful.

Note also that those branches that do not bear fruits are taken away and burnt. Even those that bear fruits are purged and pruned by the Gardner to be able to bear much more fruits. So, as you serve the Lord faithfully, remove such debris as lying, backbiting, fornication, hypocrisy, anger; as the Holy Spirit is bringing them to your notice, deal with them immediately. If you do not, the Gardner will do it forcefully, which will bring you pain.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 4:5

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What Has God Blessed You With

Text: Matthew 19:21-29

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

“And every one that hath forsaken houses or brethren, or sisters, or father or mother; or wife or children, or lands, for my names sake, shall receive an hundred fold, and shall inherit everlasting life” – Matthew 19:29

During His time here on earth, Jesus often surprised His disciples with His words. For instance, in our Bible text for today, they were amazed as well as disturbed that Jesus said, ***“It is easier for a camel to go through the eyes of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God”***. This saying troubled them such that they asked the Lord, *‘Who then can be saved?’* Jesus looked at them and said: ***“With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible”***.

Yet, even in those days, Jesus had some wealthy men and women who supported His ministry. Has God blessed you? There are various forms of blessings – financial, material, spiritual etc. The important thing to know is that whatever God has blessed you with can be useful in His vineyard, for the advancement of His kingdom. You might not have money, but you have other things. If you are intellectually rich, use it for kingdom work. Are you rich in business and marketing ideas, then use it for the spread of the Gospel. There is something God has specially blessed you with. Discover what God has blessed you with and use it for the benefit of His Kingdom. Always remember that it is a privilege and honour to use whatever God has endowed us with to propagate His kingdom.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Timothy 4:14-15

Prayer: Father, help me to return all you have given to You and I thank You for the gift of eternal life in the name of Jesus.



Serve Humbly And Cheerfully

Text: Psalm 124:1-8

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

“Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.” Psalm 124:8

Sometimes, as Christians doing the will of our Father, we might find ourselves bearing a burden, which we are not supposed to bear. Are you bearing some burden today because of someone else's bad decision? The Lord has provided for your comfort. If He has allowed it, it is for a purpose.

Remember Joshua and Caleb, two of the twelve leaders of Israel sent to spy the land of Canaan. Joshua and Caleb counseled the nation of Israel to believe God when the others were floundering (Numbers 14:1-4). Though they themselves were faithful, they had to wander in the wilderness for another 38 years along with everyone else. The righteous suffered with the disobedient. God's judgment is always right, just and faithful. God is not unrighteousness to forget your faithfulness, even though you might be facing some uncomfortable situations (Hebrews 6:10).

Joshua and Caleb accepted their plight and continued to apply themselves to the word of God, serving humbly and cheerfully. The men that brought up the evil report died by the plague (Numbers 14:37; Jude 5). However, God honoured Joshua and Caleb for their faithfulness though they had to share in the wilderness experience. Joshua became Moses' successor and a famous military commander, who not only entered the Promise Land along with Caleb, but also led the nation of Israel to multiple victories.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 119:75-76

Prayer: Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for Your faithfulness towards me. I will be cheerful in my challenges, knowing everything will turn out for my good in Jesus name.



Don't Default

Text: Deuteronomy 23:21-23

Thursday, June 29, 2023

“Offer unto God thanksgiving and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.” Psalm 50:14-15

What is a vow? What does it mean to make a vow to God? When you make a vow to God, you are saying that if God grants a certain request or desire, you will do so and so in return. Vows are powerful. When one makes a vow and fulfills it, God is challenged because He does not take vows lightly. If one makes a vow to the Lord and fails to pay it, such a person is attracting the anger of God (Ecclesiastics 5:4).

I encourage you to make vows to God particularly in hard to crack situations. When you do so, you strengthen the hand of the Lord in your life. It shows that you believe in the supremacy of the Almighty, who has the ultimate power to arrest and address any situation. Employ vows in overcoming areas of your needs but be careful when making such vows.

In Judges 11, Jephthah, a great warrior and judge over Israel made a vow to God when he desired victory in a very difficult situation. The Lord indeed gave Jephthah great victory at the battlefield. Though difficult, Jephthah had no choice but to fulfill his vow to God. Brethren, endeavour to keep your vows to the Lord. Do not default on paying your vow whenever your answer arrives. Be faithful to your word.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Job 22:27-28

Prayer: Every entrapment and power delaying my petition, be scattered in the name of Jesus. I receive grace to be faithful to my vow in Jesus name.



Thanks Be To God

Text: John 3:3-5

Friday June 30, 2023

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you, I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26

Everyone grew up in different family backgrounds. Some of us come from comfortable backgrounds while others are from blatantly harsh environments. Sometimes, generational issues from family and ancestral lineages come together to make life very difficult for some people. Most of us expect that as we try to make do with what we have, life will treat us fairly. We expect also that people will be fair in dealing with us. These are false assumptions we soon jettison as we discover that life is not always fair. Yet, thanks be to God who sees us through all these.

When you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, He gives you a new heart. In other words, your blood line changes. You are no longer subject to your earthly heritage; you become a part of His heavenly heritage. His spiritual blessings override any curse in your earthly family's lineage.

When you understand who you are and what God has already done, no matter what anyone does to you, or how lowly your upbringing was, you will not be bitter. You realize that nothing can stop you from fulfilling your God-given destiny. God chose you first, you did not choose Him. So, you are assured of your heavenly heritage of blessing and abundant life. Your redemption is permanent and total. Keep it so, don't go back.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Jeremiah 32:39

Prayer: Lord, today I surrender every area of my life to you. Have your way in my life in the name of Jesus.



Persecution

Text: Genesis 37: 19-28

Saturday, July 1, 2023.

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:10 (KJV)

Our text today was about the persecutions that Joseph suffered at the hands of his brothers. They hated him because of the special love that God had for him, which was demonstrated by Jacob sewing coats of many colours for him. They plotted his death to destroy his colourful destiny, threw him into a pit, stripped him of his coat of many colours, and finally sold him off. In Egypt, he was falsely accused of rape and jailed.

Brethren, we must understand that persecution is not a punishment but part of the price that we must pay for accepting righteousness against sin and wickedness. In all of Joseph's travails, he did not sin against God, and God took him to the topmost position in the then-government of the world.

Now, if you are persecuted, how will you react to it? This is why you, as a Christian, must get yourself ready for any persecution that may come your way. Don't ever think you will escape it because Jesus, our Redeemer and Saviour, went through that road, and He also assured us that we will go through it for our trust in Him to be authenticated. ***"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you."*** 1 Peter 4:12.

Are you planning to give up now, or do you want to suffer for Christ and gain heaven at last? The ball is in your court.

The Word and Prayer:

Word: Hebrews 12: 2

Prayer: Father, give me the grace to endure persecution in Jesus' name. Amen.



Instruct Your Faith

Text: Hebrews 11:30-31

Sunday, July 2, 2023.

**“Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.”
Psalms 37:5**

In Luke 8:22-25 Jesus spoke to the storm and said “peace, be still”. And because of Him and His confidence, even the winds and the storm obeyed Him. And His disciples said, what manner of man is this, that even the winds and the storms obey Him.

We know that we have Jesus in the boat with us so there is no fear. All power in heaven and earth is under His control. Be reminded that the elements all have life and they can hear and obey, so you can speak to that 'thing' or that situation with faith and give it an instruction and it will hear you. The ravens hear, had they not heard God they would not have brought meat and bread to Elijah for many months. The earth hears too or it would not have swallowed the rebels that were scorning at Moses. The winds and the storms hear, otherwise, they would not have heeded Jesus' commandments.

Have faith in God without doubting and when you speak or command your situations; believe that it shall be unto you according to your Faith. Jesus said that; if you have faith without doubting, you will say to this mountain “be thou moved and the mountain will be removed”. Instruct your faith to action and a great start. With Him, things will begin to happen rapidly, and you will have peace all around you.

The Word and Prayer

Prayer: Father Lord, help me to stand each day with You, order my steps and make me fruitful for your kingdom in Jesus name.



Your Stewardship

Text: 1 Timothy 6:18 – 20

Monday, July 3, 2023

“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” - Romans 14: 12

Stewardship is concerned with an individual or manager acting on behalf of the owner of a particular resource or property for which that person will be accountable. The concept of stewardship dates back to the beginning of time when God entrusted the earth to Adam and Eve and their offspring - Genesis 1:26 – 28. In a new way, all Christians are stewards of the earth in accordance to spiritual grace given through Christ's crucifixion and resurrection – Luke 19:11 – 27. Our Lord expects that we use all He has given us, for His glory and salvation of souls.

It will be required of all human beings, believers and unbelievers to give an account of his or her stewardship, in the various capacities God has provided for us to occupy till He comes. Luke 11 reminds us of the extravagant and wasteful steward whom the master called to give account of his stewardship - Luke 16:2. This steward was relieved of his duty because of his wastefulness and inability to manage the resources in his charge. God requires us to use the resources He has put in our care prudently and judiciously for ourselves and multiply such to generate surplus for the spread of the Gospel and to meet the needs of the church, the brethren, the poor and needy.

All of us will give account of our stewardship both here on earth and in the world to come. Let faithfulness and accountability be your daily companions. God will surprise you with His bountifulness this second half of the year in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 25:21. Luke 16:11-12.

Prayer: Father Lord, empower me to plant an uncommon seed that will create an uncommon harvest to the glory of your name in Jesus name.



The Enemy In The House

Text: Genesis 37

Tuesday, July 4, 2023.

“For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.” Micah 7:6 (KJV)

The story in our text today is a tale of the activity of a household enemy. The prophet Micah said that a man's enemies are men of his own house (Micah 7:6). How else can you describe the plot against Joseph by his brothers? They stripped him of his special coat of many colours, cast him into a dry pit, and had the temerity of selling him off to the Ishmaelites for 20 shekels of silver, who exported him to Egypt. They smeared his coat of many colours with the blood of an animal, took it home to their father (Jacob), and lied that a wild beast had devoured his son.

It is possible that what you are passing through is a result of the activities of your household enemy, maybe you made a mistake like Joseph, who threw himself so open to his enemies (his brothers). What is important is that you should be on the side of Jesus. If you are on the side of Jesus, living holy and pleasing God in every chapter of your life, it is just a matter of time before the Lord will step in and disgrace your enemies, put them to irrecoverable shame, and promote you outstandingly, as He did for Joseph.

But never take household enemies for granted. Be prayerful, guard your plans jealously or keep them close to your chest, and share your testimony after God has granted your desire. Those enemies will be shocked and disappointed, because their evil machinations have been countered by the God whom you serve with all your heart.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 10: 36

Prayer: O Lord, please expose and disgrace every household enemy that has conspired against me in Jesus' name. Amen.



Waiting Patiently On God

Text: Psalms 40:1-17

Wednesday, July 5, 2023.

***“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”
Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)***

In our text today, the psalmist said: ***“I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.”***

Psalms 40:1-3. Friends, it is a great thing to wait for God. Never try to outrun God because you will surely crash. Never attempt to outsmart God with your own plans because you will not proceed for long before you hit the rock. Those who refused to follow the timetable of God in waiting have always ended up disastrously; don't join them on that journey of no return. However, those who waited for God had extraordinary testimonies to share.

There are mouth-watering blessings for those who will wait for God, as we can see in both our text and our memory verses. For instance, the psalmist waited for God, and his prayer was answered. God brought him out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay. He set his feet on a rock, established his path, and put a new song in his mouth. If you wait for God, He will renew your strength; you will run and not be tired, and you will walk and not faint. You will mount up with wings like the eagles. Folks, what else can anyone ask for?

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 37: 7, 37: 34.

Prayer: Oh! Lord, my Father, give me the grace to wait for you in Jesus' name. Amen.



O Lord, Satisfy Me Early

Text: Psalms 90:14-17

Thursday, July 6, 2023.

"God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early." Psalms 46:5 (KJV)

The psalmist in our text stressed: ***"O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."*** Psalms 90:14-17.

Folks, it is a thing of great joy when God satisfies us early with all-around blessings according to 3 John verse 2: ***"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."*** When we are satisfied early with God's blessings, of course, it will snowball our joy and make us achieve a lot for God and ourselves.

When we are faced with delays, spiritual stagnation, mental imbalance, body breakdown, poverty, and relational barrenness, we definitely will not be able to achieve much in life for God and ourselves or others. No wonder the scripture says: ***"Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life."*** Proverbs 13:12. May the Lord satisfy us all early in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 119: 148, Proverbs 31: 15.

Prayer: Oh Lord, please satisfy me early with all-around blessings in Jesus' name. Amen.



He Gives Peace

Text: Leviticus 26:6, Ezekiel 37:26

Friday, July 7, 2023.

“For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees.”- Isaiah 66:12.

Shalom is the Hebrew word for peace and its primary meaning in Hebrew is the positive presence of harmony, wholeness, soundness, well-being, and success in all areas of life. This denotes more than the absence of friction, conflict, or stress. This total well-being described conclusively, the original created world that existed in perfect harmony and wholeness. *“And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good”* - Genesis 1:31a. When Adam and Eve listened to the serpent and ate the forbidden fruit - Genesis 3: 1-7, their disobedience brought sin and disrupted the original harmony instituted by God. Adam and Eve experienced guilt and shame for the first time, and a loss of peace which led to other far reaching negative consequences. One of the things that can make you lose the peace that God has given you is sin.

God has made provision for our peace through His Son, Jesus Christ. In John 14:27, Jesus declared that He lives peace with us, peace He gives us and He did not give to us as the world gives. However, according to God's plan and purpose, He may decide not to deliver from the storm but takes you through the storm (Isaiah 43:2). Take the children of Israel under bondage in Egypt - Exodus 1:8-14, they were in the terrible storm of life and God allowed it. He used their persecution to separate them from the idol worshiping Egyptians and to prepare them for the covenant relationship with Him. Hear the word of the Lord: God says He will prepare a table (blessing, fruitfulness, and breakthrough) for you in the presences of your enemies, please remain at rest and peace; He will give you what you require. God saw the burden and groaning of the Israelites and made sure they did not leave Egypt empty handed. He will do the same for you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength - Isaiah 30:15.

Prayer: Every wicked grip upon my life, family and ministry is broken in the name of Jesus. Every spirit of wickedness assigned against my life, family and ministry is destroyed in the name of Jesus.



Don't Be Like The Rich Fool

Text: Luke 12:20

Saturday, July 8, 2023.

“For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.” Proverbs 1:32 (KJV)

The story in our text, Luke 12:20, is a wake-up call to everyone, both believers and unbelievers alike, that we should never allow our prosperity to turn us into fools. The rich man had all that the world could offer for comfort, but unfortunately, he did not have the owner of life. It's like living in a world without air. Can there be survival for such a fellow? It is not possible.

That is the danger of having all the money in the world but not having Jesus. How will you survive eternity? That was why the owner of life now told the wealthy man, *“You are a fool for not knowing me; you are a fool for rejecting me. How did you think you could survive without me? Now, all that you think you have acquired in this life belongs to me, and your time in this world is over; you are dying tonight.”*

And the man died, a fool, leaving for others all that he had acquired, all that made him boastful, all that gave him confidence and security, and went to hell because he was empty of Christ. Are you behaving in this world like the rich fool? Are you trusting in your riches? Are you living as if there is no God? Are you acting as if this world belongs to you? Take heed because judgement is coming. Like the rich fool, you will not escape.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 14: 1

Prayer: Oh Lord, help me to turn from foolishness to wisdom today in Jesus' name. Amen.



Encourage Yourself In The Lord

Text: 1 Samuel 30:6-19

Sunday, July 9, 2023.

“And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, “Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.” 1 Samuel 30:8 (KJV)

There are times when it appears the whole world has crumbled on you, and you are confused, not knowing what to do. Such happened to King David in our text today, whereby at the heart of victory, calamity struck. Before he settled down to celebrate his just-won victory, the enemy visited and carried away his wives and property, as well as that of others.

David was immobilised by shock, but the Bible says he encouraged himself in the Lord. Brothers and sisters, when nobody is there to encourage you, brace up and encourage yourself in the Lord. When it appears everybody has deserted you, encourage yourself in the Lord.

Do you know why you must encourage yourself in the Lord? It is written: ***“If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.”*** Proverbs 24:10. Brethren if you fail or faint during this season of dryness, then satan wins, but if you brace up and encourage yourself like David, you will go forth and pray, and God will show up for you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 8: 37-39

Prayer: Father, please give me the grace to encourage myself in you in times of distress, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Are You A Watchman Or A Sleeper?

Text: Matthew 26:36-43

Monday, July 10, 2023.

“And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?” Matthew 26:40 (KJV)

Brothers and sisters, are you sleeping when you are supposed to be spiritually awake? A lot of Christians have lost their bearings in spiritual slumber. That is why many have become victims and not victors. They have suddenly become easy prey for satan.

When we are supposed to be active, watching, unfortunately, we are sleeping, thereby opening the gate of our lives to the devil. Our text is a good example of sleeping Christians. The disciples were supposed to be encouragers for Jesus Christ at a very challenging time in His life, but they were sleeping. They were in the center of danger, but they were sleeping. Jesus even implored them: *"Can you not even watch with me for just one hour?"* But lo and behold, they were sleeping. They indirectly told Jesus, *"Master, you are on your own; let everybody carry his own cross"*

Folks, are you a watchman or a sleeper? Sleeping when you are supposed to be watching is like choosing to die when you have every opportunity to live. Many destinies have been lost to spiritual slumber because the sleepers refused to watch, and the enemy sneaked in at their unguarded hour and sowed tares, and went away unnoticed. The Lord is saying to you; wake up and be the watchman you are meant to be.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Luke 22: 45-46

Prayer: Lord, please help me to wake up from my long sleep and be the watchman that I am meant to be, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Spiritual Prosperity

Text: 3 John 2

Tuesday, July 11, 2023.

“And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.” Genesis 24:1 (KJV)

For years, many of us have lived with this very wrong and erroneous mindset that prosperity is judged or valued by someone's bank account. While it is very true that your bank account is a measure of your prosperity, it will amaze you to note that that is just one aspect of prosperity.

The highest form of prosperity is your spiritual prosperity; that is why the Bible says, ***“For what is a man advantaged, if he gains the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?”*** Luke 9:25. A man's salvation is more valuable to our God than all the wealth the world can offer him. How much value do you attach to your salvation? A lot of people toy with their salvation because they don't know its value.

Jesus paid for your salvation with His precious blood. Jesus went through pain and agonies, and finally, He was nailed to the cross just for mankind to have eternal salvation. That is why spiritual prosperity is the highest form of prosperity because it has to do with eternity. Have you been joking with your spiritual life? It is time to get serious with your spiritual life. Be spiritual today and secure your eternity with Christ.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 8: 14

Prayer: Lord, help me to cherish and guard my spiritual prosperity in Jesus' name. Amen.



Financial Prosperity

Text: 3 John 2

Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

“But money answereth all things.” Ecclesiastes 10:19b

Our memory verse establishes the fact that money is inevitable in the affairs of man. It is impossible to exist without money. It is money that fuels man's economic activities. So, you cannot fulfill your purpose without money. That is why the scripture says that money answers everything, money is a defence.

We need money to power evangelistic activities, send people on missionary assignments, have welfare programs, and organise church projects and such. Nations need a lot of money to fuel their yearly budgets, the same is true for states and other government institutions. Individuals, families, and every aspect of human life needs money to survive. That is why people engage in economic activities to make money.

We must therefore actively engage ourselves in one economic activity or another so that God can empower us financially and we can make money to take care of our financial needs and use our money to help those who are in need and do the work of the kingdom. May God enrich us with financial blessings in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Thessalonians 3: 10

Prayer: Oh! Lord, please break the yoke of financial barrenness and poverty in my life and give me financial prosperity in Jesus's name. Amen.



Mental Prosperity

Text: 3 John 2

Thursday, July 13, 2023.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)

Our memory verse says that God has given us a sound mind. It is only a fellow with a sound mind who can think reasonably, act reasonably, and behave responsibly. Folks, if you give a billion naira to a man who is insane, don't be surprised that he will set the entire money ablaze because he is not in his right mind.

Brethren, it is very vital that we be of sound mind, and it is my prayer that God will continue to keep us in sound mind in Jesus' name. It is only when you are in a sound mind that you will be able to fulfill your purpose; otherwise, it will become a mirage. A lot of people are in psychiatric hospitals because they are mentally challenged.

Such people have forgotten about their purpose in life, except God intervenes in their cases and heals them. Never engage in things that will destroy your mental ability. God says, *“I have given you a sound mind.”* Don't ever try to change the narrative, because that will amount to sin. Pray for those that may be having challenges with their minds or are mentally unstable and ask God to continue to keep you in sound mind.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 2: 5

Prayer: Lord, don't let me ever engage in anything that will maim my mental status, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Bodily Prosperity

Text: 3 John: 2

Friday, July 14, 2023.

“A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease.” Ecclesiastes 6:2 (KJV)

What is bodily prosperity? This has to do with your health. For you to achieve anything in life, good health is paramount. If you don't take good care of your health, medical challenges may come. How much do you value your health? How often do you go for medical checkups?

Thank God that it is His utmost desire to give us good health, according to our text in 3 John 2, but it is also within your sphere to make that happen. What kind of water do you drink? Do you eat healthy foods? Do you exercise regularly? God wants us to live long, but you must also do your part in achieving that. Moderation is crucial to achieving a healthy lifestyle, especially in the area of the things that we consume.

Discipline is important in achieving a healthy life. Observe moderation. Work on your habits. That way, you will live long and healthy and achieve more for God, yourself, and your generation.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Deuteronomy 34: 7-8

Prayer: Lord, please help me to live a healthy lifestyle in Jesus' name. Amen.



Relational Prosperity

Text: 3 John: 2

Saturday, July 15, 2023.

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, love one another." John 13:34 (KJV)

In our memory verse of today, Jesus Christ said He has given us a new commandment that we should love one another just as He has always loved us; that's relational prosperity. No one has ever succeeded alone in life. Think about how the world will look like if you are the only one existing in it.

God, our Creator said it is not good for man to be alone. In Genesis 1:28, He said: ***"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."*** Relational prosperity is very key to existence, no matter your status in life. We need relational prosperity to be complete; otherwise, you are on your own, and anybody who is on his own can never go far in life.

Remember that even at death, you still need relational prosperity because the dead cannot bury themselves. There is a saying that he who has people has everything; if you accept that logical saying, then do as the word of God has commanded. ***"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."*** Hebrews 12:14.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Ecclesiastes 4: 9

Prayer: Oh! Lord, help me to maintain relational prosperity; help me not to walk alone like a lone ranger in life, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Training Up Your Child

Text: Proverbs 22:6

Sunday, July 16, 2023.

***“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”
Proverbs 13:24 (KJV)***

In life, moderation is so crucial for life to have an essence. Discipline goes along with moderation. A family that cultivates a culture of moderation and discipline is often respected and celebrated. Parents who instill this culture in their children are most likely going to have a great, peaceful family that everybody will envy. Our Bible text for today's devotional says, *“Train up a child in the way they should go, and when they grow up, they will not depart from it.”*

Dear parents, God has given you a very sensitive responsibility, which you must not fail in. How much discipline do you inculcate in your children? A lot of parents have unfortunately let loose their children, and because of excessive liberty, it is now the children that control their parents, they dictate what they want, and these parents sheepishly dance to the tunes of their spoilt children.

Where is the place of God's instruction about your children in your home? Remember that surely you will be accountable to God for what you have done with your children and the opportunity given to you to train them in the way of the Lord. Parents, it pays to instill godly virtues in our children so that, in the long run, they will give us peace and we would have fulfilled the will of God in their lives.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Luke 15: 11-32

Prayer: Lord, please help me to play my part in the lives of my children, in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Sorrows Of Backsliding

Text: Proverbs 14:14

Monday, July 17, 2023.

***"Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee."
Jeremiah 2:19a (KJV)***

Brothers and sisters, the greatest disaster that can happen to any believer is backsliding. Do you know what it means for a believer to backslide? What that means is that that believer has not just stabbed Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the back; he or she has nailed Him back on the cross. He just told Him that His death on the cross was absurd nonsense, a waste of time, and of no value.

Our Bible text says about the backslider: ***"The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways."*** Proverbs 14:14a. What a calamity for a supposed believer to be filled with his own ways. What that means is that God is no longer in charge of that life. The person is now in control of himself; he or she can now do what they like; they become incorrigible, and when this happens, the fellow is already in the domain of satan.

Are you already backsliding? Are you already heading in that direction? Remember the consequences of backsliding, but also remember that when backsliding turns you into a sinner, your chances of coming back might be difficult. If you are already in a backslidden state, you have a glorious opportunity today as long as you are alive to tap into God's abundant mercy for a comeback.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Peter 2:20

Prayer: Lord, please help me not to backslide and lose my precious salvation in Jesus' name. Amen.



Forever Thanking Our Great God

Text: Psalm 107

Tuesday, July 18, 2023.

“Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifice of thanksgiving and declare His works with rejoicing” – Psalm 107: 21-22

The Psalmist wrote “Oh that men would give thanks to the Lord, for His goodness.” Trinity House has only been able to come so far through the grace, mercy and goodness shown us by Jehovah and we must constantly remind ourselves that in all things we must give thanks – that is the only choice we have. Yes, it could be better but yet it could have been worse; so today as we celebrate our church's 13th anniversary, let's count our blessings, name them one by one and you will see what the Lord has done for you and His church.

We thank the Lord for progress in our lives, our families, and the wondrous things He has done in His church. *“All nations whom thou has made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art God alone”* (Psalm 86: 9-10). *“For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory: No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly”* – (Psalm 84:11).

In appreciation of God's goodness to us, let us continuously celebrate our great God so that His promises will continually be fulfilled in us. I also pray for you that you will be well rooted and grounded in the love of Christ as we continue to express God's love, kindness, goodness, and mercy, which is everlasting.” So today be very thankful to God; concerning you and me, and the church of God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Corinthians 2: 9

Prayer: Father Lord in Heaven, we thank you for your perfect gift and preparation for us in Jesus name.



The Reward For Commitment

Text: Daniel 6: 1-22

Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

“My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also, before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.” Daniel 6:22 (KJV)

Commitment to God's service and the things of God comes with limitless rewards attached to it. A lot of us don't have a deep understanding of what it means to be committed to God. That is why many of us are not serious about God's business. Many of us value our secular jobs and businesses more than the value and attention we pay to God's business.

Our text today directed us to a stellar example of what it means to be committed to God from the life of Daniel. A decree was issued to derail him because the enemy knew that Daniel was dedicated to the things of God. Daniel refused to comply with the decree because he understood that it was better to obey God than listen to the voice of men. He went ahead with his daily prayers to God. He was arrested and thrown into the lions' den but God who disappoints the devices of the crafty, disappointed them and brought Daniel out of the lions' den unharmed.

Be ready to commit yourself more to God this year in all areas where you can serve the Lord, and like Daniel, He will deliver you and your household from every snare of the wicked and bless you immeasurably in Jesus' name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Kings 8: 61

Prayer: Lord, please help me to show zealous commitment to your business this year, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Not A Hoof Should Be Left

Text: Exodus 10: 24–26

Thursday, July 20, 2023

“Our cattle also shall go with us; there shall not an hoof be left behind for thereof must we take to serve the Lord our God.” - Exodus 10:26

When the time came for the emancipation of the children of Israel from their bondage in Egypt, the Lord heard the groaning of His people and sent Moses and Aaron to deliver them from the hand of Pharaoh. Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused but God wrought great and mighty miracle signs and wonders. Pharaoh then gave them many options. Firstly, he wanted them not to go far from Egypt. Furthermore, he suggested and demanded that the men be set free while the women and children will be held back in bondage. Then he allowed the wives and children to go with them but that they should leave their flocks and herbs behind.

Beloved of the Lord, God desires to give you total deliverance. Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ declared on the cross that “it is finished”. He settled everything and paid the total debt and gave us full and total freedom. You are not supposed to be under any form of captivity. Are you being disturbed by the activities of the evil one? Are some of his works manifesting in your life? Be it anger, malice, barrenness, or disappointment? Have you lost loved ones? Is there no peace in your home? These are all works of the devil? Refuse them as Moses and Aaron did. Today, declare that you will have total deliverance and all round blessings in Jesus name. You will possess all your blessing and possessions in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Timothy 4:18

Prayer: Father Lord, thank you for the finished work of Christ that gives me total deliverance, freedom and salvation in Jesus name.



Go Forward

Text: Philippians 3: 12-14

Friday, July 21, 2023.

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward." Exodus 14:15 (KJV)

God is concerned about your challenges. God has a vision for you, which, if you know it, you will only be praising God on a daily basis instead of murmuring and complaining like the doubting Israelites. In our text of today, apostle Paul realised this secret and he told himself, *"I leave behind me all the former successes I had achieved; I leave behind me all the challenges ahead of me, and I focus on the greater glory ahead of me."*

Refuse to focus on the giants that stopped you in the past; reject the wall of Jericho that wants to impose itself on you and focus on the God that told the children of Israel to go forward despite the obstacles in front and behind them.

Make sure your fears, your doubts, and your unbelief don't stop that great vision that God has shown you. Make sure sin doesn't stop you, and make sure you don't stop yourself. Like Paul, tell yourself: ***"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*** Philippians 3:14.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrews 12: 2

Prayer: I command the red sea and the Egyptians on my way in this year 2022 to melt by the Holy Ghost's fire in Jesus' name. Amen.



Your Dry Bones Shall Live Again

Text: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Saturday, July 22, 2023.

“And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.” Mark 5:41 (KJV)

In life there are moments when it appears everything about your life is dead. There are times when everything about you appears bleak. There are even times when it appears there is no way forward. Is that the situation you are in right now? In our text today, Israel, the very people of God, found themselves in such a situation.

In that same hopeless situation, God asked His prophet to prophesy to the dry bones of Israel, which he did. Those same dry bones became a mighty army. Life entered the dry bones; today, life will enter into your dry bones in Jesus name. Jesus spoke the word to a dead child, "Talitha cumi!", which means, being interpreted, "Girl, I tell you, get up!" and death heard the word of life and vanished from the dead child, and she bounced back to life.

Whatever is dead in your life is bouncing back to life in Jesus' name. But take note, brethren: life without Jesus is no life; give your life to Jesus today.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Genesis 2: 7

Prayer: I command every dry bone in my life to hear the Word of God and receive life in Jesus' name. Amen.



Who Do You Believe?

Text: Numbers 13:31-33

Sunday, July 23, 2023.

“And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.” Numbers 13:30 (KJV)

A lot of believers are good at magnifying their problems rather than having faith in the Almighty God, who is greater than our challenges. It is unfortunate that many of us have come to accept that our problems are bigger than our God or that God doesn't have the capacity to solve our problems, and so we resort to other alternatives.

Our text today opened our eyes to the great unbelief demonstrated by 10 of the 12 spies sent out by Moses to go and spy on the land of Canaan that God had already given to them by prophecy. They returned with negativity, fear, and discouragement, which negatively affected the psyche and mentality of the rest of the people. They believed in the capacity of the giants they saw in the land and undermined the God of Israel, who took them across the mighty Red Sea and delivered them from the Egyptians.

What kind of news and information are you peddling around? Tell your giant today that greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Hand over every giant preventing you from moving forward to God Almighty who is greater than the greatest.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 John 4: 4

Prayer: Father, by your power, crush every giant on my way to progress in Jesus' name.
Amen.



Keep The Fire Aglow

Text: Luke 10:38-42

Monday, July 24, 2023.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33 (KJV)

Lukewarmness has become the order of the day in Christianity today. People find it difficult to pray, and many don't read their Bibles anymore. They prefer to engross themselves in their phones rather than read or listen to the word of God, even in church. No wonder our churches are cold; the fire of His word is missing; the fire of the Holy Ghost is nonexistent, and so we allow the devil to have a field day.

Our text today explains Martha chasing the shadow of much food rather than listening to the word of life, and Jesus was quick to correct her that her sister, whom she was reporting, had chosen the best part, which was the word of God. Jesus said in our memory verse, *“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and other things will follow,” but what are we doing today?*

We have cleverly reversed the command, chasing the shadow of material possessions first instead of the substance, which is the Kingdom of God. Brethren, in which camp are you today, the camp of the shadow or the camp of the substance? Do the needful before it is too late.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 119: 11

Prayer: Oh Lord, please help me to return to the substance of your word and the kingdom instead of chasing the shadow, in Jesus' name. Amen.



When The Trumpet Shall Sound, Where Will You Be?

Text: 1st Thessalonians 4: 16-18

Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

“And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Matthew 24:31 (KJV)

Has it ever occurred to you that someday the trumpet will sound announcing the return of our Lord and Saviour? Have you ever asked yourself the state of your preparedness should it happen now? Did you know that it could happen all of a sudden? Is readiness for the imminent sound of the trumpet part of your daily routine? Do you really believe that the trumpet will sound and the dead in Christ will rise first and those Christians who are still alive will suddenly transform into a heavenly body to meet Jesus in the air?

Our text confirms the infallibility of this glorious event. Friends, just like it happened in the days of Noah when God asked him to prepare an Ark, due to the coming destruction of the world and people joked about it and continued living their lives ending in the destruction of many, and the sudden destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah also; are you watching and waiting unprepared?

It is time to wake up from spiritual slumber, time to get ready, time to be on your marks, and time to get set because the trumpet can sound anytime and only those ready will make it.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Revelation 22: 12

Prayer: Oh Lord, help me to hear the sound of the trumpet in true readiness, in Jesus' name. Amen.



How's Your Relationship With God?

Text: 1 Corinthians 6:14-18

Wednesday, July 26, 2023.

" Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart." Psalm 15:1-2 NIV

Have you noticed that there is always a difference in how we handle matters that concern a family member versus when they concern someone we don't have any relationship with? It is the same in the realm of the spirit. So let us ask ourselves, "How is my relationship with God?" "How close am I to God? Am I truly His family member? "

Abraham was God's friend; Jesus is God's begotten son; all true believers are God's adopted children. God is our father, and fellow believers are our beloved brothers and sisters. We belong to God's family. However, as members of God's family, how close are we? How can you get closer to God and other believers? Psalm 15:1-5 tells us the conditions for getting closer to God.

We must despise sin and speak the truth from the heart; we must love our Christian brothers and sisters; we must constantly draw others to God; we must seek to draw those who sin to repentance. Lastly, we must pay our vows and keep our promises. May God grant us the grace to do these things.

The Word and Prayer

Word: John 15: 4 & 7

Prayer: My Father, thank you for the priceless privilege of making me your child. Please give me the grace to love you more dearly in Jesus' name. Amen.



Walking With God

Texts: Genesis 5:24, Micah 6:8

Thursday, July 27, 2023.

"Ye shall walk in all the ways that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess." Deuteronomy 5:33 (KJV)

Walking with God is a delight to our Almighty God. When someone determines to sell his or her life out to God, it's such a glorious investment, and it does not have just earthly rewards but also eternal rewards. That was why our Lord Jesus was posed with such a question, *"Behold, we have forsaken all and followed thee; what shall we have, therefore?"*

Look at Jesus' response to Peter - ***"And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."*** Matthew 19:27 & 29.

Our text says that Enoch walked with God, and he was enraptured into heaven by God. Enoch did not experience a natural death. Micah admonishes that we should walk humbly with our God. To walk with God, humility, sanctification and holiness are required, and total submission to the will of God is non-negotiable. We all must live a worthy Christian life today with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Amos 3: 3

Prayer: Oh Lord, my God, please give me the grace to walk with you in Jesus' name. Amen.



Be Wise As Serpent And Harmless As Dove

Text: Matthew 10:16

Friday, July 28, 2023

"But wisdom is profitable to direct." Ecclesiastes 10:10b (KJV)

Jesus said in our text today, *"Be wise as a serpent, but harmless as a dove."* Wisdom in this context means that as a child of God, you will be faced with situations of resentments and conflicts but be careful not to pick offence, be careful not to be vengeful, and be ready to swallow your pride and let humility dictate your conduct. You must allow the love of Christ to champion your response in hostile situations. You must allow the fruits of the Spirit to manifest in your conduct at all times and in all situations.

Being gentle as a dove means that you must exercise self-control at all times. Jesus' patience was tested many times but what did he do? Sometimes, He walked away and sometimes, He responded with wisdom such that His enemies were unable to gain an advantage.

Grant Osborne said, ***"Wisdom does not equal dishonesty, and innocence does not equal gullibility."*** To have good success as a Christian, be ready to arm yourself with this divine counsel: ***"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."*** Proverbs 4:7.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 2: 6

Prayer: Lord, please give me wisdom and understanding to deal with the enemies of the gospel that may come my way, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Don't Misuse That Opportunity

Text: Galatians 6:10

Saturday, July 29, 2023.

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time." Colossians 4:5 (KJV)

God gives us several opportunities to make right what we have done wrong. The Bible says: **"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent."** Acts 17:30. That's an opportunity for every sinner who has gone astray to return to God and this opportunity will constantly be available until Jesus Christ returns, so it is not a one-off sort of opportunity.

Our God promised to restore everything that we may have lost (Joel 2:25). This is another opportunity, and it is also not a one-off opportunity but remains consistent until Jesus' advent. As God, by His eternal mercy, unfolds or gives us opportunities, we must be extremely careful not to truncate or abuse them.

Remember that opportunities came to Paul just as they're coming to you now, and he grabbed them and became one of the greatest apostles. Several opportunities came his way to heal and deliver, to contend for the faith, and he didn't truncate any; rather, he exploited all of them to the glory of God and to the benefit of people.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 25: 18

Prayer: Father, the powers that have vowed to truncate my divine opportunities be consumed by fire in Jesus' name. Amen.



Let Your Light Shine 1

Text: Matthew 5:15-16

Sunday, July 30, 2023

“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.” Ephesians 5:8 (KJV)

Do you remember how you were once wallowing in sin before grace found you and transformed you into a child of light? Are you still in the light you encountered at salvation? Our text is very explicit about the function of light. You cannot hide the light. The light must shine wherever you choose to keep it. Our text went further to say, ***“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*** Matthew 5:16.

Your light must shine in the exhibition of character and virtue. How do people rate you in and outside your environment as a Christian? Do others have good testimonies about your lifestyle and that you have won them to Christ, or are you the type that people are already saying that if this is what Christianity can offer, then it's not worth becoming one?

God has positioned you as light in the darkness of this world. Is your light shining? Are you expressing yourself as a worthy ambassador of Jesus Christ at your location? Let your light shine in secret and in the open.

The Word and Prayer

Word: John 8: 12

Prayer: Lord, please cause my light to shine so that the world will see your good work in me and give you glory in Jesus' name. Amen.



Let Your Light Shine 2

Text: Matthew 5:15-16

Monday, July 31, 2023.

“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.” John 1:4 (KJV)

Child of God, is your light shining? How many people has your light positively impacted? How many people have you led to Christ through your actions? How many people have testified within your community that indeed your light is shining as a Christian and everybody is talking about your good works?

Joseph was a shining light to his generation because he had the opportunity to sin against God and avoid imprisonment, but he refused. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego chose to die in the fire rather than bow to the idol of King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel and his three friends rejected King Nebuchadnezzar's special meals and chose to eat just vegetables; in ten days, they appeared far better nourished than those on the king's special meal.

How have you shone as lights to positively affect your generation? When was the last time you changed someone's life through your good works? Will you be that beacon of light that changes your world. Remember that you cannot shine without Jesus, the Light of the world.

The Word and Prayer

Word: John 1: 4-5

Prayer: Lord, please make me a beacon of light to my world in Jesus' name. Amen.



Do Not Be Deceived 1

Text: John 4:1-11

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

"Let him not deceive himself by trusting what is worthless, for he will get nothing in return." Job 15:31 (NIV)

Deception is something we must constantly guard against. The devil is always seeking to deceive people by challenging the word of God in their lives. He is either saying that God's word is not true, that it will not come to pass, or that it doesn't apply to us. Many people are being deceived today as to where they can find fulfillment in life.

He sought to deceive Jesus, too. Jesus came to redeem this world back to God. Satan, knowing this, took Jesus to the mountaintop and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said, ***"All these things I will give you if you will only bow down and worship me."***

What Satan was saying to Jesus was this: **"I know you came to get the world back for God. And I know that the price for such redemption is the Cross. But you don't have to go through the horrors of the Cross; you don't need to waste your time to receive fulfillment. If you do it my way, you can have immediate fulfillment without the Cross. Why not try my way?"**

Jesus saw right through the devil's deception. May you also not fall for Satan's deceptions and manipulations in Jesus' name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 4: 10

Prayer: Lord, my time is in your hands; deliver me from all the deceivers around me, and my destiny is fortified against the deceptive power of the destiny destroyer in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Do Not Be Deceived 2

Text: Matthew 16:24-28

Wednesday, August 2, 2023.

"Let not him that is deceived trust in vanity: for vanity shall be his recompence." Job 15:31 (KJV)

Yesterday, we noted how our Lord was not ignorant of the devil's craftiness and, thus, won the victory over him. By looking at how Jesus did this and applying the same principles in our lives, the same victory can be ours. We must always remember that the tactics of Satan are still the same. He is still going about telling people that the Cross of Jesus is unnecessary and that they need not take up their Cross as they follow Jesus. But always remember that Jesus said, *"If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me."* (Matthew 16:24).

Satan says, oh no, that is not necessary, but Jesus said, ***"For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?"*** (Matthew 16:25-26 RSV)

Satan says you can have immediate fulfillment, joy, and happiness. It's right here don't take the path of the Cross; don't go through self-denial. **Enjoy life!** But these are lies. The devil causes people to trust in vanities, which results in emptiness.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 57: 1

Prayer: Father, thank you for waking me up to the deception of the devil and for delivering me from emptiness in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Dependence On God 1

Text: Matthew 6:25-34

Thursday, August 3, 2023.

“Humble yourself therefore under the Mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” - 1 Peter 5:6

Now God has done it! You have an armload of God's blessings, marched into new territory and found yourself in overwhelming circumstances. God has moved in such a way that the opportunities you prayed for and received now seem to you to require a person with much more ability than you will ever have. When believers find themselves in this kind of quandary, they often become afraid.

Such feelings of inadequacy you are experiencing is called dependency. It means you are walking with the Lord Jesus. If it is otherwise, it means you are on your own, leaning on your understanding and strength. It means you have backed away from truly living by faith in the Lord Jesus. It means you are not following the Apostle Paul's maxim that says: “I can do all things through Christ that strengthen me” (Philippians 4:13). It is God's plan for His beloved children to be totally dependent on Him.

Dependence on God makes heroes of ordinary people like you and me. That was the case also with Jabez (1 Chronicles 4: 9-10). He was forced to cry to God with a desperate plea when he found himself in a situation that was totally beyond his control. Let us go to God today with this same plea: “Oh Lord, let your hand be with me” - with this we release God's power to accomplish his will and bring him glory through all those seeming impossibilities. Asking for God's hand upon us is a strategic move to sustain and continue the great things that God has begun in our lives. God's hand on you is definitely “the touch of greatness”.

The Word and Prayer

Word: James 4:16

Prayer: O Lord keep me from evil that it may not grieve the blessings you have given me in Jesus name



Dependence On God 2

Text: Psalm 62: 5-12

Friday, August 4, 2023.

"Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it." - Psalm 37:5

In C.S. Lewis' Prince Caspian, a child named Lucy encounters Aslan, the Christ-figure of the Narnia stories, after not seeing him for a long while. "Aslan, you're bigger," she says. "That is because you're older, little one," answered he. "Not because you are?" "I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger."

The more mature in the faith we are, the bigger God will be for us. As our vision of God becomes clearer and we understand His enormity, we learn to rest in Him. We grow in our ability to depend completely on Him and know that with a God as competent as the God we find in the pages of Scripture, the universe in which we find ourselves is truly a safe place for us.

At least, this is as it ought to be. Reality, for far too many of us, is quite the opposite. In spite of this large and competent God who cares for us and promises to never abandon us, we often find ourselves beset by worry, anxiety and fear. It is only the most mature person who understands that as we come to rely on God, we find rest in this world. God calls each of us to lean on Him. Such trust is difficult but if we train ourselves to trust in the only One who is worthy of our dependence, we may find, as Lucy in Narnia found, that our God is bigger than we ever imagined.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 55: 22, Isaiah 26:4

Prayer: O Lord, deepen my trust in You and help me to depend on You in Jesus name



Another Kind Of Giving

Text: Mark 10:35-45

Saturday, August 5, 2023.

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." - Matthew 20:28

James and John come to Jesus and they say, "We want you to do something for us." And he says, essentially, "okay...I'll play along...what do you want me to do?" They tell him that when he is in his glory, when he is recognised as great and for whom he is, they want to have the two best seats in the house. One wants to sit at his right hand, and one wants to sit at his left. Jesus doesn't immediately say no, but he asks them this: "can you drink the cup that I drink? Can you be baptized with the baptism I'm about to receive?" And what he's really saying to them is can you handle what's about to happen. Can you go through the trials and pain and death that I'm about to face along with me? Are you really prepared to do what it takes to sit at my right or left hand? Because it's not going to be easy.

From this encounter, we learn from Jesus about another kind of giving. We learn about giving by serving. Jesus tells the disciples that in the end they won't be at his side because they want glory or comfort or riches. Instead you end up at Jesus' side because you want to serve. If anyone among you wants to be great, he tells them, they have to serve. It was a new kind of greatness for the day and age. Jesus tells them, look...in my book being great doesn't look anything like being a tyrant and lording it over people. Being great means to give, being great means to serve, being great means to choose a harder way. He tells them bluntly: I didn't come to be served. I come to serve.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Galatians 2: 20

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to have a servant's heart like you in Jesus name.



Reach For The Stars

Text: 1 Chronicles 4: 9-10

Sunday, August 6, 2023.

“And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that you would bless me indeed and enlarge my coast and that there hand must be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.” - 1 Chronicles 4:10

There are certain lessons we can learn from this popular Bible passage on Jabez. Firstly, that that which has an unpromising beginning may stand among the best. The most successful and even glorious enterprise may be begun in weakness and in trembling of heart. That which was once only a small gathering in a back slum can grow into a magnificent and beneficent institution. If God prosper a human life or a good cause, its early insignificance will prove of small account.

It is right to ask God for material blessings in the hope of obtaining them. These were earthly favours, which Jabez asked for, and which he received of God - enlargement of his estate, immunity from trouble and loss, etc. We may ask God for temporal blessings, in the hope of receiving them, if we ask in a subject spirit, desiring him to withhold from us what he knows it would be best to keep back.

And lastly, that God is never served in vain. God granted Jabez that which he requested. He may not give us our heart's desires in the form in which we cherish them but God has ways of blessing us of which we have little thought when we are on our knees.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 7: 7-11, Psalm 119:173, Ephesians 3:20

Prayer: My heavenly father, please help me in Jesus name.



Be A Complete Reflection Of Christ

Text: John 17:21-23

Monday, August 7, 2023.

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” Amos 3:3 (KJV)

The church is the body of Christ, of which you are a member. The whole idea of Christ was to establish a body in the world under His sovereign government, managed by followers whom He had appointed to oversee things on His behalf.

When you take a look at the text for today's devotional, you will clearly define the destination of Christ with the church. He prayed to God, *"Make them one, for we are one."* Now, the question is, can it be said that the body of Christ is one today? If the answer is yes, why is the church so factionalized today? Why are denominations and church politics a more common denominator today?

Don't be caught up in the web of confusion going on in the Church today, but rather, worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. Let your Bible guide you in all things as you meditate on it day and night, and it will, by the Holy Ghost, give you all the resources that you need to make it here and get to heaven at last. Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 68: 1

Prayer: Lord, please give me the wisdom to build your church and not destroy it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



Do You Have Jesus In You?

Text: 1 Samuel 17

Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

“And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.” 1 Samuel 17:42-44 (KJV)

What is your identity? A lot of Christians have lost their real identities because of the definition of others about them. They have been crippled by the mockery of others who think they are superior. If you understand what it means to be a Christian, you will know that life is not about the container but the content.

What should define you is what you have on the inside, not what others have concluded about you. David found himself in such a state. His elder brothers looked down on him; Goliath called him names and saw him as a nobody, but David carried God inside of him, and the score was settled on the field of battle.

The one who was scorned turned out to be the giant killer because He who was within him was greater than Goliath. Do you have Jesus in you? Then you can do all things; you are like David, an emerging giant, and the world will soon celebrate you if you don't give up.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 4: 13

Prayer: Father, please help me to identify the giant in me and conquer my world in Jesus' name. Amen.



What Defines You?

Text: 1 Samuel 17

Wednesday, August 9, 2023.

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” 1 John 4:4 (KJV)

Many years ago, a boy who became lame at the age of three started begging at the market at the age of seven. While his age-mates were in school, he was in the market begging. One day, he decided to go to school, and his father took him there. At the school, the head teacher sized him up and asked them what they wanted, and he said, "to start school," and the man said to him, "no, you can't start school here because you cannot walk." He asked him, "Sir, what can I do?" And he told him, "Go and learn how to walk."

He got a walking stick and started learning how to walk, though it was not easy. From learning how to walk, he crossed the hurdles of primary and secondary school, and finally, still struggling with walking, he gained admission into one of Nigeria's premier universities. On campus, a lecturer mocked him, asking him how he got into the school campus and telling him that he should go back to the school gate and beg because that was where he belonged.

He did not allow everything that was said to him to define him. This brother graduated from the university with first-class honours, and he is now a university lecturer who has traveled extensively around the world. No matter your condition or what anybody may say, hold on to Jesus; He will show up for you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 24: 10

Prayer: Lord, please give me strength to win in adversity in Jesus' name. Amen.



Why You Need The Holy Spirit

Text: Acts 1:8, Acts 2:1-4

Thursday, August 10, 2023

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts." Zechariah 4:6 (KJV)

Have you seen a combat soldier going to war without his military paraphernalia and weapons? Have you ever seen an athlete go into a major competition without preparation? A Christian without the Holy Spirit is like a toothless bulldog who can bark but cannot bite.

You need the Holy Spirit to guide you, teach you, counsel you and empower you. Jesus told his disciples before He was taken up to heaven, *"And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."* Luke 24:49.

You cannot afford to be powerless. How can you preach an effective gospel without the Holy Spirit? How can you live a victorious Christian life without the Holy Spirit? How can you exercise authority without the Holy Spirit? These are just a few of the reasons why you need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit, you have the power to triumph over evil and do the work of God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: John 6: 63

Prayer: Lord, please fill me now with an overflow of Your Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. Amen.



Patience

Text: 2 Corinthians 6: 1-7

Friday, August 11, 2023.

“For ye have need of patience, that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise” - Hebrew 10:36

Daily, we run into many situations that threaten our patience. We face various trying situations at work, at home and even in the house of God. Picture yourself waiting in a checkout line that hasn't moved for ten minutes. Many of us would feel frustrated. We live in a generation that expects instant results. Everyone struggles with some degree of impatience.

Patience can mean both longsuffering and perseverance, or not giving up and yielding under pressure. In either case, it reveals itself when we are willing to wait without frustration while suffering or experiencing some strong desire. In other words, we accept difficult situations without giving God deadlines. What's more, patience means accepting what the Lord gives, on His timetable—or what He chooses not to give. This quality results in inner peace and lack of stress. Meanwhile, we should pray, obey, and persist as we seek God's direction.

The danger of impatience is that we might miss the Lord's perfect plan and His blessing. Only when we trust our Father's will and timing can we rest peacefully. We must patiently wait for God's time. Rather than fearing what is to come; as children of the Almighty God, we are to be patient as we watch, pray and wait no matter what. God never fails.

The Word and Prayer

Word: James 1:4, Psalm 37:7

Prayer: My father and my God, I thank you for being so faithful. Lord I patiently wait upon you and I come against every form of impatience in my life in Jesus name.



Patience 2

Text: Genesis16:1-12

Saturday, August 12, 2023.

“In your patience possess ye your souls.” Luke 21:19 (KJV)

Patience is a virtue that every child of God must possess. God had assured Abram of a child from his loins. Even after he asked God if Eleazer, his servant, was going to be his heir apparent. God said no, and He even showed him the stars, saying that if he could count them, that would be the number of his children.

However, Sarai was in a hurry; she wanted a child fast, and it did not matter to her how it would come - so in her impatience, she pushed her husband to sleep with Hagar, their maid, and the man would have said to his wife, "So you wouldn't mind if I did this," and Sarai would have said, "You have my full support." I'm sure at this point, neither of them thought about God's covenant because they desperately wanted a child. That union gave birth to Ismail, and would be the beginning of strife in Abraham's life.

Friends, if you don't have patience, you will likely misbehave. When people have patience, they learn to endure, tolerate, and handle issues maturely and responsibly without resorting to aggression. When patience is at play, you get the best from God because it's a godly virtue, but a lack of it is a hub of trouble. No wonder they say the patient dog eats the fattest bone.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 40: 1

Prayer: Lord, please uproot every root of impatience in my life and saturate my life with patience in Jesus' name. Amen.



Do Not Lose Your Worth

Text: Deuteronomy 14:2

Sunday, August 13, 2023.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)

An elderly white man, wanted to teach some young guys their worth, so he brought out a one-dollar note and asked them, "Who wants it?" They all responded with affirmative responses. To test the integrity of their earlier response, he dropped the same dollar note on a sandy floor and trampled on it, brought it up again, and repeated the earlier question of who wanted the dollar. They all said they wanted the dollar, and he told them, "Never lose your worth." Even though the dollar note was not as clean as before, it was still a legal tender of one dollar.

God declares that you are a chosen species, a unique species among the peoples of the world, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and peculiar. Can you see your worth as a child of God? If this is your esteemed value, how come you disdain, despise, and reduce your precious worth, which the blood of the Lamb had supremely paid for?

A lot of Christians are daily undermining their worth through sin. Child of God, the moment you sin, you lose your worth to satan. Your value is too great to be toyed with, and to treasure it, you must be ready to subject yourself to Scripture, which commands: *"Abstain from all appearance of evil"* (1 Thessalonians 5:22). You cannot afford to lose your inestimable worth so guard it jealously with all your spiritual might.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Luke 12: 6-7

Prayer: Father, please give me the ability to protect my worth from ravagers in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



Your Reasonable Service

Text: Acts 9: 36-42

Monday, August 14, 2023

"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." - Galatians 6:10

The raising of Tabitha from the dead by Peter who was summoned by the saints at Joppa was a concomitant result of the reasonable service rendered by her. The Lord Jesus states that any good deed done unto another is done unto him! Matthew 25:37-40 states: "Then shall the righteous answer him, saying Lord, when saw we thee a hungered and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When we saw thee a stranger and took thee in? Or naked and clothed thee? Or when we saw thee sick or in prison and came unto thee? And the king shall answer and say unto them, "verily I say unto you, in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me". My dear friend, be driven to treat our brethren as you would have treated the Lord.

We are told that Dorcas was full of good works and charitable deeds. She was especially caring to the widows showing love and kindness. When eventually she died, her good deeds spoke for her. The widows brought the coats and garments she made for them. The Lord remembered her good deeds and extended her life. Her charitable deeds although rendered to the brethren were a great and reasonable service to God.

Beloved friend, what reasonable service do you render to God? How do you treat the brethren and others? The scripture says: "true religion and undefiled before God, and the father is his; to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27). When you alleviate the distress and suffering of the brethren through giving to them, helping in feeding, or giving valuable advice and service, you are serving the Lord reasonably.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 2:4, Galatians 6:2

Prayer: Father Lord, help me and teach me to extend care and love to others in Jesus name.



Hope In The Midst Of Battle

Text: Psalm 27

Tuesday, August 15, 2023.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" - Psalm 27:1

As we read the words of this psalm, we see the imagery of battle being portrayed in these verses. Words like “enemies”, “foes”, “host”, “war”, and “enemies” all speak of warfare. The words and phrases of this psalm speak of a battle being waged against David. It appears that he is in a difficult situation. Yet, it is also very clear from reading these verses that even in the midst of the battles he is fighting, David still has hope. Some of us have experienced situations or seasons in life when it just seems like nothing is going right. There are fears of failure, fears of the future, fears of warfare and terrorism, fear of death, fear of the unknown, fears of change. Few have probably ever faced a situation exactly like David's, where someone has called you out, your name, and declared and attempted to take your life. That's intense. But we all experience fear.

David tells us that God is his “light”, his “salvation” and his “strength”. These three great characteristics of God serve to give us hope even in the midst of life's battles! Because of Who our God is, we need not fear any enemy that should arise against us. Satan is no match for our sovereign God! David declares that his present hope in the Lord rests upon that which the Lord has done for him in the past. God did not fail him then, and He will not fail His child today. That same confidence is ours today! The God we serve is unchangeable. He is the same God with the same power that He has always been. He has never, and He will never change. Because He has been faithful in the past, we can count on His being faithful now.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8

Prayer: My Lord and My father give me the grace to seek and know you the more so I can love and live for you in the name of Jesus.



Who Are You Living For? 1

Text: Acts 4:33-37

Wednesday, August 16, 2023.

“And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, ³⁷Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.” Acts 4:36-37 (KJV)

Friend, for whom are you living? I once paid a visit to a former college mate who had become a traditional ruler, a core Muslim, and while there his daughter came around and he was advising his daughter, who was graduating, *“I have invested so much in you; whatever career path you have chosen for yourself, make sure it's something that will put smiles on the faces of the poor and the downtrodden.”*

Why do you believe our country is experiencing systemic collapse? The national grid that powers the country collapses every now and then; our nation's value is in serious decline, and it all comes down to selfishness and corrupt practices. Our text reveals to us that in the days of the early Christians, life was interesting because it was lived in an egalitarian way whereby everybody sacrificed in favour of everybody else.

How are you living today? Is it for yourself, your family, or are you living for the benefit of others? Members of the early church sold all that they had and laid it at the apostles' feet so that it could be shared, and everyone could have something to live with. We are called to a life of service, a life of sharing with others, a life of giving, a life of selflessness.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 7: 12

Prayer: Lord, give me the grace to eschew selfishness and work for the benefit of others, in Jesus' name.



Who Are You Living For? 2

Text: Galatians 6:3

Thursday, August 17, 2023.

"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Hebrews 13:16 (KJV)

It is important that we live our lives for Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, a lot of people, including believers, are living their lives for themselves. That is why a man will acquire all the properties in the world just for himself and his family even if through ill-gotten wealth. He doesn't care about the poor, doesn't think about the needy, and yet he has everything. He forgets that one day he's going to leave everything that he has acquired when death comes calling for others to use as they deem fit.

What are you living for? Jesus Christ said, ***"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."*** Matthew 6:33. Life is not all about acquiring all the things of this world? That is not all there is to life. Life is about how you have impacted others. Life is about helping others grow. Life is about pleasing the Lord because the Bible says that if a man's ways, please the Lord, He will cause even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Is your life pleasing to God? Is God happy with what you are doing now today? Is your life a worthy example of a follower of Jesus Christ? Decide today to begin to live for Jesus if you are yet to do so. Go ahead and live for Jesus for the rest of your life.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Colossians 3: 1-4

Prayer: Oh Lord, my Father, please help me to live my life for you, affecting my generation positively in Jesus' name. Amen!



Salvation Is A Choice

Text: Revelation 3:20

Friday, August 18, 2023.

*"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."
Philippians 2:12 (KJV)*

Salvation is free but it came at a cost – the brutal treatment and suffering of our Lord and His blood. A crown of thorns was placed on his head. He was stripped of his clothes and led to Golgotha. A mixture of vinegar, gall, and myrrh was offered to him, but Jesus refused it. Stakes were driven through Jesus' wrists and ankles, fastening him to the cross where he was crucified between two convicted criminals.

Have you ever sat down to consider such a huge sacrifice made for us? If you have, then shouldn't play around with your salvation? You shouldn't still be swimming in sin after you say you have given your life to Jesus? The Bible tells us in Philippians 2:12-13 to 'work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.'

It is those who endure to the end that will be saved. Some people say 'once saved, saved forever.' That is not so. How much have you conquered yourself, temptations, and trials of faith for heaven's sake? We must all constantly continue the good fight of faith.

Salvation is an encounter, a personal experience, with Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Saviour. And since salvation is a choice, the Lord Himself makes it clear that He stands at the door, knocking ready to come into the life of whoever invites Him in.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Jude 3

Prayer: Oh, my heavenly Father, please give me the wisdom to make the right choice of salvation in Jesus' name. Amen.



God Is Not Slow

Text: 2nd Peter 3:9

Saturday, August 19, 2023.

“Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?” Ezekiel 18:23 (KJV)

A lot of people have and still ask this question repeatedly, especially those who feel like they have given up their faith, those who are discouraged or even backslidden. We have been hearing from time immemorial that the Lord is coming very soon. Is this thing true?

This is the question that keeps popping up in our minds from time to time. That Jesus Christ is coming back is inevitable, but on the subject of your doubt, our Bible text clarifies that when it tells us: ***“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” 2 Peter 3:9.***

What people count as delay or slowness is God's enduring patience, offering us all the opportunity to repent. What men count as lateness is God's love made manifest in His patience, because it is not His will that anyone should die in their sins. Are you still living in sin, or you have not given your life to Jesus Christ? Why not take advantage of this window of God's enduring patience and surrender your life to Jesus Christ.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Corinthians 6: 2

Prayer: Oh Lord, please help me not to abuse your patience in Jesus' name. Amen.



Power In His Blood

Text: Exodus 12:7-13

Sunday, August 20, 2023.

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb...” Revelation 12:11a

There is power in the air, on land, beneath the earth, in the sea, and everywhere else, but the power of Jesus' blood is greater than every other. The power in the blood of Jesus cannot be compared with any other power that exists. If there is any power that the devil dreads, it is the power of the blood of Jesus.

Our text tells us about the power in the blood. When the children of Israel were about to experience deliverance from Egypt, God instructed them to apply the blood to the lintels of their doors for divine security. Folks, that blood was a symbol of the blood of Jesus, and our memory verse tells us that we overcame the devil by the blood of the Lamb.

The blood of Jesus not only saves you but fortifies you, heals you and delivers you. How often do you express your belief in the power in the blood of Jesus? How often do you make use of this power in the blood of the Lamb? May the blood of Jesus avail much for you everyday in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrews 12: 24

Prayer: Lord, please help me to generously apply the blood of Jesus for my ultimate victory in Jesus' matchless name. Amen.



Fresh Anointing

Text: Joel 2: 28-32

Monday, August 21, 2023.

“And it shall come to pass in that day that his burden shall be taken from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing” - Isaiah 10:27

Prophet Joel predicts a day when God would pour out His Spirit on “*whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord*” (Joel 2:32). The prophecy is an ongoing promise to all who accept Christ as Lord, for all believers should be filled with the Holy Spirit. Therefore, seek a daily fresh anointing from the Lord. To be anointed of God is a huge privilege to be desired by every child of God.

A major testimony to the power of the anointing is that it breaks the yoke. The anointing first works on you by liberating you, breaking every satanic yoke. The anointing also empowers and emboldens you to minister to others. Elisha on receiving the double portion of the anointing used it to overcome the obstacle of the River Jordan, which was standing in his way to fulfilling his destiny (2 Kings 2:13-15).

Today, as the fresh anointing comes upon your life, it will part every Jordan before you and silence everything causing reproach in your life. It will bring you favour and open doors; you will stand before kings because it will endow you with the spirit of excellence. Ask for and receive fresh anointing today in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 61:1-3

Prayer: My Father, let there be physical manifestation of your fresh anointing upon my life today in Jesus name.



God Will Fight For You

Text: Exodus 14: 1-14

Tuesday, August 22, 2023.

“Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see then gain no more for even.” - Exodus 14:13

The last verse of our Bible reading today says: *“The LORD shall fight for you and ye shall hold your peace”* (Exodus 14:14). This scripture fully assures us that if God is for you, anyone who comes against you has their fate already sealed in defeat. Do you want the Man of War, Jehovah Nissi, to fight for you?

In Exodus 14, we see a people under enemy attack and how God gave them victory. The whole world was crowding on the Israelites after their miraculous escape from bondage in Egypt. Does this sound familiar? Has what was meant to be an escape from bondage and a solution become like a problem with the Red Sea in front and high mountains on the sides and the armies of Pharaoh in pursuit behind.

Every child of God at one time or the other goes through this kind of situation. However, if you have faith and trust Him, God will identify with you in that situation and solve the problem in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 124

Prayer: Father, arise and fight for me in every battle of my life in the name of Jesus



Overcome That Limitation

Text: Genesis 3: 9-10, Exodus 1: 8-14

Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

“Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall a rise, when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.” – Micah 7:8

The most natural thing that occurs to a person when he or she is knocked down is for the person to get up. When you are knocked down, you want to get up – it's a reflex action. Therefore, anything trying to keep you down or limit you in any way is against God's plan for your life. Today I pray for you that, as you read this, Jehovah God, in His infinite mercy will undo such in Jesus name. There is something God has placed within you to help you succeed, to be above only and not beneath.

Where are you? That was God's question to Adam in Genesis 3:9. Here, sin had limited Adam; someone who was all about the garden had now gone into hiding! God is asking the same question of each and every one of us today: where are you in regard to God's plan for your life? What has been keeping you prostrate like the man at the pool of Bathesda for 38 years? Limitation does not mean nothing has been achieved but that you are being kept from achieving your destiny and fulfilling your potential in Christ.

The time has come for God to arise in His might and power to deal with that situation that has placed a limitation on you. No matter how long or how terrible the situation is, He is the Almighty God and there is nothing too hard for Him to do (Genesis 18:14).

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Peter 3:12-13

Prayer: O Lord, empower me to be in your grace always in Jesus name.



Die Empty

Text: 1 Timothy 6:8-12

Thursday, August 24, 2023.

***“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”
1 Timothy 6:7 (KJV)***

The Bible tells us the story of the fabled rich man and Lazarus. The wealthy man was so stingy and callous that he couldn't even provide a meal for poor Lazarus. Both died. The man with all the wealth in this world went to hell while Lazarus, went to heaven. The rich man begged Lazarus to dip his finger in water and place it on his tongue for respite from the agony he was facing in hell, but Abraham (who was with Lazarus in heaven) told him it wasn't possible as there was a gulf separating them.

Whatever good you need to do, do it now. Remember that you came to this world empty, and you are also leaving empty. What will be your record before your Maker when you appear face to face with Him? What will you tell God when you die? You have a great opportunity to put your house in order today. Setting your house in order means making your life right with God by accepting Jesus Christ into your life if you have yet to do so and then going ahead to use whatever God has blessed you with to serve God and better the lives of humanity.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 4: 8

Prayer: Lord, please help me to be a helpful agent while I am alive, using the resources you have placed at my disposal, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Be A True Disciple

Text: Luke 6: 40-48

Friday, August 25, 2023

“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier” – 2 Timothy 2: 4

The word disciple is derived from the root word **“discipline”**. The Christian who will attain heaven must be disciplined in thought, word and deed. Any Christian that is not serious or that is frivolous is planning for hell fire. And any that abhors subduing of his body and fleshly desires is soon entrapped in a chain of sin and separation from the Father. Not every Christian professing to be born again will make it to heaven. Judas and Demas were once born again but fell on the way.

Upon receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour you obtained the gift of salvation. This should set you on the path of discipleship. The school of discipleship for a Christian lasts a life time. The key to be different is to be a true disciple of Christ.

You must be a true disciple of Christ and not that of your Pastor or leader, this is what assures you that you are heaven bound. Ask yourself, **“Am I a true disciple of Jesus Christ?”** **2 Timothy 2:4** sees the disciples as a soldier going to war and therefore declares: **“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please who hath chosen him to be a soldier”**. You need to be temperate in all things and control yourself but more importantly conform to the dictates of the Holy Spirit who resides in you. Today, be a true disciple and like Apostle Paul, be conformed to the dictates of the Holy Spirit always.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27

Prayer: Lord, grant me the grace and enablement to be a loyal and true disciple of your Son, Jesus Christ, in Jesus name.



What Is Your Dream?

Text: Genesis 37:5-11

Saturday, August 26, 2023.

“And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.” Genesis 37:5 (KJV)

God did not create us to pass through this world without leaving our marks and fulfilling our purpose. God has put a dream inside each one of us. What is your dream? When a man has a dream, God will bring that dream to pass. If you remain steadfast in Christ, He will surely bring your dream to fulfilment in Jesus' name.

Many years ago, a gentleman named Walt Disney, the man who created Disney Land, had a dream. And he wrote his dream, and he called his architect, and he said, 'I have a dream.' The dream was to build one of the greatest entertainment and resort centres in the world, especially for children. He created Mickey Mouse. He created Donald Duck. He created all of those cartoons, which were first published in comic books before making it to the TV and movie screens. He imagined Disney Land, where children and their parents could spend days and weeks being entertained, educated, and enjoying the pleasures of creativity. He planned everything, laid everything out, put them together before he died.

After his death, the company he built continued with his dream and brought the dream to fruition. Today, we have 6 Disney Resorts all over the world. You, too, must rise today to fulfill your God-given dream as Joseph did.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Judges 7: 13-15

Prayer: Oh Lord, help me to dream big and empower me to fulfil my big dream in Jesus' name. Amen.



God's Delight, My Pleasure

Text: John 3:16

Sunday, August 27, 2023.

"The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing." Zephaniah 3:17 (KJV)

It amazes me each time I ponder over the love of God for us. Have you ever thought about the joy of a parent and their child? We smile at babies, imitate their coos, play peekaboo, wrestle with our toddlers, tell jokes to our older children, and play games with them. Our delight is in the joyful relationships and memories we create together.

Our God also takes so much delight in us; He wants to tell us things, relate with us and see us succeed and fulfilling purpose. He wants to share in our pains and suffering. That's why he said ***"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*** ***Matthew 11:28.***

Joshua Ryan Butler (author of the critically acclaimed books, "Beautiful Union," "The Skeletons in God's Closet," and "The Pursuing God,") says: *"Jesus is not only talking about us finding God but also God finding us. God 'sells the farm' to bring us home. Jesus is a treasure-hunting merchant. And we're the buried gold."*

We're also the lost sheep that the shepherd leaves the 99 for, and we rejoice as He carries us home on His shoulders. And we're the lost coin in the story about a woman who throws a party for her neighbours when she finds her coin, filled with great joy. That's how much God delights in us.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 37: 4

Prayer: Lord, please help me to greatly delight in you in Jesus' name. Amen!



Ready Assurance

Text: Psalm 37

Monday, August 28, 2023.

“I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread” - Psalm 37:25

Do you ever fret? Charles Spurgeon tells us that to *“fret is to worry, to have the heart burn, to fume, to become vexed”* (angry, irritated, agitated, annoyed). Anybody who's been paying any attention to what's going on in our world has plenty of reasons to fret. And even if you aren't fretful about what's going on in the world, you can fret about your family, your friends, your job, your finances, or your health.

Psalm 37 deals with the idea of submitting to God, contentment in God, and trusting the Lord to judge good and evil righteously. Submitting to God means putting on trust, obedience, patience, and humility as we delight in the Lord. David is saying that the antidote for getting frustrated with the prosperity of the wicked is to be deliberately God-centered. God is calling us to take control of ourselves as we yield to Him. He is calling us to be involved in the process. You see, we may not control what happens in our lives, but we can control how we respond to what happens.

We are commanded here to refrain from anger. It is easy to get bitter at God, the church, family, friends, when the problems of life mount up against us. When we see the wicked live their lives of ease while we walk through the deep, dark valley, there is a tendency to become angry with the Lord. However, we must be careful that we do not abandon righteousness for evil at the time of our affliction.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Samuel 12:22, Isaiah 49:15-16

Prayer: Help me Dear Lord, to submit to Your will in all things everyday in Jesus name.



God's Favour

Text: Exodus 14: 8–31

Tuesday, August 29, 2023.

“Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever” Exodus 14:13b

God's favour in our lives, among other things, brings restoration of everything the enemy has stolen. When the children of Israel were to leave Egypt, God gave them favour and they didn't leave empty. Today, God's favour upon your life will give you recognition and promotion even if you feel you are the least person that deserves it.

David was tending sheep, completely forgotten even by his own father when God's favour found him. The man of God and his family had to wait until the shepherd boy came to claim his honour and promotion. Esther found favour in the sight of the king because God's favour was upon her life. She had her petition granted and her people saved. So shall it be for you this day in Jesus name, amen.

God's favour on your life can produce unusual victories even in the midst of impossible odds. It was this kind of favour that gave the children of Israel victory at the wall of Jericho without the use of weapons. God's favour will change rules and even laws where necessary to your advantage as it happened to Esther (Esther 8: 5-8). God's favour will do the impossible for you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 44:3

Prayer: My Heavenly Father, thank you for your ever loving kindness. Thank you for your favour upon my life and all that concerns me in Jesus name.



Walk With God

Text: Hebrews 11: 1-6

Wednesday, August 30, 2023.

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly...But his delight is in the law of Lord; and in this law doth he meditate day and night” - Psalm 1: 1-2.

The testimony of Enoch's faith is that he walked with God and pleased God (Genesis 5: 22-24, Hebrew 11:5). A relationship had been established between God and Enoch. This tells us that in life, walking with God by faith brings about a relationship (Amos 3:3). No wonder the psalmist epitomizes the resultant effect of this relationship: *“And he shall be like a tree planted by the river of water; that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” - Psalm 1:3.*

Walking with God ensures that you do not enter the part of the wicked, and do not walk in the ways of the ungodly (Proverbs 4:14). You might be reading this and you are feeling inadequate and incapable and you feel God cannot walk with you. Even Zaccheus felt like that having defrauded others of their money but Jesus who knows us inside out still dined at his house. Jesus offered Zaccheus a relationship and not condemnation. Jesus knew that the Samaritan woman had been married and divorced five times and how sexually entangled she was, yet, Jesus wanted a walk with her.

God wants to walk with you, but you must make yourself available. Let Him know that you need Him so you can enter a relationship (or renew that relationship) with Him that will change your life forever. All through the Bible, those that walked with God never remained the same.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Job 22:21

Prayer: Father, I cry to you today I need you more than anything in this life, help me to walk with you in Jesus name.



May Jesus Honour Your Faith

Text: Matthew 15:21-28; Luke 18:1-8

Thursday, August 31, 2023.

“But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.” Matthew 15:26-27 (KJV)

From the story in our Bible text today, you will discover that the Jews had no dealings or associations with the Canaanites, who were considered sinners. Jesus attempted to uphold this tradition by bypassing the Canaanite Woman who came asking for help. Remember that this incident happened before the barrier that prevented people from getting access to God was broken at Calvary. Jesus ignored the woman's plea for mercy on behalf of her daughter, who was grievously tormented by an evil spirit. I'm curious what this woman's psychological and emotional stress would have been after Jesus referred to her as 'a dog', combined with her terribly sick daughter.

Despite the harassment, she didn't give up and even accepted Jesus' description of her, further arguing that even dogs ate the crumbs that fell from their master's table. Jesus honoured her faith. You may have been rejected by men who think you can never amount to something, like this Canaanite woman who was initially rejected by Jesus, and even Jesus' disciples asked Him to send her away because she was not a Jew.

Has everybody rejected you in society? Maybe you feel your sin is so great that you think you don't have a place in the kingdom of God, but I want to assure you that if you repent today, your place in the kingdom is assured. This woman argued her case before the Lord and prevailed. Jesus said to her, *“Great is your faith.”* The rejected became the celebrated. The neglected became the preferred.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Samuel 9: 5-7

Prayer: Lord, please locate me with an extraordinary favour, that I am not qualified for, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Receiving Without Asking

Text: Isaiah 49:8 – 13. Esther 6:1 – 10

Friday, September 1, 2023

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,"
Ephesians 1:18 NIV

In relation to getting our petitions answered, most of us memorize and quote Matthew 7:7, which says: *"Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you"* and Luke 6:38, *"Give and it shall be given unto you* "

However, our God in His immutability may decide to freely bless us without our asking, give stupendously without our asking for that blessing. This was what He did to Obededom when King David forced the Ark of God on Him. God converted his acceptance, accommodating the Ark of God, into blessings and prosperity – 1 Chronicles 13:13 – 14.

Peter in Luke 5:1 – 10 did not ask Jesus Christ for a draught of fishes, as a matter of fact he had lost hope of catching any fish that day. He only lent his boat to Jesus to preach the Gospel. He however encountered and received a breakthrough. This simple gesture by Peter at promoting the work of God resulted in God investing back in Peter's life immeasurably - Luke 5: 4-6.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 11:24

Prayer: O Lord, grant it unto me the anointing to be faithful in all things to you in the name of Jesus.



Let Your Obedience Be Complete 1

Text: 1 Kings 13:1-32; 2 Samuel 24:25

Saturday, September 2, 2023.

“For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.” 1 Kings 13:9 (KJV)

The story in our Bible text is very disheartening. It is the story of the man of God from Judah, a man that God trusted so much that he would faithfully carry out his assignment but who ended up dying carelessly. This man of God experienced a terrible loss because of his disobedience. He did not steal, lie, kill, bear false witness, engage in adultery or fornication nor was he bitter or angry.

One little act of carelessness and disobedience was what destroyed his life. This man of God suffered an avoidable loss. There are lots of losses in our lives that are avoidable if only we can do the right thing at the right time. There are some things that we do in our lives that have serious consequences that may never be reversed. This man of God did many great things, but he made one small mistake, and God killed him.

Jeroboam, the very sinner he came to prophesy against wasn't killed, his sickness was healed but this man of God who still had many years to serve God died miserably. We serve a serious God. The Bible says that He is quick to mercy and slow to anger, and at the same time, He's a consuming fire. There are many small things we do that we believe He has overlooked. Because nothing happens immediately, we think that God has forgotten. There is nothing that we do that God does not see.

The man of God was careless with words and in the process revealed his secret, which was supposed to be between him and God even though God had warned him. Let your obedience be complete, and don't be careless with your speech and words.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Samuel 15: 22

Prayer: Father, please help me to obey you to the letter and help me not to be careless with my speech, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Let Your Obedience Be Complete 2

Text: Jonah 1:1-17

Sunday, September 3, 2023.

“And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?” Genesis 3:11 (KJV)

A man was on a journey, traveling back to his station, and on his way, he heard the Holy Spirit speak to him, *“When you get to so and so station, do not proceed with the same vehicle. Just alight and take the so-and-so route, and you are on your way home.”* He heard the voice repeatedly and ignored it. When the bus reached the particular station where the Spirit had instructed him to come down, he sat down comfortably and the bus moved.

As the bus pulled away, he shouted, “Driver, please drop me at so and so station.” The driver told him, “I will not stop there,” and it was nearly midnight. Before he knew it, he found himself in a very dangerous part of the city. Soon he found himself in a perilous situation. He now recalled what the Holy Spirit told him and began to blame himself and beg God for mercy. The Lord heard his prayer and provided a way out of that dangerous situation, but he still paid for his disobedience by suffering embarrassment from the police that night and losing some amount of money.

Shall we continue in disobedience and expect His grace to abound? In today's Bible reading, we see a prophet of God assigned to go and preach the gospel to Nineveh, but he disobeyed and sailed to another country, to avoid the assignment God had given him. There's always a consequence for every disobedience to the commandments of God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Jeremiah 7: 23

Prayer: Oh Lord, my Father, please deliver me from the trap of disobedience in Jesus' name. Amen.



You Are The Light

Text: Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 5:8-14

Monday, September 4, 2023.

"That you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world," - Philippians 2:15

Joseph was alone in a land where no one had knowledge of God. But he shone like a light in the midst of darkness. Dear child of God, you are the light of the world set on a hill, you must therefore radiate the light of God wherever you find yourself. Are you doing this?

Joseph stayed clean and grew in faith in a strange land with a different world system. Joseph was exposed to temptation. He was lonely, far from home, and denied fatherly love. Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him, but he refused and said no, even though there was a chance he could get away with it. He had respect for his boss who trusted him with everything he had and feared God. His integrity came at a price. He was sent to prison for a crime he did not commit. However, God did not fail him. Be true to God and He will bless you.

God has placed you where you are for a purpose and no matter the darkness within and without where you have found yourself, the Lord will use you to bring light into that place. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you. "It is not the circumstance that surrounds you, but what's within you that determines your success".

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Corinthians 12:9

Prayer: Father Lord, I rely on your grace, thank you for your ready help and consideration always in Jesus name.



Are You Walking In The Light?

Text: Ephesians 5:7-14

Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

"Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth." John 12:35 (KJV)

To walk in the light is to agree with the light. The light shines in the darkness, and darkness cannot understand it. Believers are symbols of Jesus, who is the light. Hence, we are commanded to walk in the light. Walking in the light means that we must be walking according to the instructions of God, we must be Jesus' disciples.

Walking in the light is loving God with all our hearts, our souls, and our might. To walk in the light is to fear God and obey His commands. Walking in the light is to reverence God, follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, and stay in His presence always. Walking in the light means being submissive, humble, meek, and willing to obey God.

A lot of us claim to walk in the light, but on the contrary, we show so much disrespect to God that we disobey His commandments and treat Him as if we are mates. We treat His work with so much carelessness and yet still claim that we fear and love Him. To walk in the light is to emulate the Master. Jesus obeyed His heavenly Father in everything. Jesus loved His Father. Jesus cared like His Father, and was always eager to please His heavenly Father. To walk in the light is to talk like Jesus, care like Jesus, love like Jesus, and behave like Jesus. To walk in the light is to let our lives be a true reflection of Jesus in words, thoughts, and actions.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 5: 14-16

Prayer: Lord, help me to walk in the light and be a true reflection of Jesus in this world, in Jesus' name. Amen.



God Has A Plan For You

Jeremiah 1:4-12

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV)

Do you know that God made you and brought you into this world for a purpose? You have an assignment to fulfil in this world. In our text, God tells the prophet Jeremiah that ***“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”***

Jeremiah had been ordained as a prophet before he was born, not just to Israel but to the nations. 1 Peter 2:9 says: ***“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”***

We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people. God expects you to prayerfully discover your purpose, start living in that purpose and fulfil that purpose. You need to ask God, *“What would you have me do?”* That was a pertinent question Paul asked Jesus when he was arrested on his way to Damascus, and God gave him a template of what to do. You can also ask the Lord, *“What would you have me do for you?”* Until you get into the plan of God for your life, you can never be fulfilled.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Genesis 1: 26-30

Prayer: Father, please open my eyes to discover my purpose in life, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Your Desired Breakthrough

Text: Exodus 1:7

Thursday, September 7, 2023.

“And He increased His people greatly; and made them stronger than their enemies”.
Psalm 105:24

Exodus 1:7 says ***“And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.”*** This is the portion of every child of God. Everyone needs one breakthrough or another and the simple truth is that it is only a single breakthrough that changes a person's life completely. Take the birth of a child, it was the birth of Isaac to Sarah, and the birth of Samuel to Hannah that changed the lives of these women completely. To experience your desired breakthrough, you have to become a sower and a doer of the will of God.

Breakthrough means significant progress coupled with a life changing increase – it entails promotion, advancement, radical expansion, and enrichment beyond the common. Therefore, you need to seek the master key of breakthroughs, which is to surrender totally and completely to God. Abraham, according to the scriptures was a friend of God. He became a favourite with God. You too can become so personally close to God. If you become close and intimate with God, then you become His friend and you too can become a favourite with Him and He would keep nothing from you.

You must also believe Him and have faith and possess a fighting spirit that does not give up. You cannot be a winner without having fought a battle. Challenge the status quo, do the “little” you can and God will do His all, for with God all things are possible. Jacob did not give up when things were not going his way, with a fighting spirit, he prayed violently and God changed his name to Israel. Partake of God's gift of unlimited breakthrough by surrendering all to Him.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 3: 9-10

Prayer: O Lord, empower me to do what is possible so that you actualize the impossible for me in Jesus name.



Maximise The Opportunity At Your Disposal

Text: Ecclesiastes 9:10-12

Friday, September 8, 2023

"So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'" Luke 19: 13 NIV

What is an opportunity? The dictionary defines it as "a possibility due to a favourable combination of circumstances." God offers people wonderful opportunities to make the world a better place for the rest of humanity. God gives us several opportunities to fulfil His purpose in life. He understands that we are prone to making mistakes as humans, so He provides us with opportunities to recognise our mistakes and make amends.

Sometimes you begin to wonder, "why are some people doing so well, and some people are not? Most of the time, those who are doing so well have nothing special about them when you look at their backgrounds. It is because time and chance are working in their favour. Time and chance are opportunities that God has given people to fulfil their purpose in life, and they happen to people in different ways.

Remember that it is God who gives opportunities to His children. Child of God, take advantage of the opportunities God has provided you, and you will be a blessing to your generation and beyond.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Luke 19: 13

Prayer: Father, please help me not to waste the opportunity you have given to me in Jesus' name. Amen.



Who Are Your Companions?

Text: Psalm 101: 1–8

Saturday, September 9, 2023.

“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” - Proverbs 13:20

You are the company you keep. “In other words' show me your friends and I will tell you the kind of person you are”. Solomon's warning – our memory verse today - is a warning of the popular sayings quoted above. Solomon is telling you that even if you are wise, foolish friends will eventually make you foolish and destroy you. On the other hand, though you may be foolish, when you keep wise friends, these wise friends will show and teach you success.

The Scripture says *“Be not deceived; evil communications corrupt good manners”* (1 Corinthians 15:33). What this scripture is saying is that if you allow an evil input into your life, your manners will be impaired. Remember Lot, Abraham's nephew. How did he end up in a cave and get his own two daughters pregnant through incest? The answer as we know is that he moved toward Sodom through greed (a city full of wicked and corrupt people and he must have made friends there - Genesis 13:12). Imagine the trouble corruption brought to his wife, daughters, and himself.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 16: 17–18

Prayer: Father Lord, I want to be Your friend, carefully obeying You and passionately worshiping You in Jesus name.



Constant Prayers

Text: Romans 12: 10-13

Sunday, September 10, 2023.

“Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.” Romans 12: 11-12

As an ardent student of the Bible, I have found that prayer occupies a large part of the scriptures. The scriptures expose us to many varied types as well as times of prayers and praying. Jacob the supplanter wrestled (in prayers) to become Israel, a prince with God. David introduced us to morning, noon and night prayers with praises; and Daniel with appointed, dedicated times of prayers. So prayers can be done anywhere you find yourself, so don't feel constrained by time and space from praying. Elijah prayed on the mountain while confronting the enemies of God; Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises in the prison.

The life of our Lord, Jesus Christ was characterized by prayers all the time. He exemplified a life of miracles, signs and wonders as He was always in communication with the Father. No wonder the lives of the disciples and early apostles were typified by steadfast prayers resulting in many signs and wonders as they followed the example of the Lord (Acts 2: 42-43).

Do not take prayers with levity. Make prayers and praises prominent in your life. Put all your needs, big or small into prayers. Tell your Father to make you an example and a blessing to others, bringing glory to the name of Jehovah. Let your watchword be: ***“Continue constantly in prayers”***.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Colossians 4:2

Prayer: My heavenly Father, help me to be holy, humble and zealous in your worship and service and patient at the same time in the name of Jesus.



Your Desired Change

Text: Ezekiel 36:24-30

Monday, September 11, 2023.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new”. 2 Corinthians 5:17

How have you been living the new life in Christ since you became born again? Are you truly and really in Christ? Our memory verse tells us that, that thing causing you pain and weeping can be removed only in Christ. Only the power that created the world can make you a new creature as you submit yourself totally to Jehovah.

Take a stand today and be a follower of Christ. You will have a transformed life with new faculties, new ideas, new concepts, new appetites, new affections and a new orientation. You will receive a new impetus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

You are the only person that can delay what God has purposed for you. You cannot continue to do things the same way, doing the same thing over and over again then expecting a different result. Please come out from them and possess your possession this season. Begin this period differently with your Creator. I pray for you today that the Holy Spirit will minister specially to you and your spirit man will receive empowerment to walk uprightly and righteously in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 43:18-19

Prayer: O God, guide me with thy strength and make my way perfect in the name of Jesus.



The Lord Will Remember You

Text: 2 Kings 25: 27-30

Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee”- Isaiah 49:15

Jehoiachin, King of Judah was in captivity for 37 years in Babylon. However, in the 27th day of the 12th month in the year Evilmerodach, king of Babylon began to reign, Jehoiachin's head was lifted up and he was released from prison. Today, I pray for you that if there be anything that has kept you or your loved one (s) in bondage/captivity, however long this has been, it will be disgraced in the name of Jesus.

So what was it that happened to Jehoiachin in a single day? The Lord remembered him that day so that the king of Babylon singled him out from the other kings in captivity (2 Kings 25:28). Today, again, the Lord God Jehovah will remember and single you out for His goodness in Jesus name. Jehoiachin was set free from prison. The Lord will set you free from any form of imprisonment, be it spiritual, physical, material or financial in Jesus name.

After this, Jehoiachin was spoken kindly to. A kind word will be spoken to you, that rejection or isolation has ended today in the name of Jesus. His throne was set above that of the other kings. Your **“throne”**, position, finance, business will be set above others in the name of Jesus. His prison garments were also changed. Finally, he was given royal accord and emoluments. So also the Lord will remove that garment of shame and put in its' place a royal robe for you and you will give praise to Jehovah. The King of kings will single you out today!

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 68:19

Prayer: Lord, thank you for delivering me and my family from them that are too strong for me and also from every spoiler, in the name of Jesus.



Divine Mercy

Text: Mark 10: 46-52

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

“All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies” – Psalm 25:10

God is plenteous and rich in mercy. All of God's ways and the path He takes as well are interlaced with mercy especially to His beloved children. One Bible character that makes interesting reading in relation to mercy is the man described as blind Bartimaeus. The first thing you need to know and keep in mind about his story and testimony is that mercy can compel God to abandon all other routes and locations to bless an individual. Mercy propels God's direction and helps Him to choose where to go from time to time.

According to our Bible text for today, our Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples entered Jericho and left almost immediately without performing any miracles there. As a believer and child of God, one thing you must also know about Him is that He is a God of purpose. So going to Jericho and not doing any miracle was a precursor to the location of the blind beggar sojourning on the way from Jericho

Today, in the name that is above all names, God will direct His mercy to where you are, where you require divine intervention. Mercy prompted Jesus to travel to Jericho. God's mercy will compel Heaven to search for you today wherever you are.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 103:13

Prayer: Nothing will hide me from the mercy and favour of God in the name of Jesus.



Steps To Quality Christian Life

Text: John 10: 1–11

Thursday, September 14, 2023

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies” Psalms 103:2, 4.

“I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly”. Christ's provision for you, dear Christian is to live a quality life to the full both here on earth and in heaven - a life of abundance. You shall not live a life of bare existence, but one filled with abundance and all the things needed to make your life blessed and happy. This is made possible only by Jesus, giving us eternal joy, peace and making us a member of God's family. The Bible says John the Baptist was beheaded by Herod and Herodias but Jesus told us also through the scriptures that of all men born by women none is as great as John the Baptist.

How then does one have access to a good quality Christian life? The first thing is to make the right kinds of decision under the leading of the Holy Spirit. Ask God to give you revelation, direction, and information in this regard; ask Him to lead you every step of the way. You need this to save yourself a waste of time, energy, and effort. Fear the Lord; serve Him faithfully and keep His statutes and commandments – His quality provision for you will not fail in the name of Jesus.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 68:19

Prayer: Father Lord, I thank you for Your provision for living. Help me and give me the grace to live a life that will bring glory to Your name in the name of Jesus.



Serve Others With Love

Text: Colossians 3: 8-15

Friday, September 15, 2023.

“And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love, love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony” – Colossians 3:14 NLT

At the early period of the Christian era, as the Roman Empire came to a gradual end; that empire suffered serious socio-economic and political setbacks from other rising powers. The all-powerful Roman Empire collapsed resulting in a fractured and failed society. As a result of these prevailing conditions, the elites and members of the ruling class fled to better climes in the face of invasion and falling standards.

The only functioning and effective network left then was the church. The church provided succour and care to all people – Christians and non-Christians alike. The church became so effective that even pagans acknowledged its good neighbourliness. What made the church so powerful, influential and effective during this period was not creative or artful persuasion but ***“serving others with love”***.

In today's world, we also have a similar opportunity to show kindness to others. Though the world is vastly different today, yet we as Christians must respond positively to the people around us and reach out beyond ourselves to those in need, in pain, in sorrow, bereavement and handicap. You do not need anyone to preach this to you. Simply make the difference in other people's lives for the sake of sharing love. The effect of what such acts can achieve is immeasurable. By practicing the love of Christ, you are preaching and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practical terms.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Galatians 6:10

Prayer: My heavenly Father, I thank you for using things as simple as acts of kindness and love to point people to you, in Jesus name.



Live Beyond Yourself

Text: Mark 4: 35-41

Saturday, September 16, 2023.

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee” – Isaiah 26:3

A popular saying among the Yoruba people of the South-West of Nigeria states that, you first quench the fire on you before attending to the fire on the child you are carrying – meaning you dump the child and attend to yourself first. But dear friend, the path to wholeness is to be selfless or to live beyond self. This means to always think outside of yourself. To achieve this, start by renewing your love for God, love Him with a new passion through which you lose yourself in Him.

When you are able to live beyond yourself, you gain and achieve a lot of things: you have peace, you are freed from concern about *'little things'* around you. This peace is aptly described by our memory verse (Isaiah 26:3) and a Bible scholar described it as, ***“Shalom Shalom”***, peace upon peace – this is the peace that makes all kinds of prosperity happen in this world and in the world to come.

In the Gospel (Mark 4: 35-41), it is told that on an occasion when Jesus crossed in a boat to the other side of a lake, He slept. The disciples were terrified and worried, but Jesus was not there for Himself but for the Father. Everything He did was about the Father. Jesus calmed the storm. Today, whatever storms are raging against you, is calmed in Jesus name. Living beyond yourself makes God to move on your behalf and fight for you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 85:8

Prayer: My God and my Father, let your peace which passeth all understanding encompass every area of my life and ministry in Jesus name.



Is Anything Too Hard For God?

Text: Genesis 18: 13-14

Sunday, September 17, 2023

*“Behold I am the LORD, the GOD of all flesh; is there anything too hard for me?”
Jeremiah 32:27*

In the last 20 to 30 years, science has accomplished quite incredible advances particularly in the areas of medicine and information communication and technology. However, no matter what the scientists of this world may do, they cannot and will never equal God. The best of them always acknowledges God as the Omniscient and Creator of everything including them. God is the Alpha and Omega. Science does not create things, it only discovers what God has already created.

The Bible tells us that it did not matter to God that Sarah and Abraham were old and stricken in age. God told Abraham that his wife, Sarah would have a son even though she was past menopause. Sarah overheard this and laughed stating the obvious about her age. She apparently did not know that God can do seemingly impractical things and as the scripture says, nothing is too hard for Him (Jeremiah 32:27, Genesis 18:14a).

Have you been debating within yourself or even concluded that it would be hard to get a solution to that your challenge or situation? Whatever it is, remember that nothing is too hard for the Lord. At the right time, He will respond to you. The God who does hard things will manifest Himself in your life in the name of Jesus.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 19:26

Prayer: Father, perfect all that concerns me in Jesus name and that which seems impossible, make it possible.



Don't Take The Grace Of God For Granted

Text: 2 Corinthians 6:1-2, Ephesians 2:8

Monday, September 18, 2023.

"As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain." 2 Corinthians 6:1 (NIV)

We received salvation by grace through Jesus Christ. Grace is the unmerited favour of God. Grace has been made possible through the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross of Calvary. God's wrath against man has been tempered by grace. Grace has brought us closer to God. Before grace, God judged sin instantly, and access to God was a herculean task, which is why only the High Priest had access to the Holy of Holies once a year, and he had to be extremely careful while going there lest God strikes him dead.

Nobody entered the Holy of Holies just anyhow, which was why they tied a rope around the High Priest so that if he died, they could pull him out with the rope around him. But when Jesus Christ died, the curtain, the veil that separated the Holy of Holies from us was torn in two, giving us open access to God's presence. That was the beginning of grace. In other words, Jesus Christ brought grace to us: *"And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."* (John 1:16-17).

Today, many of us have abused grace. We behave as we like; we have no fear of God anymore. Are you taking grace for granted? Do you remember Ananias and his wife Sapphira in Acts 5, who took the grace of God for granted and lied against the Holy Spirit? They died instantly. Grace could not save them. How could grace have saved them when they even lied against grace? Which way have you taken grace for granted today? Taking grace for granted means that you devalue Jesus, undermine His sufferings and death, and make a mockery of Him.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Corinthians 5: 10, Hebrews 12: 15, 25.

Prayer: Father, deliver me from taking grace for granted in Jesus' name. Amen.



Change Your Mindset

Text: Matthew 15:18-20; Mark 7:21-23

Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." Proverbs 23:7a (KJV)

The mind is so powerful that it determines who you are. It is what you harbour in your mind that will decide whether you will go far in life or not. It determines your success or failure. That is why nobody should undermine the power of thought. Beware of what you think or harbour in your heart. A lot of people who fail in life fail first from the inside, from the heart, and because they have accepted defeat from the heart, they find it extremely difficult to cope with the challenges of life, so they give up.

A lot of us are held down by fear, which is why success has eluded many of us. We are afraid of failure forgetting that great inventors of time failed many times and today we can hear names like Isaac Newton, the Wright brothers, and the rest of them. These people failed many times, but they never surrendered to failure and persisted until they succeeded. What are you building in your mind? Are you building fear or faith? Are you building for success or failure? What you build in your heart will surely determine what you will eventually end up as.

Philippians 4:8 ***"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*** The people who are different understand Philippians 4:8. They choose good and ruthlessly eliminate negativity. What you choose to see determines your reality. You have the power to change your reality by shifting your focus. Proverbs 23:7a ***"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."***

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 19: 14

Prayer: Lord, deliver my mind from the stronghold of fear and negativity, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Fresh Anointing

Text: Isaiah 61: 1-3

Wednesday, September 20, 2023.

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over”. Psalm 23:5

As you continue in your Christian walk with the Lord, I urge you to daily seek fresh anointing from the Most High God. Why? The anointing confers the unction to function. The anointing resides in and is from the Trinity – ***“How God anointed Jesus Christ of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him”*** (Acts 10:38). This was the testimony of Apostle Peter to the power of the anointing of God upon our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who Himself confirmed the power in the anointing in Luke 4:18-19. This anointing is the enablement from God. Seek it earnestly today, it breaks the yoke (Isaiah 10:27).

The anointing is also a special adornment of the power of God upon a person, by the Holy Spirit, to accomplish a specific assignment. Mary, to be able to give the virgin birth to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, had to receive the anointing from the Highest (Luke 1:35). Goliath was a national problem to Israel (1 Samuel 17). However, David, a child of covenant and with the anointing of God on him killed Goliath with just a sling and stone. Desire the anointing earnestly, it not only makes the impossible possible, but also teaches you all things. The anointing empowered Samson with extraordinary power, and he did acts that no natural man could do.

It is the anointing that gives dominion. The anointing also breaks the yoke (Isaiah 10:27) and gives knowledge and understanding (1 John 2:20). I pray for you today that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will give you the anointing in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 John 2:27

Prayer: Father, anoint me afresh today in the name of Jesus.



Your Decision Determines Your Destination

Text: Joel 3:14

Thursday, September 21, 2023.

“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.” Joel 3:14 (KJV)

While many people have been shaped by the decisions they have made about their lives, others have had their lives and destinies destroyed by the decisions they have made. It is important that you realise that your decision drives your destination. The decision you make today about your life will eventually determine how you will end up in life. It will determine your success or failure, and whether you are headed forward or backward.

Many of us are caught up in the valley of life's decisions. We do not know what to do with life. God has opened doors of opportunity for us, but we are unable to decide what to do with them. We are afraid to be decisive about what we want out of life. God has spread around you great opportunities, but it is your decision to take them or not. A lot of us complain of tough times, and sure enough, tough times will continue to be there so long as the world exists. In the midst of every tough time, there will always be oasis of opportunities.

In Genesis 26, Isaac found himself at a crossroads where he was caught between staying in Gerar, where a great famine had hit the country, and relocating to a better environment, where he could at least find food for sustenance. He sought the face of God, and God told him to remain in the land and promised to prosper him amidst the famine. The Bible says he obeyed God and remained in Gerar. He sowed in Gerar and reaped hundredfold returns. Are you about to take a decision that will affect your life and destiny? Have you sought the face of God concerning it? Your choice in your valley of decision will eventually make or mar you, which is why you must be very careful about it.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Deuteronomy 30: 15 & 19

Prayer: Lord, don't let me make the wrong decision in life, in Jesus' name. Amen.



You And Your Parents

Text: Exodus 20:12

Friday, September 22, 2023.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Galatians 6:7 (KJV)

Exodus 20:12 is the only commandment with a promise. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."
God said that if you want to live a long life as a child, young man, or woman, honour your father and mother.

Some people are under curses today because of what they had done to their parents. Many are dying prematurely because of what they did to their parents. Many people have abandoned their parents for a very long time refusing to call or visit them. They don't care about their survival. A lot of Christians have been told that their parents, who suffered so much to train them and make them somebody in life, are witches and wizards, and so they abandon them. Some have even denied their parents because they have been told that their parents are evil. Our Bible text is not an advice; it's not a suggestion; it's a commandment of God with a promise.

Many of us are still asking God, *"Is it compulsory that I honour my parents?"* God said to honour them, no matter how bad you think they have been to you. No matter how bad you think of them, you are supposed to honour them. Many people are suffering today because they disgraced their parents, and some have died for the same reason. The Bible commands us not to deceive ourselves because we shall reap what we sow. What kind of seed are you sowing in the lives of your parents today? If you honour your parents, God will give you a long life.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 6: 27-28

Prayer: Father, give me the grace to honour both my biological and spiritual parents greatly, in Jesus' name. Amen.



The True Worshipper

Text: Psalm 68:15-20

Saturday, September 23, 2023

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." John 4:23 (KJV)

An elderly reverend gentleman and pastor to my parents once shared a message in Trinity House that he titled ***'Praise and Thanksgiving'***. He said when we worship on earth, what we experience is just a taste of what is happening in heaven. To see what it is like in heaven, the book of Revelation gives us the following description of worship in heaven: ***"And I beheld and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne... Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."*** (Revelation 5:11-12).

When we worship, it helps us to see as God sees. The psalmist understood the revelation power of worship; no wonder Asaph (he wrote the 73rd Psalm) asked the age-old question in Psalm 73:1-16: ***"Why do the wicked prosper?" He gets his answer in verses 17-20 and verse 27: "until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I perceived their end. Truly thou dost set them in slippery places; thou dost make them fall to ruin. How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors! They are like a dream when one awakes, on awaking you despise their phantoms"***

Worship brings about great revelations. Sometimes we don't understand why some things are the way they are. But when we approach the throne of grace of God with worship, then we hear the Word of God, and it helps us to gain the required perspective. When we praise the Lord on earth, we are joining the chorus of heaven. God is looking for people to worship Him in spirit and truth.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 67: 5 - 7

Prayer: Father, open my eyes and ears to the overwhelming blessings of worshipping you and help me to be diligent in doing so in Jesus' name. Amen.



Attitude And Altitude

Text: John 15:4-8

Sunday, September 24, 2023.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13 (KJV)

The critical difference between a winner and a loser is in their attitudes toward events and life in general. Some people are pessimistic, while others are optimistic. A pessimistic person is someone with a negative attitude, while an optimistic person has a positive attitude. The pessimistic person expects the worst in every situation. Their outlook and approach always remain the same, no matter the circumstances. A pessimist is a person that believes **"the glass is half empty"**. He or she never acknowledges the fact that the glass might also be half full. They always have the negative belief that nothing can or will get any better than it is.

On the other hand, the optimist has the right attitude, that with God all things are possible and that all things will work together for their good because they are God's children and love God. An optimistic attitude is a right attitude to events and life. An optimistic attitude will get you further along in life. It makes your aura joyful (*"Healthiness in the heart maketh it glad"* – *Proverbs 12:25*).

When you wake up every morning, arm yourself positively by putting on what I call the **"I Can Attitude"** – say to yourself every day ***"This is the day the Lord has made, I will be glad and rejoice in it."*** Only those with a winning attitude overcome the vagaries of life and become successful in life. Call to mind Joshua and Caleb with the other 10 men sent to spy on the land of Canaan. It was only Joshua and Caleb that went to the Promised Land because they spoke positively and had the right attitude.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Corinthians 3: 5

Prayer: Father, I decree that every seed of impossibility in my life be consumed by your fire, and let your joy abound in my heart in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Who Are You?

Text: Acts 19:11-22

Monday, September 25, 2023.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6 (KJV)

The story in our text is about the seven sons of Sceva who attempted to perform miracles like Paul, whose handkerchiefs or aprons were healing the sick and casting out evil spirits from people. It was embarrassing that Mr. Sceva, their father was a chief priest, and they should therefore know better. Because they were unholy, unclean, and unqualified to be called children of God, the demons asked them a simple question: *“Jesus, I know; Paul, I know; but who are you?”* They could not give the devil an answer, and so the evil spirits pounced on them, beating them black and blue.

Does God know who you are? Does satan know you as a child of God? A lot of supposed children of God are pretenders; we have become an embarrassment to the kingdom, and our lifestyles have chased many out of the way of Christ. It is our character that has hindered the move of God in our midst. Our ways of life do not correspond with our message of salvation, holiness, and godliness, and so the people remain unchanged because there is no change in us to affect those we preach to.

A lot of us want the power of God, but we still want to remain in sin. We want to combine a little of the world and a little of God. It is not possible. We want to be like the seven sons of Sceva, who wanted to perform signs and wonders like Paul, but they were still meddling with sin, still dining with satan, and their sin found them out. Let the world know that you are a child of God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Timothy 1: 12-16

Prayer: Father, give me the grace to know and understand who I am and my role in the kingdom business, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Does He Know You?

Text: John 10:14-16, 27-28

Tuesday, September 26, 2023.

“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” Genesis 18:19 (KJV)

A young man woke up one early morning and walked up to his father, and said to him, *“Father, I don't think you are my father.”* His father asked him to repeat what he said, and he said it again, *“Father, I don't think you are my father,”* and he said it repeatedly, and like a joke, he gathered his stuff and left the house. All persuasions to make him rescind his decision fell on deaf ears. His mother cried her heart out, but their son had made up his mind. His parents knew their son, but in this case, the young man left them confused. Does God know you?

In our Bible text of today, Jesus Christ said, *“He's the good shepherd, and He knows His sheep, and His sheep also know Him.”* In Jesus' narrative, there is no conflict of identity, and He went further to say that as His Father knew Him, so also He knew His Father. Can God say so about you, or can you confidently vouch that you know God?

The young man in our story denied his father and walked away. Will you allow sin to make God disown you as His son or daughter? A lot of us call ourselves Christians, but unfortunately, God does not know us as His children. We have betrayed the trust He has in us through our disobedience. The prodigal son in Luke 15 retraced his steps, humbled himself, repented, and returned to his father without shame. That parable illustrates that God, being a compassionate Father, is ready to forgive us and welcome us back to the kingdom. It does not matter how far you have gone astray; God is still interested in you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 23: 26

Prayer: My heavenly Father, please help me to yield myself to you today so that you will recognise me as your authentic child in Jesus' name. Amen!



The Narrow Way

Text: Matthew 7:13-14

Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

***"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."
Proverbs 16:25 (KJV)***

In life, most people if not almost everybody likes the easy way to success. A lot of people would prefer that life was wired in such a way that they just crossed their legs and everything automatically came to meet them where they are comfortably seated. Unfortunately, life is not programmed in that manner. That is why, before Adam was created, God created a job. There is a popular saying that an idle mind is the devil's workshop.

Just as people put in a lot of hard work to succeed or become great in life, the journey to eternity with Jesus requires even greater hard work. Our Bible text confirms this position when it says that the way to life is narrow and only a few people go through it, but the way to destruction is broad and a lot of people are on that lane. A lot of us say we are Christians, but we have long left the narrow way.

The narrow way requires absolute holiness and discipline. Isaiah 35:8 puts it this way: ***"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."*** Can you see why the road is narrow and why few people are on that lane? Which lane are you on today? How much sacrifice have you made to maintain your lane on the narrow way to eternity?

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrews 12: 2

Prayer: Father, please give me the grace to maintain my lane on the narrow way till the end, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Weapons Of Our Warfare 1

Text: 2 Corinthians 10: 3-6

Thursday, September 28, 2023.

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalted itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” 2 Corinthians 10: 4-5

In concluding the epistle to the saints at Ephesus, Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ, said in Ephesians 6:10, *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”* This word of the Bible tells us that our strength lies in the Lord. I am therefore bold to tell you that knowing this awesome God is our weapon of spiritual warfare. The Bible says ***“The people that know their God shall be strong and do exploits” (Daniel 11:32)***. When you put the assertions of Daniel and Apostle Paul together, you do not have to look far for where and what to arm yourself with.

Get to know the Lord on a daily basis and get into the depth of His power (Philippians 3:10). When you know him, your battle is more than half way won. It is only by acquisition that you can have the armour of God. The Bible says in Ephesians 6:11 ***“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil”***. From the beginning, the devil has been active in the affairs of man. So be conscious and be not ignorant of the devices of the enemy. He is subtle and crafty in approach as seen in the way he corrupted and deceived Eve and is always ready to make the children go against pleasing the Father and incur the Father's wrath (Joshua 7:1). So put on the whole armour of God always; the devil will always fail in his attack against you in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 54:17

Prayer: Jehovah Nissi, arise and fight my battles and also that of all my loved ones today in Jesus name.



Weapons Of Our Warfare 2

Text: Ephesians 6:10-13

Friday, September 29, 2023.

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty”. Psalm 91:1

A lifestyle of holiness and righteousness ensures that you are always in the presence of God, always close to God and He is always by you. This makes it possible for God to hide you in His secret place when trouble and challenges come as we see in our memory verse above (Psalm 91:1). Your lifestyle of having the presence of God always is a weapon of warfare against the devil and the world. The devil will have no room around you not to talk of attacking you successfully; he will have no access to launch effective attacks or raids on you. You might notice the activities but it will not reach you (Psalm 91:7 & 8).

However, can anyone enjoy the presence of the Lord when he or she is committing sin? To put on the whole armour of God, you must run away from all sin and shade of evil. The first constituent of our weapon of warfare is truth. Jesus Christ is the truth and our righteousness (John 14:6).

You must also be appropriately clothed or dressed from head to toe. Wear on your feet the gospel of peace to trample on the poisonous serpent's head. The shield of faith is required to protect you from the fiery darts of the enemy. All the constituents of the whole armour of God is listed in Ephesians 6:14-17. The Word of God is a powerful offensive weapon of spiritual warfare – Be a doer of the word today.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 54:17

Prayer: My Father, give me the grace to be in your truth and to have a holy and righteous lifestyle in Jesus Name.



Prepare To Meet Your God

Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday, September 30, 2023.

“Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.” Amos 4:12 (KJV)

In life, there is always preparation for everything. There is always a preparation to be born, and there is always a preparation to be relevant in life. There is also a preparation to die and go back to our Maker. The question is, how prepared are you to meet God? A lot of us have been so carried away by the pursuits of life that we have forgotten about this aspect of life – preparing for our demise.

A lot of people inadvertently prepare to spend eternity with the devil by the things that they do, and others deliberately prepare to spend eternity with Jesus by the things that they do. Preparation for meeting your God is a deliberate and conscious effort by the help of the Holy Spirit. The five wise virgins were ready to meet their master, so they shed their excess weight— anything that would not allow them to access God, they cast aside. We read the story of blind Bartimaeus, who heard that Jesus Christ was calling him. He cast away his garment (excess weight) to be light enough to run to Jesus.

The five foolish virgins were Christians, but they were not prepared to meet their God. They were careless; they took God for granted; they believed that once saved, they were saved forever. They did not take extra oil with them. They lived their lives anyhow, believing that grace would do the rest for them. ***“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”*** James 4:17. Friends, I ask again, how prepared are you to meet your God today?

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 24: 36-51

Prayer: Father, don't let me be caught unawares at your visitation in Jesus' name. Amen.



Hamans

Text: Esther 3

Sunday, October 1, 2023

“And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.” Matthew 23:12 (KJV)

Haman was an official in King Ahasuerus' government, who always wanted to please the king not because he was sincere but to gain the favour of the king. He loved to be worshipped, and if you didn't worship him, you became his enemy. This Haman had a problem with Mordecai, a Jew who served at the king's gate. There was a standing law in the land that a person of his status should be bowed down to and revered, and everybody had been bowing down to him. Haman expected Mordecai to do the same, but Mordecai said, *“Sir, everybody may bow down and worship you, no problem, but sir, as for me, I cannot bow down to you because I am a Jew and you are not the God that I should bow down to.”*

This was the beginning of Mordecai's problem with Haman. Haman hated Mordecai so much that he swore to get rid of him, and he transferred the hatred to all the Jews in the land, obtaining permission from the king to kill all of them under false pretense. Already, he had prepared the gallows on which Mordecai, would be hung but he failed. We have Hamans all over society and in even in the church today. They are men-pleasers and not God-pleasers. Their only goal is to please and gain the favour of their bosses and leaders; anyone else is a nobody.

Hamans are full of hatred and bitterness. If anybody is doing better than them, they hate the person. If you don't greet them, they take offence. Hamans are full of pride and boast a lot. Hamans kill others through backbiting and gossip so that their victims no longer have value in front of the world. We need to check ourselves from time to time so that we don't get consumed by the spirit of Haman. God exposed his sin and his evil intent towards Mordecai and the Jews. He was further humiliated when he had to drive the motorcade that ushered Mordecai around town. Finally, he was hung on the same gallows he had prepared for Mordecai to die on. Turn away from pride, jealousy, envy and every evil associated with the spirit of Haman.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Galatians 6: 7

Prayer: Father, deliver me from the spirit of Haman in Jesus' name. Amen.



Things To Flee From

Text: 1 Timothy 6: 11-14

Monday, October 2, 2023.

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold one eternal life, where unto thou art also called before many witnessed” – 1 Timothy 6:12

'Man of God' refers to a clergyman that follows God in every way, who obeys His commands with joy, who does not live for the things of this life but for the things of eternity, who willingly serves God in giving freely of all his resources yet gladly suffers as a consequence of his faith.

This term though common in the Old Testament, is very uncommon in the New Testament. Only one person is ever called 'Man of God' in the New Testament and it is Timothy and it is in the text we read today. In its broadest application, the “man of God” applies to every believer - God's own. The Apostle Paul highlights four qualities that are to be the distinctive marks of every believer.

Paul exhorts Timothy and every believer to flee evil things. The verb 'flee' conveys the sense of running continually to escape a dangerous enemy. We are to flee from greed, sexual sins, idolatry etc. Secondly a believer is also known by what he or she follows after. 1 Timothy 6:11 says: 'Follow after' and six virtues are mentioned: righteousness, godliness, faith love, endurance and meekness. So while we are continually running away from evil, we must also be running towards good.

Finally, the believer is known not only by what he flees from and what he/she follows after but by what he fights for. We must all be fighters! Fight against the world, the flesh and the devil: against sin, heresy and error. Against apathy and lethargy in the church. Against injustice in the world. You must be known by what you are faithful to; faithful to declare the truth and faithful to live by the truth.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Timothy 4: 7-8

Prayer: Father help me to be the person You want me to be. Glorify Your name in my life and work Your work in my life in Jesus name.



The Sin Factor

Text: Genesis 3:1-19; Isaiah 59:2-15

Tuesday, October 3, 2023.

“And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?” Genesis 3:11 (KJV)

What is sin? It is simply an act of disobedience to God. When you commit a sin, it is a slap in the face of God. When you commit a sin, you clearly insult God's sensibilities. The problem that God has with mankind is sin, and He has warned us against continuing in the direction of sin. ***“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*** Romans 6:23.

Sin has been the troubler of man for ages, and God, in His infinite mercy, decided to recover us from the damning destruction of sin by sending Jesus Christ to bring reconciliation between God and humanity. Remember that the wages of sin is death. God has no pleasure in the death of any sinner.

Are you still celebrating sin after all that God allowed Jesus Christ to go through in pursuit of your redemption? Isaiah 59 tells us that sin is the reason why God will not answer your prayers. Sin separates, steals, kills, and destroys. Ask God for mercy if you are still living with sin and have not reconciled with God through His son. Ask God for mercy if you have backslidden. Ask God for mercy if you are still struggling with one sin or the other. And God Almighty will have mercy on you in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 1: 18-32

Prayer: Lord, please destroy the hold of sin in my life in the name of Jesus. Amen!



The Power Of God

Text: 2 Corinthians 12: 9; Psalms: 29

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

“He giveth power to the faint; and to them, that have no might he increaseth strength” – Isaiah 40: 29

Why are we weak when we have divine strength to help us? Why are you troubled when the peace of God abounds plentifully, and has been made available to you? The Lord is our strength through the storms of life. He is the Omnipotent, able to make us stand against and overcome anything stronger than us. He makes us truly blessed by His presence. Romans 8: 31 says *“what shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”* When God is on your side, then nothing can stop you. David said ***“though the earth be removed, yet will we not fear”***.

God's power is available for you today. You are His dear child, justified and sanctified through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ – Titus 3: 4 – 6. What then can hinder you? Prophet Isaiah says the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save neither is his ear heavy that it cannot hear. It is sin and wickedness in our lives that puts a wall between us and God and thus makes us unable to benefit from His awesome power and blessings and prevents us from demonstrating His power in our lives.

Elijah was a man like you and me; he was a bundle of demonstration and manifestation of the power we are talking about. Keep every iniquity far away from you neither allow it in your heart – Isaiah 66: 18; God will hear your prayers today in Jesus name. Let there be true love of God in your heart and sincere concern for the welfare of others.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 51: 12

Prayer: Oh God, my father, let your power be demonstrated (and made manifest) in every area of my life and ministry in Jesus name.



Beware Of Anger

Text: Proverbs 15:18; Proverbs 27:3-4

Thursday, October 5, 2023.

“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.” Ephesians 4:26 (KJV)

Most of the troubles around the world today - civil wars, conventional wars - are products of anger. Someone describes anger as temporary madness, and that is just a perfect description, and it has destroyed great destinies. Anger has led a lot of people to their early graves. Today, around the world, there is anger in the air. The economy has tanked, and so there is anger and people are tensed up.

Anger is wasteful; anger brews hatred; anger deters progress because wherever it is raging, peace will be absent; there will be disunity, and suspicion will have a strong foothold there. Darkness pervades anywhere anger is raging, and there can't be development there. Anger has ruined homes and families. Anger has led to disagreements that have not been properly managed, and today, people are living with regrets when they remember what anger has caused them in life. The Bible says to be angry but not to sin.

As Christians, there is an anger that we commonly refer to as "holy anger." That is the kind of anger that frowns at sin, an anger that is correctional. Joshua was angered by the sin of Achan, which brought about the defeat of Israel by tiny Ai. A pastor can be very angry with an erring worker in the church, and that anger can lead to corrective steps to put the worker in check. A Christian can get angry with his or her situation and decide to take decisive steps by getting angry at the devil, who has kept him in such a condition for a long time. Anger can bring about a positive outcome if it is based on godly and corrective positions, but if it is based on an evil, vicious motive inspired by the devil, then the worst can happen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Ecclesiastes 7: 9

Prayer: Father, please take away your wrath from me, and don't let anger be my ruin, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Blessed Are The Peace Makers

Text: Matthew 5:9, Jeremiah 29:7

Friday, October 6, 2023

***“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”
Hebrews 12:14 (KJV)***

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace according to Scripture, Isaiah 9:6. Peace is essential because, without it, there will be no progress. Organisations like the U.N., AU, and ECOWAS were set up foster harmony and peace amongst nations.

As children of God, we are meant to be peace agents. You cannot say you are a Christian and then be seen to be a troublemaker. Our text says blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called children of God. Are you a child of God? Jeremiah 29:7 enjoins Christians to seek the peace and prosperity of the place where they are domiciled. Are you doing that?

As Christians, we are to follow peace with all men and holiness, and without that, you cannot make it to heaven? Psalms 34:14 says, ***“Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.”*** Let the world around you know that you are a person of peace, a true ambassador of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ. May Almighty God make us embodiments of peace wherever we go in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 4: 7

Prayer: Father, please make me a symbol of peace wherever I go, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



The Lord Will Fight For You

Text: Exodus 14:14

Saturday, October 7, 2023.

“The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.” Exodus 15:3 (KJV)

The Lord has always, time and again, shown Himself as the defender of the defenseless. Are you being shaken by the forces of darkness and nearing the end of your wits? Don't worry, because the Lord will fight for you and you will have your peace.

Are you plagued by one seemingly intractable challenge, and you seem to see no way out of it? Have you given up hope of survival due to being pursued or harassed by one thing or the other? Don't worry, because the God who liberated the Israelites from 400 years of bondage in Egypt will fight for you. The God we are talking about is the God of war, the one who has never, ever lost a war. He slew 185,000 soldiers of the Assyrians in one night.

I don't know the sickness that the enemy has put in your body that the doctors have said cannot be cured. As long as the Lord lives, God will arise and fight for you regarding that sickness in Jesus' name. Maybe you are struggling with sin or you want to get born again, and you have tried and even concluded that perhaps God doesn't need your type in heaven. No that cannot be God, because He loves everyone, including sinners, whom He came to die for, so why would He not want you saved? Today, He will fight for you, and your victory shall be assured in Jesus' name. Just have faith in Him that your battle is over, and rest assured that it is done in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 68: 1

Prayer: Father, please fight all my seen and unseen battles and give me total victory in Jesus' name. Amen.



Power In The Name Of Jesus

Text: Philippians 4:5-11

Sunday, October 8, 2023.

***“Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.”
Psalms 68:1 (KJV)***

A teenage Christian sister was kidnapped somewhere in the south of Nigeria for ritual purposes. She was taken to an unknown forest, where she was going to be slaughtered in order to achieve their heinous purpose. When they arrived at their destination, her hands and feet were tied, ready to be butchered.

Immediately one of them raised his machete, and the teenage girl screamed, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus," the hand of the killer got suspended mid-air, and an unseen voice followed: *"Lose my daughter and let her go."* Frightened by the strange occurrence, the kidnappers quickly arranged to take the youngster out of the forest and send her away.

There is power in the name of Jesus. Our Bible text states unequivocally that God has given Jesus a name that is above every other name and that at the name of Jesus, every knee in heaven and on earth should bow, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God.

It does not matter what is challenging your life right now; the name of Jesus is available to strike it out. Every power challenging the authority of God in your life be destroyed in the matchless name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrews 13: 8

Prayer: Father, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I command every kingdom of darkness waging war against my destiny to be destroyed. Amen!



Watch And Pray

Text: Matthew 26:41

Monday, October 9, 2023.

“But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.” Matthew 13:25 (KJV)

Brethren, the need to come to terms with the command of the Lord that Christians should watch and pray has become of greater relevance these last days than when the instruction was given, especially nowadays when it appears the world is on a downward trend. Forces of darkness are on the rampage, with horrific incidents on the loose.

Are you watching and praying? It's quite unfortunate that when Christians should be on alert, many of us have gone to sleep, forgetting that Scripture says that the enemy came to sow tares when believers were busy sleeping. It is time we wake up from our slumber and fight the good fight of faith.

May we not be caught off guard and may we not play the ostrich in a world where it has become evidently challenging to defend our faith in the face of persecution in Jesus' name. Take time to pray about everything. Your life, your family, your church, the body of Christ, your neighbours, your community, our nation and anything the Spirit lays on your heart to pray about. This is the time to showcase your unalloyed love for Christ and His Church. He said, "If you love me, keep my commandment." One of His commandments is for us to watch and pray. Are you watching and praying?

The Word and Prayer

Word: Luke 18: 1

Pray: Father, please help me to always watch and pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



Follow The Holy Spirit

Text: Leviticus 10:1-6

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

“And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: for the anointing oil of the LORD is upon you. And they did according to the word of Moses.” Leviticus 10:7 (KJV)

A spirit entered Nadab and Abihu, two sons of Aaron, and they offered strange fire before God and died. Another spirit entered Ananias and Sapphira, and they lied to the Holy Spirit and died. A lot of Christians are doing so many things that are contrary to the Holy Spirit and a lot have been led astray. As it is written in John 4:24: ***“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit and in Truth.”*** Is the Spirit of God leading you?

Are you serving the Lord under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, or are you doing it as you like or as it pleases you? God expects us to act as the Holy Spirit directs us and not otherwise. ***“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” (Romans 8:14).***

Are you sure what you are doing is prompted by the Holy Spirit? If your work for God is not prompted by the Holy Spirit, then you are doing it on your own. When you do that, God will step aside, and you know what that means. When the children of Israel despised Moses' instruction and chose to head back to Egypt, many of them died. Make sure you are following the Holy Spirit's direction in all areas of your life and in doing the work of God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 John 4: 1, Proverbs 22: 28

Prayer: Father, give me the grace to totally follow the Holy Spirit in my work with you, in Jesus' name. Amen.



God's Goodness

Text: Psalms 34: 1–22

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

“For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favour and honour; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.” Psalms 84:11.

The goodness of the Lord knows no bounds! While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. We recognise the love of God and His care for us because He laid down his life for us. In the text for today, David praises God and also encourages us to do same as well as put our trust in him. David tells us that by calling on God his fears were kept at bay and totally silenced - Psalms 34:4; Matthew 7:7.

When we look to the world, we become confused, worried and anxious because we are unable to understand; we are most times at a loss. Look to Jesus Christ, that is what our whole salvation depends on, and He is all we need for our entire well-being – spiritual and physical. Let's share the Psalmist's experience again: He says: *“This poor man, who is not reckoned with by anyone, is accepted to the throne of grace – the Lord heard him and delivered him from all his troubles.”*

When you trust in the Lord, He ensures that you are really blessed: not in the way of the world, but all-round blessings. Those who lean on their understanding and rely on their own efforts will suffer lack and be in want. Our happiness is made up of the favour of God and not in the wealth, knowledge, or strategy of this world. Let your life give pleasure to God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 34: 9–10

Prayer: Father Lord, keep me from evil and wickedness so that I can worship and serve you in holiness and in truth.



There Is A Secret Place

Text: Psalms 91: 1–7

Thursday, October 12, 2023.

“I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'”
Psalm 91:2

There is a secret place specially carved out by God himself for those that fear him. It is a place reserved for His sons and daughters to dwell and commune with him. The Christian life has often been described as an individual event in a race. This is because God deals with us individually like He dealt with Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc. His corporate relationship is also evident in His relationships with families and nations. God has prepared His secret place for you in this end time when there are evident plans by individuals and principalities to derail destinies and lives. This special place is for your safety and care because He makes His power, glory, blessings and healing available for you - Psalms 1:3. He also makes His ways known unto you - Psalms 103:7.

So how do you access this secret place? The Lord has already given you life and also saved you from eternal damnation. This secret place of covering is a high place where the darkness cannot access. It is a place of revelation where the secrets of the enemy are exposed; just like God did for Elisha - 2 Kings 6: 8–12. The secret place is based on a vibrant one-on-one relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. All you now need to do is to surrender absolutely to Him. Appreciate Him and keep away from sin. My dear friend, please maintain a one-on-one vibrant relationship with the Jehovah Elohim, the Almighty, for without Him you can do nothing - John 15:5.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 49: 15–16

Prayer: Father Lord, empower me to continually dwell in your secret place in the name of Jesus.



How To Activate Your Blessings 1

Text: Genesis 31: 36–43

Friday, October 13, 2023.

***“A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.”
Proverbs 28:20.***

Blessings are foundational requirement for human existence. If you are not blessed today, you are lacking a basic need and your life is not complete. When God created man, He gave him four components. The first component is life: He breathed to man the breath of life. Secondly, God made man physically sound; thirdly, God endowed man with mental wholeness. To cap these three basic components, God added the fourth, called blessing - Genesis 1:27.

Beloved, you cannot have a good and useful life if you are not blessed. You can never be in your rightful place if you are not blessed by God. The scripture tells us the story of one of the sons of the prophets that lived with the man of God called Elisha, but was not blessed because at his death, he was bankrupt and he became an embarrassment - 2 Kings 4:7. Proverbs 22:7: *“Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender.”* The word of the Lord for you beloved is found in Ezekiel 34:26: *“I will bless them and the places surrounding my hill. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing.”*

Hold on to God like Jacob. Make up your mind that it is your turn to be blessed as Jacob was blessed after his wrestling match with the angel of God. The word blessing is the Hebrew word *berah-chah*, which means benefit. Position yourself for benefits from Jehovah El-Shaddai today.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 68:19

Prayer: There is no honour in being poor whether physically or spiritually, therefore Lord, let your blessings be made manifest in my life, family and ministry in Jesus' name.



How To Activate Your Blessing 2

Text: Genesis 31: 36–43

Saturday, October 14, 2023.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33.

We take another dimension to our treatise on activating your blessings which we started yesterday. When Jacob was escaping from his brother Esau, he went with nothing. But on the way he met God and made a covenant with God and said: “God, if you will bless me indeed, I will make you my God and of all you give me, I will give you a tenth”. So he engaged a covenant of blessing and protection with the Lord. On his return from this journey when he met his brother Esau, he told Esau that God had actually blessed him.

There comes a time in the life of every person when you need to come to your own. A time of realization dawns on each and everyone but the time or age it occurs differ from one person to another. For some people, it comes rather late and they are unable to do anything about it. You will not be like that in Jesus name. The scripture tells us that the Lord told Isaac to stay in the land He had sworn to give to Abraham his father, and He will bless him and confirm the oath He swore to Abraham - Genesis 26:3. So, you get blessed if your father is blessed. The curse occurs also if your father is cursed. So, as a father, work assiduously so that you too can be a blessing to generations after you and remove every existing curse.

If you are obedient to God, you are blessed. If you are in an environment that is blessed - you are blessed. If you are disobedient to God, you attract curse and a loss of blessings. If you have not given your life to Jesus, you are not blessed but are like a failure waiting to be established.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 75:6 – 7.

Prayer: Lord, remember me for good, and let your hand be upon me for unusual blessing. Amen!



Rain Of Abundance

Text: Zechariah 10:1

Sunday, October 15, 2023.

“And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.” – Ezekiel 34:26

From the scriptures, rain symbolises blessings. It also means satisfaction for the thirsty and yearning soul. God has promised to release His showers of blessings on His children in this season abundantly.

A blessing is a basic need of man. It is a foundational requirement for his existence. If you are not blessed then you are lacking a fundamental need and your life is incomplete. As mentioned, the other day, Genesis 1:27 tells us that when God made man he gave him five basic components: (1) God gave man life, (2) God gave man physical health and strength, (3) God gave man mental health and capability, (4) God made man spiritually competent, (5) God blessed man and gave him financial competence. God knew that man will not survive without any of these basic needs.

You cannot live a good and fruitful life if you are not blessed. You cannot be in your rightful place if you are not blessed. With blessings comes fruitfulness and multiplication. Ezekiel 34: 26-27 tells us of the promises of God to bless us. There is no honour, there is no respect, and there is no gratification in poverty. The word 'Blessing' also means a favour, an invocation of happiness, and a benefit. A blessing means to invite divine favour upon someone. Without God's divine favour upon you, you cannot survive. It is God's favour that brings about opportunities and success. The Lord God will open the heavens and will release showers of His blessings on your life in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 65:11, Deuteronomy 28: 12

Prayer: Oh Lord my Father, pour Your uncommon favour and grace upon my life in Jesus name.



God's Providence

Text: Genesis 45:5

Monday, October 16, 2023.

“Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither for God did send me before you to preserve life” - Genesis 50:21 (American Standard Version)

After God created the heavens and the earth, He did not leave the world to run on its own but continued to be involved in the lives of His people and in the care of His creation (Genesis 2: 18 - 19). God is our loving Father who continues to care for us despite our human frailties. He sent His only begotten Son to die for us while we were still sinners and had not known Him. This is God's providence. The only thing you need to do is to show your gratitude to Him always.

God's providence is encapsulated 3-fold viz: Preservation, provision and sovereignty. By the power of His Word, Christ sustains the planets in their orbits around the sun. It is Christ that holds even the smallest particles of both living and non-living things together (Hebrews 1:3).

King David in Psalm 36:6 confesses to God's preservation of everything; he says: *“Thy righteousness is like the great mountains, thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast”*. Always put your trust in Him, He holds the whole world in His hand. You are in the palm of His hand and your security and safety is His business as you make His business your business.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 43: 4-5

Prayer: Pray with Psalm 27:5 and 31:20.



Pray For Others

Text: 2 Thessalonians 3: 1-5

Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” – James 5:16

Praying for others is called intercession. It is persevering prayer whereby someone pleads with God on behalf of another or others who need God's intervention.

People always complain; even when conditions are right you will find that people will still complain. That was the case with the children of Israel after their miraculous deliverance from Egypt, the land of bondage. After only three days into their journey (Numbers 10:33), the people began to murmur due to the circumstances they found themselves in, which they had not envisaged. They exhibited ingratitude and this brought God's anger and judgment upon them (Numbers 11:1). This situation made Moses intercede on their behalf.

Pray for your country, pray for all those in leadership positions to follow the example of Daniel in Daniel 9. Also, like Job and David, pray for your children (Job 1:5 and 2 Samuel 12:16). Pray for the man of God that He has blessed you with. Apostle Paul frequently asked the brethren and churches to pray for him because he knew that only through this will his ministry achieve its fullest effect as seen in our text of today as well as in 1 Thessalonians 5:25.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrews 4: 14-16

Prayer: Lord, please grant me the grace and compassion to pray for others in Jesus name.



The Hand Of God

Text: Genesis 24:1 & 35 – 36

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” – Revelation 16:15

The Bible says that the Lord blessed Abraham in all things; He gave him great things and even gave him a son in his old age. The good thing about Abraham was that he acknowledged the source of his blessing. The Bible says Abraham said *'the Lord has blessed me in all things'*. Many of us fail to acknowledge that it is the hand of God that got us to where we are. I want you to know that without God, you are nothing.

It was God that gave you breath; the capacity to take in oxygen. Genesis 2:7b says *“the Lord breathes into man the breadth of life”*. It was God that made you complete and functioning with all the parts of your body. It was God that located you where you found yourself (Genesis 2:15) It is God that determines where you would end up. As He has determined where you should end up, he has also created the opportunities for you to get there.

All those who succeed in life have God's hands move in their favour. Genesis 12:1-3 tells us that it was God that came to Abram and ordered his relocation. Genesis 27:7-13 (Jacob speaking to his wives) says *'it was God that showed me in a dream what I should do'*. 1 Samuel 16:1 tells us that it was God that discovered an abandoned David.

It is possible for God to transform your life because when the Lord's hands are upon you, anything can happen. In life, there are some things that you can do. But then also in life, there are lots of things that only God can do. Why then are you struggling with life, when all you need to do is to put yourself in God's good hands because it is the hand of God that will direct the path of your life. The hand of God is a metaphor for the power of God. Let the hand of God begin to work for you today.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Peter 5:6, Isaiah 49:16

Prayer: Lord, let Your hand rest on my life, let Your hand begin to work for me today in Jesus name.



Oh Lord, Rend The Heavens

Text: Isaiah 64:1

Thursday, October 19, 2023.

“Bow thy heavens, O LORD, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.” Psalms 144:5 (KJV)

When a man's heaven is closed, nothing works for him. When a man's heaven is opened, he will triumph in all his endeavours. To rend means to cut open, and mostly it requires some form of force. For example, Matthew 11:12, says, ***“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.”***

To rend your heaven, there is a need to fight your way through (not a physical fight). For God to rend the heavens for your sake, there are some prices to pay. For instance, there is a waiting time, a time to seek the face of the Lord, a time to engage in prayers, a time to worship and praise Him with all your heart, and all of these exercises must be done with sincerity and true holiness.

A lot of Christians want God to rend their heavens, but they are still romancing with sin. This is spiritual ignorance; for God to rend your heaven, you must flee all appearance of evil and sin and your heart must be right with God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Deuteronomy 28: 12, Genesis 7: 11, John 1: 51

Prayer: Oh Lord, please rend Your heaven today and bless me in Jesus' name. Amen.



Be Informed

Text: Proverbs 18:15-16, 24:5, 1:7, and 2:10.

Friday, October 20, 2023

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” Hosea 4:6 (KJV)

One of the biggest strengths of anybody in life is having the right information. When you have the right information, especially at the right time, it will be extremely difficult for you to fail in life. Information is simply the accurate knowledge of something that others may not have. It is that knowledge or information that you have that when applied to a situation answers a question or solves a problem and keeps you ahead of others.

When a man lacks knowledge, he's crippled, and he's likely going to be stagnated and go around in circles. A man that lacks knowledge will crawl while others with the right knowledge are flying. No wonder part of our Bible texts for today's devotional says that ***“The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.” (Proverbs 18:15-16 KJV)***. One of the ways to be informed is to be inspired by the Holy Spirit. When you are inspired by the Holy Spirit, you get revelation, and revelation brings knowledge, and when you get knowledge, you get the right information to guide you through life.

I remember one man of God who testified that he solved his academic headache through a revelation he got from the Bible. You cannot have accurate information if you are far from the Word of God. Your Bible must be your closest companion if you are to be accurately informed; otherwise, you may most likely end up with wrong knowledge or information that leads nowhere.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 1: 7, 2: 10

Prayer: Father, please empower me with the right information that will make me a winner in life, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!



God's Altar

Text: Genesis 8: 20-22

Saturday, October 21, 2023.

“And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast; and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savour;” – Genesis 8:20-21a

After Noah's deliverance from the flood, he decided to worship Jehovah God and therefore raised an altar to offer burnt offerings to the Lord. By his sincere act of worship, Noah received for himself and his generations yet to come divine blessings.

An altar is a place of contact for the supernatural. An altar is sacred and is dedicated to God. Covenant people in the Bible raised an altar at one time or the other to God e.g., Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Gideon.

What kind of altar are you raising? Is it an altar of sin? (Joshua 22:22). Today, you must raise a genuine altar in your heart and in your life for a supernatural contact with the Lord. In raising an altar, what you offer on it is very important. Noah offered clean animals and clean birds. Do not bring a strange sacrifice or fire to the altar of God (Leviticus 10: 1-2). Raise an altar of praise, worship and prayer for yourself and family. A quality altar attracts all round comfort, progress, and prosperity.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Jonah 1:16

Prayer: Father, let my life be a living sacrifice to You in Jesus name (Romans 12: 1-2)



No More Procrastination

Text: Ecclesiastes 11:4-10; 9:10

Sunday, October 22, 2023.

“He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.” Ecclesiastes 11:4 (KJV)

Procrastination is said to be the thief of time. What you were supposed to do yesterday but failed to do could be the truncation of your destiny. Many of us have disobeyed divine instructions that would have improved our lives, and we blamed it on someone else and live with regrets.

Our Bible passage and memory verse warn against observing time; that is, do not procrastinate. It says to sow both in the morning and at other opportune times because you do not know which will bring a harvest. Do not rest on your oars; keep yourself active and take advantage of opportunities to do something while there is time because to procrastinate may cost you dearly.

There have been little but important things that we were supposed to attend to, but we procrastinated, and now it has become a big challenge that we do not know how to handle, but if we had taken our chances when they showed up, there wouldn't have been any need for us saying 'had I known.'

It is time to break up your fallow ground and do the needful while there is time (Hosea 10:12). Enough of procrastination, unnecessary delays, and postponement of what you should be doing right now.

The Word and Prayer

Word: James 4: 17

Prayer: Oh Lord, deliver me from procrastination in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



You Are Almost At Your Destination

Text: Matthew 24:33

Monday, October 23, 2023.

"For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." Hebrews 10:37 (KJV)

Some years ago, a man of God was invited to outreach as a guest speaker, and he decided to go by public transportation. After informing his host about the idea, his host told him not to worry that there would be a car waiting to convey him to the church as soon as he got to the park. The pastor set out on his journey with an assistant to help with some things. They entered a bus at the park, and inside the bus, there was hardly any breathing space, and traffic was heavy, so everybody perspired like a goat going to the slaughter.

As a result of the situation in the bus, tension was high; people, out of frustration, shouted abusively at one another, and his assistant said to the pastor, "Sir, see how you are sweating? This trip is very discouraging", but the pastor encouraged him and said, "We will soon get there, and our story will change for the better." In no time, they were at the park, where an air-conditioned car was waiting, and all the sweating and suffering of many hours were gone in a jiffy. Friends, I don't know how much you think you may have suffered in the journey of life; as our Bible passage establishes, don't give up because you are near the door to your victory.

Our memory verse reiterates, ***"For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry."*** Don't think of quitting because quitters never win and winners never quit. Like the man of God said to his assistant, *"We will soon get there and our story will change for the better;"* the Lord is also telling you right now that you will soon get to your destination and your story will change for the better in Jesus' name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Habakkuk 2: 3

Prayer: Oh Lord my Father, please don't let me miss it at the point of victory in Jesus' name. Amen!



A Great Life

Text: Matthew 7: 21-23

Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

“But I put no value on my life, if only at the end of it I may see the work complete which was given to me by the Lord Jesus to be a witness of the good news of the grace of God.” - Acts 20:24 (Basic Bible in English)

Abraham had many possessions and was a great man by all standards of his time. However, this was not what made Abraham's life great; it was what he did with God that made him great. The Bible tells us that above earthly possession and wealth, he fulfilled his covenant with God. It was his ability to fulfill his covenant with God that made Abraham great. The ability to fulfill your purpose here on earth and make it to heaven is what will make you great.

This reminds me of the story of a wealthy man in Lagos, Nigeria who died at 83. He was an extremely wealthy and accomplished man. The man gave his life to Christ when he was 80. At the point of death, his children gathered around him and asked him what he wanted them to write as an epitaph for him. They asked him if he wanted them to extol his good virtues as a father, boss, and other worldly accolades. The man said they should write on his epitaph that *“this is a man who lived for only three years”*. The man told his children that *“everything I did before I was 80, I count as rubbish, it was only at the age of 80 when I met Jesus Christ that I began to live a good and great life.”*

The most important thing is to do the will of God for your life. Ask God, “what is Your will for my life, what is Your purpose for my life? What is Your will for this situation I am facing?” If you can key into God's purpose for your life, almost all your problems would disappear. Once you key into God's purpose for your life, God is bound to make room for you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 6:33

Prayer: My heavenly Father, in Your love and power, give me the grace to always do Your will for my life even to the end of my days in Jesus.name.



Hezekiah's Example

Text: 2 Chronicles 29: 1- end, 30: 1- 6

Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

“But I have trusted in thy mercy, my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. I will sing unto the LORD, because He hath dealt bountifully with me”- Psalm 13: 5-6

According to the Bible in the Old Testament, Hezekiah was one of the three almost perfect kings of Judah. However, what he is most famous for was the instant reversal of the prophecy of death given him by Prophet Isaiah. Hezekiah was sick to death and Isaiah came to visit him. Instead of getting a message of consolation on his sick bed, Isaiah gave him one of death. However, Hezekiah had faith and believed in the mercy of God; he turned his back to the wall on his sick bed, praying fervently, and his prayer was heard by God. The prophet had hardly left the palace when God ordered him to return to pronounce immediate recovery and added 15 more years to Hezekiah's life (2 Kings 20: 1-4).

What was the underlying basis of Hezekiah's confidence in God? Hezekiah was the son of the apostate king named Ahaz, who did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord. He made molten images of Baal and burnt his children in the fire: evil practices, which God had specifically warned the children of Israel against (Leviticus 18:21). He shut up the doors of the house of the Lord and went after wizards and necromancers, forfeiting God's favour through idolatry and seeking help from the gods of his conquerors. This was the situation under which Hezekiah grew up. Hezekiah however turned his back on the wicked ways of his father. God gave him the grace to make a turnaround from his father's wicked ways and to face the Lord squarely. This was the basis of Hezekiah's confidence in the Lord God.

What is your own situation today? You must separate yourself from the wickedness, filth, corruption and evil that has enveloped our present world. Today, call down the fire of God to consume every contrary thing in your life, family, business and ministry. To overturn the death in your finances, life and situation, come out boldly for the Lord. He would open to you a door of all round health and prosperity, which no one can close.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Corinthians 7:1

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I come to you today; receive me, I am feeble of strength, help me to serve you in holiness and righteousness in Jesus name.



Show Some Compassion

Text: Psalms 78:38, 86:15

Thursday, October 26, 2023.

“And it shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land.” Jeremiah 12:15 (KJV)

The word compassion comes from the Latin word “comparti,” which means to be part of, apportion, or allocate. It is the willingness to be associated with someone else's predicament. It is an affirmative touch, an inside drive that pushes someone to practically assist in avoiding, reducing, or taking away someone's agony.

The God that we serve is a compassionate God, which is why our Bible texts for today tell us that He is full of compassion and repeats the same phrase in Psalms 86:12. One of the great attributes of Christianity is compassion, or the willingness to feel for others in their moments of anguish. Jesus showed compassion to the people He ministered. He healed those who were sick and delivered those held in captivity by satan.

Do you have compassion? Do you show compassion? The Bible says, *“Let this mind be with you which was also in Christ.”* Brothers and sisters, if you have the mind of God, you will not lack compassion. The spirit of compassion is looking out for others, and helping those in need.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Deuteronomy 30: 3, 1 Samuel 23: 21

Prayer: Father, please deliver me from an uncompassionate heart today in Jesus' name. Amen!



God's Miracles

Text: 2 Kings 7: 8-11

Friday, October 27, 2023

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts”. Isaiah. 55: 8-10

The four lepers at the gate of Samaria damned the consequences, put fear out of their lives and went to the camp of their enemies. However, to their amazement and contrary to their expectations, they found nothing, but tents filled with food, silver, gold, and apparels. They ate to their fill and immediately took possession of a great deal more and then took their good news to others. The lesson here is that miracles can be found at times even in the most unexpected places. God moves in unpredictable ways and usually gives miracles in ways we least expect.

Naaman sought healing at the palace of the king of Israel. But where did his miracle come from? The Jordan River! Most times our miracles come from sources we least expect. We know that God cannot be dictated to as to how He should do something or carry out a miracle for us. Just tell Him the what, the How is His prerogative. The fact that it happened in a particular way for someone doesn't mean it will happen that way for you.

God's miracles are supernatural and beyond human understanding. The four lepers, including Israel were dying of hunger and starvation, but in no time at all they were suddenly overwhelmed with food and much more. They moved from lack to abundance. When God turned around the captivity of Job, he forgot all the misfortunes of the previous nine months. The Lord will give you in this season, a miracle in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 126

Prayer: I am waiting on you O LORD, give me a miracle that will surprise me and the world before the end of this year in Jesus name.



Faith That Overcomes

Text: 1 John 5: 1-5

Saturday, October 28, 2023

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith”. – 1 John 5:4

Adversity is a constant factor in life and most times comes knocking when one least expects. The fact that life is fragile and at times futile only comes to your realization when your health, your finances, business, a family member or the entire family is at risk. When adversity comes knocking, you find out that position, wealth, power, possession and fame will not be able to stem or sustain the tide. It was Claudius in Shakespeare's Hamlet who said "When sorrows come, they come not single spies but in battalions"

Possession, power, popularity can only sustain you to an extent, if at all! Courage for living a successful and wholesome life comes from a deep abiding trust in God. This is confirmed in the Bible by Apostle John in 1 John 5:4. This faith is in God, the creator of heaven and earth, the Alpha and Omega, who never fails. David in Psalm 34:22 reassures that, ***“The LORD redeemeth the soul of His servants: and none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate”***.

Apostle Paul says: ***“What then shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us” (Romans 8:31). Jesus Christ said: “Behold I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19)***. Finally, in all the things we encounter, if we believe God and have faith, we are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 8: 35-37

Prayer: Father, thank you for making me more than a conqueror in Jesus name. Strengthen my faith in Jesus name.



Is Anything Too Hard For God?

Text: Isaiah 43:13

Sunday, October 29, 2023.

“For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.” Psalms 33:9 (KJV)

Mark 9:23 (NKJV) tells us that *“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”* Nothing is too hard or difficult for God. The Word of God declares that when you believe God in your situation, all things become possible to him that believes.

In our text, God says, *“I will work; who will stop me?”* Nobody can challenge God and wins. If you truly believe in God, no mountain can defeat you. If you trust God with all your heart, He will show up for you when life comes with all its vicissitudes. He showed up for Moses at the Red Sea. He showed up for Jesus after His 40 days and 40 nights of waiting. Our memory verse says that God spoke, and it was done and He commanded and it stood still. Nothing can stand against the power of God in your life.

God's power is limitless, and thus His promises are providentially secure, therefore, there is no promise too hard for Him to keep. Put your whole trust in the Lord, He has the final say in your life; not sickness, poverty, or other issues that threaten you. A popular song says, ***“Jesus is the answer for the world today, above Him there's no other, Jesus is the way.”*** Never fear the devil or your circumstances but fear God, who has the power to kill and make alive. Our God is the ultimate because His words cannot fail.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Samuel 2: 6-10

Prayer: Father, in the name of Jesus, show Your power in my life. Amen!



Critical Success Factors In Life

Text: Mark 5: 1-17

Monday, October 30, 2023.

“Through wisdom is a house built, and by understanding it is established. By knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches” – Proverbs 24: 3-4 NKJV.

There are certain critical elements to success in life that we must pursue and practice. The first critical element to success in life is the opportunity of life itself, life at the feet of Christ. Being a joint heir with Christ significantly increases your chances of being great in life.

The right state of mind is another prerequisite for success. If you are not in the right state of mind, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, you are not likely to succeed. People find themselves doing things they are not supposed to do because the devil has taken control of their minds.

Another critical success factor is vision, which is the ability to see the future. Your vision for the future will keep you going against all odds. Finally, you need a skill: a special ability to do things uniquely, this is also known as gifting. A person's gift makes room for him/her and brings one before great men (Proverbs 18:16 NKJV). This special skill or gifting could be professional skills as well spiritual.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrews 6: 10-11, Habakkuk 2: 2-3

Prayer: My heavenly Father, grant me the spirit that does Your will to the end in the name of Jesus.



Season Of Harvest

Text: Genesis 9: 1–9

Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” – James 1:25

According to Genesis 8:22, after the flood waters had abated; the Lord enacted a powerful law in remembrance of Noah and all other living things that was with him in the ark. What led to the law was Noah's appreciation of the goodness of the Lord, *“Noah built an altar and offered burnt offerings of every clean beast to the Lord. The Lord smelled a sweet savour”*. This evoked this powerful law *“while the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”* (Genesis 8: 20-22).

Life exists in seasons, in some parts of the world, the year is divided into autumn, winter, summer and spring; there are also some where it is summer and winter that divide the whole year and others it is hot and cold seasons. Ecclesiastes 3: 1–2 also confirms this.

Have you been serving the Lord faithfully and wondering when your season of harvest will be? Wait for the Lord, God's season and time are perfect. Be patient. It is God that gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6). Your season of harvest will not cease as long as you continue to sow.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 65:11

Prayer: Father Lord, I desire the full fruits of the Spirit, let it permeate my life, family and ministry in Jesus name - Ephesians 5:9.



God Is Looking For A Man To Stand

Text: Genesis 18:23-33

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

“And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.” Jeremiah 29:7

Peace is an essential factor in life wherever people are together. Without peace, there cannot be progress. No wonder in our memory verse, God enjoined the children of Israel to seek the peace of the nation they were resident in, because it is only in that peaceful environment that they would be able to conduct their businesses comfortably and then prosper.

All over the world today, a siege of insecurity seems to have been unleashed in different countries. For instance, there has been unrest in the Middle East for ages, which doesn't seem ready to abate. As Christians, we are supposed to rise and be change agents. Just as Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah, eventually leading to the deliverance of his nephew, Lot and his family. We are also supposed to intercede on behalf of our community, nation and the world.

In Acts of the Apostles, the disciples interceded for Peter, whom Herod had planned to execute the following day and God sent an angel and delivered him from the jaws of death. God is always on the lookout for intercessors. Will you make yourself available? Stand in the gap today and watch God heed your intercessions and cause a change in our lives and nations in Jesus' name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Prayer: Lord, make me a vessel of intercession, help me to stand in the gap in Jesus' name.
Amen



There Is A Miracle On Your Way

Text: 9:11-17

Thursday, November 2, 2023

“And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd.” Luke 8:43-44

A miracle is something humanly impossible and often difficult to believe. It is an occurrence beyond logic or human reasoning. It is an experience nobody has an explanation for. How can one explain that a man who has been dead and buried for four days, already rotten and stinking, came back to life.

Our Bible text is an account of Jesus feeding five thousand men with just five loaves of bread and two fishes. What a miracle! Our memory verse also reminds us of the woman with the issue of blood, who had suffered severely for several years. It had been very traumatic for this helpless woman until that momentous day, when despite the pressing crowd, she reached out and grabbed the hem of Jesus' garment and immediately, her hemorrhage ceased.

Do you believe in miracles? As the Lord lives, there is a miracle on your way and your joy will overflow. How it's going to happen is none of your business. Is it a health challenge? Is it barrenness? Are you in a financial mess, and you have even gone bankrupt? Don't worry, there is a miracle on your way.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 17:27

Prayer: Father, please visit my situation today with a dumbfounding miracle in Jesus' name.
Amen



Have You Been To Jesus?

Text: John 14:6, Matthew 11:29-30

Friday, November 3, 2023

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

Are you traversing this world on your own without the Saviour of the world in your ship? Have you been everywhere without going to Jesus? Hold on a minute and think about the **'gone too soon' announcements** that are a daily occurrence.

Have you been to Jesus? Going to Jesus means finding life, it means rising from the dead to life. In our first text today in the book of John, Jesus announced that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life and that nobody can come to the Father except through Him. What a glorious assurance! He went further to invite as many as are weighed down with the troubles of life to come to Him. He assured all those who come to Him rest. What else can anyone ask for?

John 6:35 (Living Bible) says “I am the Bread of Life. No one coming to me will ever be hungry again. Those believing in me will never thirst.” Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? So asked a popular hymnal.

The Word and Prayer

Word: John 6:37

Prayer: Oh Lord my Father, the grace to cleave to Jesus till the end, give to me in Jesus' name. Amen!



Be Steadfast

Text: Hebrews 12:2

Saturday, November 4, 2023

***“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
1 Corinthians 15:58***

A little boy wanted to be a medical doctor when he grew up. Mid-way secondary school, he had some challenge with science subjects so, he gave up studying medicine. Then, there was another female student, who had the same ambition. She also had some challenge with certain science subjects but she did not give up on her ambition. She crossed all hurdles and came out tops, as one of the best graduating students in medical school.

The journey to success is not child's play. There is that popular saying that there is a cross before the crown. Our Bible text today urges us to look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; that is steadfastness. Are you steadfast in focusing on Jesus? Are you steadfast in focusing on your goals? Our memory verse advises us to be steadfast, avoid distraction.

Our Lord Jesus said anyone who begins ploughing and looks back is not fit for the kingdom (Luke 9:62). Are you looking back already in discouragement because of some hurdles here and there? Never allow setbacks to discourage you from pursuing your purpose and vision. Your desire will be fulfilled.

The Word and Prayer

The Word: Philippians 3:14

Prayer: Lord, please help me to remain steadfast to the end in Jesus' name. Amen!



Your Vision

Text: Proverbs 29:18a

Sunday, November 5, 2023

“And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.” Habakkuk 2:2-3

One of the greatest calamities in life is for a man to live without a vision. The Bible says that where there is no vision, the people perish. A lot of people live carelessly because they have no vision. They have nothing to drive them to greatness.

Another tragedy is to have a vision and lose it because it was not written down. Habakkuk 2: 2 says *“Then the Lord answered me and said: “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it.”* Vision is the propeller that drives us to achieving our purpose. It is the mental picture of a preferred future, and you cannot feature in a future you cannot picture. Without a vision, a person will just float around aimlessly and eventually end up with nothing.

Your vision determines the direction your life goes. You must give your vision a head, hands and legs and birth it into reality. A lot of Christians live unfulfilled because they don't have a vision. Focus on your vision today. Write it down. Break it down into actionable plans, and steps to help actualize it. And if it delays for any reason, God said you should still wait for it because it will eventually manifest at the appointed time.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Acts 9:10-12

Prayer: Father, please help me fulfil my vision at Your appointed time in Jesus' name. Amen!



The Best Gift

Text: 1 Peter 4: 7–11

Monday, November 6, 2023

“But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.” – 1 Corinthians 12:31 NKJV

Jesus was the embodiment of God's perfect love for us. By giving us His example, God is calling us to walk the path of this love. There are no half measures, no compromise can be tolerated, if we want to be true to our calling as Christians, if we desire a more excellent way, then we must follow the way of His love.

A response to the challenge of Christian love calls for deep devotion. Even when you have given everything, you still want to give more. It is then that you open your life to the influence of the Holy Spirit to enable you achieve that, which you cannot achieve by your own effort and strength, and only then can God use you and achieve His purpose through you for His glory.

The Holy Spirit residing in us makes the impossible possible. Therefore mortify the flesh and give the Holy Spirit full reign in your life. Choose the best - choose to love; this is the most excellent way. Love covers all.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Peter 4:10

Prayer: Heavenly Father, reveal Your love in my life so that I may love as You intend me to love my neighbour in Jesus name.



Heaven's Bliss

Text: Revelation 21:10-27

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

“And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.” Revelation 22:5

Do you know that heaven is real? Do you also know that heaven is the throne of God? Do you know also that heaven is the glorious eternal home of the saved? After our time in this sinful world, would it not be glorious to end up where our heavenly Father is? Would it not be beautiful to be where Jesus Christ, the 24 elders, the angels and all the saints of Christ would live joyously forever?

Our Bible text gives us some description of heaven: a great city of pure gold, with 12 foundations of different precious stones and 12 pearly gates. The truth is that heaven's splendour cannot be fully described in words we can appreciate. Heaven cannot be compared with the most magnificent edifice in this world. How ready are you to be there?

In heaven, there is no night, no sun or moon, Jesus is the light there. There is no sorrow, pain, sickness, hunger, death, lack, or struggling. Heaven is totally full of bliss, with our God and the hosts of heaven. The Lord Jesus is waiting for you to give your heart to Him. He will grant you eternal life and qualify you for heaven. Jesus is waiting for you to choose Him today. Don't waste any more time. He is waiting to give you access to heavenly bliss.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 65:18-20

Prayer: Father, whatever it will cost me, please don't let me miss heaven at last in Jesus' name. Amen!



The Sin Of Esau

Text: Genesis 25:19-34

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

“Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.” Hebrews 12:16

When you hear the name Esau, what immediately comes to your mind? Your mind would go to the young man in the Bible, who sold his birthright to his younger brother because of food. There is hardly any created being who does not like or eat food. Of course, there is nothing wrong with liking food because we need it to physically live healthy and strong.

Everyone has some desire or passion; something they love. Some are healthy for us while others are not. The Bible, in Leviticus 10:10, however encourages us to differentiate between what is clean and unclean. The things that hold strong attraction to our minds matter a lot. Are they clean or unclean? We need to watch those things. (John 14:26; Romans 8:14)

Food held a strong attraction and passion for Esau. It was a wrong expression of love. The scriptures admonish us not to love things, but rather, to love the Almighty God and our fellow human beings. Those are the first and second commandments for all true believers (Matthew 22:36-40). The love of things is idolatry. Sadly, Esau not only loved food, but he also loved it above the glory of God in his life. In fact, he was called a profane (ungodly) man (Hebrews 12:16). Esau regretted his costly error and later wanted his birthright back, but it was too late.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 9:13

Prayer: Father, please deliver me from sinful pleasures that can destroy me in Jesus' name. Amen.



Care For Others

Text: Hebrews 13: 1–3

Thursday, November 9, 2023

“But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” – Hebrews 13:16

In 1 Kings 17: 17–24 is the story of the widow at Zarahphath who obeyed the word of the Lord and overcame famine with her family. She also housed the man of God and showed care and hospitality. God rewards hospitality. The woman exhibited care and hospitality.

Abraham in Genesis 18: 1–14 received and entertained visitors and, in the process, received the fulfillment of God's promise for his life, which had been pending for many years. Abraham's nephew, Lot also benefited from showing hospitality. Lot received the angels who came in the form of men and whom he cared for. His generosity and care for these strangers delivered him and his immediate family from the destruction of Sodom where he was resident. *“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for there by some have entertained angels unawares”* (Hebrews 13:2).

Hospitality and care for others is one of the healthy and desirable family values that Christian families must imbibe. Teach your children how to be hospitable, going out of their way to make others comfortable, including strangers whom they don't even know. Finally, through hospitality and care for others you will be preaching the Gospel message non-verbally and this can win souls for the kingdom of God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Genesis 18:19

Prayer: Father Lord the grace to spread the gospel in all I do, grant unto me in Jesus name.



What's Your Motive?

Text: James 4:3

Friday, November 10, 2023

“Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.” - Isaiah 3:10

The Bible says you ask and do not receive because you ask amiss. Further study of the word in Greek shows that it means to harm or injure. This tells us that the writer of the book is telling us that our Heavenly Father being a loving and caring Father will not always do what we ask. He will not grant you anything that will harm or injure your spiritual life – the spiritual controls the physical. So, when you pray, when you ask the Lord and make what you think is your request known to God, He is always looking out for your best interest.

Apostle James also goes further to tell us another reason why answers might not be forthcoming from God: The Bible says: *“You ask amiss that you may spend it on your pleasures.”* The focus here is the word pleasure, which has the idea of sensuality; that is asking for something to stroke our fleshly ego. The result is that prayers with such motives or intentions are short circuited.

Here in this verse, James reveals that when they did ask God for what they wanted, they were simply trying to manipulate Him. Their prayers were not really requests; they were an effort to make God serve their selfish desires. Be careful what you pray for and do not enter into selfish requests.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 68:19

Prayer: Holy Spirit, minister to me always so I will not ask amiss in Jesus name.



All Will Be Well

Text: Isaiah 43: 1-7

Saturday, November 11, 2023

“Then ye shall call upon Me, and ye shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you”. Jeremiah 29:12

2 Corinthians 5:7 says: as children of God, we walk by faith and not by sight. Refuse to look or focus on those things that are frightening you, instead take to the Word of God. Be like Caleb; choose the Word of God for you and the Word is that with Him, nothing shall be impossible. Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

When we call on the Almighty Jehovah, according to His promise and word (Jeremiah 23:12), He does not delay, He hearkens, that is His promise. If you therefore pray and He does not answer, either it is not yet time or there is sin in you which you are still clinging to. God does not want you to suffer neither does He enjoy your being in want or difficulty.

If somehow nothing seems to be as it should after doing all you are supposed to do, do not be anxious or afraid: He has allowed that. He will make everything beautiful for you in His perfect time. It does not matter what is happening right now, all will be well in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 23:4

Prayer: Father Lord, grant me the grace to serve you in holiness and righteousness in Jesus name.



Landmarks And Reminders

Text: Joshua 4: 1-8

Sunday, November 12, 2023

“This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not”. Lamentations 3:21-22

You need to establish some spiritual landmarks in your life to remind you of the times when God intervened on your behalf. It was said by somebody that: “We are not slow learners, just quick forgetters,” very often we forget things so soon after they happen and many times claim credit for things we had little to do with.

When God parted the Jordan River for His people to cross over the bare ground (the bed of the river), He knew something they didn't - that on the other side they would face some big challenges including the city of Jericho. So, God made them carry a reminder from the bottom of the Jordan River. They needed “reminders” when they would come across challenges they have not faced before. God then told them to collect twelve stones from Jordan and build a monument, so that they and their children would recall His past faithfulness to them (Joshua 4:20-24).

Samuel did the same after Israel defeated the Philistines. He took a stone and named it “Ebenezer”, meaning – *'Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.'* (1 Samuel 7: 9-13.) This was a place of two previous defeats (1 Samuel 4: 1-2, 10); Samuel set up a landmark in gratitude for deliverance from the Philistines. Before you give in to discouragement, doubt or defeat, stop and recall what God has done for you in the past. Keep in mind all that God has done for you and thank God for such often.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Jeremiah 29:11

Prayer: Father Lord, I thank you for giving me hope to face tomorrow in Jesus name.



Your Wish List

Text: Romans 12: 6-21

Monday, November 13, 2023

“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another”. - Romans 2:10

A friend told me recently that he has just accomplished one of the things on his “bucket list” – things to be done before he hits the bucket. He had a list of things he had decided to do before he dies. What he did was to take his sister to Europe. Although he had been there several times, she had never been there. What struck me was the unselfish mature of having that goal on his wish list. It caused me to wonder how many of our dreams and goals are focused on others and not ourselves.

Our Bible reading today speaks of God's gifts to us as and how we should use them in everyday life. Most of our dreams and goals are inwards whereas what the Lord wants is that they must be outward bound. All of our gifts are outward in nature. Teaching for example is not for the teacher's self-fulfillment but for the benefit of others.

We see this example preached and shown by Paul himself by including others in his ministry and investing his life in the next generation of believers. Generosity, hospitality, forgiveness, and compassion guided him in all he did. Your goal in life must include giving away the gifts God has given to you. For a healthier spiritual life, exercise humility, generosity and care for others.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Ephesians 4: 32

Prayer: O Lord my Father, my eyes are on you, perfect that which concerns me in Jesus name and make me a giver to the glory of Your name.



Keep Pressing On

Text: Genesis 19:15-26

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:” Exodus 14:15

The story in our Bible text is that of Lot and his family. God had shown them great mercy and delivered them from destruction. The instruction from the angel was to keep moving till they got to the mountains, but different agendas formed in the minds of the couple. Lot's wife stopped pressing forward and looked back, and instantly became a pillar of salt.

Lot, on the other hand, out of fear, decided to live in a cave. Unfortunately, the daughters, seeing there was no man to marry them in the cave, got him drunk and slept with him, giving birth to children from incest.

God expects us as His children to keep pressing forward, in our journey with Him. In our memory verse, God told Moses to go forward when the Israelites were trapped between the cruel, unrelenting Egyptian army pursuing them and the roaring Red Sea. Moses obeyed the Lord's instruction and the rest, like they say, is history. The children of Israel not only crossed to the other side, away from bondage, their enemies perished in the Red Sea.

The Lord is saying to you, move forward; press on. Don't look back, don't go back. Just press on.

Keep your focus on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrews 12:2

Prayer: Oh Lord, please help me not to give up at the edge of my victory in Jesus' name. Amen!



Do Not Forget God

Text: Deuteronomy 6: 7-14

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

“But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers” - Deuteronomy 8:18

In times of prosperity and abundance, people are inclined to become satisfied with life on earth as it is and to find satisfaction in material blessings. Prosperity brings the temptation to forget God and His commandments, to no longer seek God and then to fail to grieve over sin and evil going on around the world. There is the temptation to live as if there is no need of God. The scriptures tell us that Ephraim was so blessed that at a point he forgot God.

Our Bible text today gives a clear warning that you must not forget God after He has blessed you.

Remember that Abraham after finally having gotten Isaac, his heir from God, was tested whether he loved the gift more than the Giver. God asked him to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham obeyed but, before he could kill Isaac, God stopped him and made a provision for the sacrifice. God then pronounced an irreversible blessing on Abraham and his generations (Genesis 22: 1-18).

What is that thing that is so dear to your heart that you cannot give to God? That is the very thing to give to Him first as a proof that you know He is the source of your all. Put God first in all you do, that is how you can prove to Him that you have not forgotten that all your blessings come from Him.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Deuteronomy 8: 10-14

Prayer: Father Lord, help me to make you the centre of my all in Jesus name.



Facing Your Giants

Text: 1 Samuel 17: 23-51

Thursday, November 16, 2023

“The Lord shall fight for you and ye shall hold your peace” - Exodus 14:14

When you check the word giant in the dictionary, interestingly one of the meanings you get in the thesaurus is 'Goliath'. Giant refers to a colossus, a titan, somebody, or something larger and more powerful than usual. So, when you bring up the word giant, apart from the report of the twelve spies sent to investigate the Promised Land, it is Goliath of Gath that comes to mind.

Today, we all must be facing some giants. Today your giants may not have swords, may not have javelins, may not be looking like Goliath. But facing your giants may include having debt, facing sickness, divorce, or abuse. It could be a challenging work environment, a difficult boss, work overload. It could be a broken relationship. The first thing you do as a child of God is not to be afraid. When David confronted Goliath, he was not afraid. Rather, he faced his giant in God's name.

Focus on God, His power and ability. Communicate with God, ask Him for guidance, ask Him for strategy in which you can be facing your giants, ask Him for strength, because it's acknowledging that you cannot be facing your giants by yourself. Ask Him for wisdom to make the right decisions towards facing your giants and spend time in His presence and seek His face in facing your giants.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Exodus 14:13

Prayer: I decree victory in every area of my life in Jesus name.



He's With You Always

Text: Psalm 90

Friday, November 17, 2023

“O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days” - Psalm 90:14

At the end of a hard day's work, you go home to a place you know, a place where you kick off your shoes, relax and move around in your premises and not worry about what anyone thinks.

Likewise, God's presence can become equally comfortable to you too; you can learn to go to His presence for strength, for protection and for guidance. God wants you to be always at home in His presence and aware of His nearness. We usually think of God as a deity to discuss instead of a place to dwell and a Person to relate with, but God wants us to see Him as the One whom we live and move and have our being - our everything.

When God led the children of Israel through the wilderness, He didn't just show up once a day and then disappear. No, He was with them day and night all the time – the pillar of fire by night and the pillar of cloud by day (Exodus 13: 21-22). God never leaves us His children, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ promised ... *I am with you always* ... Mathews 28:20.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalm 119:105

Prayer: Father, thank you Lord for being my dwelling place in Jesus name.



Wisdom

Text: Proverbs 9:10

Saturday, November 18, 2023

“The fear of the Lord that is wisdom.” Job 28:28a

Our Bible text here tells us that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Our memory verse also states that the fear of the Lord is wisdom. Wisdom demands that every true child of God lives by His commandments. The fear of the Lord is living in reverence of a holy God. By it, we approach God with an attitude of humility and awe.

Unless we recognise that God is terrifyingly powerful and holy, we will never be afraid to make sinful choices. What makes us wise is respect for God's sovereignty, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, Lordship and His incomparability to any other being.

Whatever state we are in life, we need wisdom and the best place to find it is at the Source - at the feet of the only wise God, the Almighty Jehovah. Humbly seeking the Lord for direction is itself wisdom. May you seek wisdom from above at all times in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 4:7

Prayer: Father, please help me to always operate in the fear of the Lord that produces wisdom in Jesus' name. Amen!



Who Is Your Mentor?

Text: Exodus 18:17-27, 1st Samuel 3:1-9

Sunday, November 19, 2023

“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” Proverbs 27:17

A mentor is a seasoned professional, who informally guides a less experienced person in their professional endeavours. He or she is a person, who guides by building trust and modeling positive behaviours. We find mentorship even in the Bible. Our Bible texts give us pictures of mentorship that took place in those days.

The first is Jethro. He played the role of a mentor to Moses, his son-in-law, who would have overworked himself to untimely death. He stepped in as a guide and counsellor and taught him division of labour, which brought about efficiency and productivity in the affairs of the nation of Israel. Moses humbly accepted the mentorship, and his job became less stressful, and he, in turn, mentored others.

Eli mentored Samuel who became a great prophet, king maker and priest in Israel. Elijah mentored Prophet Elisha, who got double dose of his anointing. Jesus Christ our Saviour mentored His twelve disciples. who later turned the world upside down for the Lord.

Who is your mentor? I don't know who your mentor is today, but I know that the Christian's first mentor is Jesus Christ the Lord. A mentor could make or mar your destiny, so be careful and intentional about who you choose as mentor.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Hebrews 12:2

Prayer: Oh Lord, my Father, please connect me to my divine mentor in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!



Stand Up For Jesus

Text: Matthew 10:32-34

Monday, November 20, 2023

“But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 10:33

Our memory verse today reminds me of that popular hymn that calls on Christians to actively live for Christ. The hymn goes thus:

***Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory
His army shall he lead,
Till every foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed.***

Beloved, are you really standing up for Christ? How many souls have you won for Christ since you gave your heart to Him? How many souls have you preached to this year, either through personal contact, social media or other means?

Look at the words of Jesus in our text: *“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.”* Our memory verse says, if you deny Him before men, He will also deny you before His heavenly Father. We deny Him with inappropriate behaviour, making compromises with our Christianity, hypocrisy and so on. We deny Him when our lives don't glorify Him or testify of His faithfulness.

The Word and Prayer

Word: John 14:15

Prayer: Father, please give me the boldness to advertise Your goodness to the world in the name of Jesus. Amen!



Get Ready

Text: Exodus 19:9-16

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

“Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.” Amos 4:12

On Thursday the 8th of September 2022, news broke that shook the world. It was the passing away of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, at the age of 96. Though her reign had spanned 70 years with the coming and going of 15 British Prime Ministers from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss, whom she appointed 2 days before her passing; eventually her own time came to also depart.

We are all pilgrims in this world and each second, minute, hour, day, week, month, and year we spend on earth is by the grace of God. Preparation is an important aspect of life. There is that popular saying: 'When you fail to plan, you plan to fail.' This world is a preparatory ground for eternity in heaven or hell. It is either one or the other. There is no sitting on the fence. Remember, Jesus suffered and died so that you can be part of His kingdom.

In today's Bible text, God commanded Moses to sanctify the Israelites because He wanted to pay them a glorious visit. Also, we see that in our memory verse, God told the Israelites to prepare because of what He was going to do in their midst. God always wants His people prepared. Take time today to reflect on eternity.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2nd Corinthians 6:2, John 14:1-4

Prayer: Oh! Lord my Father, please help me to take advantage of every opportunity You have given to me to get ready for eternity in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!



Season Your Speech

Text: Colossians 4:6

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

“Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.” Eccl. 5:2

The words we speak are important. Our speech defines our personalities and people's general impression about us. Our Bible text says: *“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”* Likewise, our memory verse warns us against hasty and excessive talking.

Do you indulge in careless talk? Do you speak harshly or rudely to others? Are you the type who speaks without restraint or can verbally abuse just anybody? Are you a reference point for loquaciousness? If so, brethren you need to repent and change; it does not portray the character of Christ.

Hear, what James 1:19 says: *“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak.”* Ask God to help you with moderation and decent speaking.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Proverbs 10:19

Prayer: Oh Lord, help me to always speak like a child of God in Jesus' name. Amen!



The Joy Of Salvation

Text: Isaiah 61:10

Thursday, November 23, 2023

“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.” Psalms 51:12a

Our Bible text for today says: *“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation.”* The prophet Isaiah rejoiced greatly because God dressed him with the garments of salvation. In our memory verse, David, the psalmist cried for God to restore the joy of his salvation.

The joy of your salvation is your greatest treasure. David understood what it meant to have the joy of salvation. That is why he cried to God bitterly for its restoration, when he lost it to sin. The joy of salvation comes from things discarded and new things acquired. Jesus Christ obtained your salvation by His precious blood. No one who is genuinely saved will lack this joy, even when going through the trials of life.

The joy of salvation can only come from intentional surrender of the sinful life to Jesus Christ, and humbly accepting Him as Lord and Saviour. When Jesus washes your sin away by His blood, the joy of salvation will well up from your inner man. Is that your experience today?

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 51:8

Prayer: Oh Lord my Father, please restore to me the joy of Your Salvation in Jesus' name. Amen!



Occupy Till I Come

Text: Luke 19: 14-27

Friday, November 24, 2023

“And he called his ten servants, and delivered unto them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.” Luke 19:13

Our text is a narrative of Jesus' parable of a businessman's investment efforts. Each of the man's ten servants was given equal liquidity of one pound, to do business with. The man went on a journey, expecting a return on his investment at his coming back. Upon his return, all the servants gave account. The servants with great business ideas made huge profits of ten and five pounds respectively. The man was glad and promoted them. The unproductive one, who had no business sense buried his one pound, and still insulted the investor. The man called him unprofitable and sent him away.

What have you done with your one pound? What have you done with the talent and gift God has given you. At the appointed time, God will ask you what you did with the one pound He gave you to do business with. What will you tell Him? God will not take excuses. He did not spare the servant who buried his one pound.

Many Christians are unprofitable because they have buried their talents. Let us act wisely today like the servants, who invested their one pound and made profits. Get busy for Jesus and turn away from excuses to action. Find your place in God's vineyard and occupy for Him so that when He returns, your reward will be immeasurable.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Luke 17:10

Prayer: Father, please help me to adequately occupy for You in Jesus' name. Amen!



Be Occupied

Text: Matthew 25: 14-30

Saturday, November 25, 2023

"And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing." - Luke 12:42-43

There are three things you can do with your life: you can waste it, you can spend it, or you can invest it. There are plenty of things to waste it on. You can spend it on your career, on your hobby, on acquiring certain possessions, or you can invest it. Jesus taught that the greatest use of your life is to invest it in that which outlasts it. He told a story called the parable of the talents. In it he gives seven principles for investing your life:

1. Everything I have belongs to God.
2. God has given me some talents.
3. God expects me to use those talents. Someday he's going to ask me, "What did you do with what you were given?"
4. It is wrong to bury what God has given me.
5. Fear keeps me from using my talent. When you cut through all the excuses, it's fear that keeps you from using your talents.
6. If I don't use it, I'll lose it.
7. If I use it wisely, I'll be rewarded.

When God does an audit on your life — and it is coming — is it going to show a profit or a loss? A negative or positive? Is He going to say, "Well done!" or "Lazy servant!" What's it going to show?

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Peter 4:10, Genesis 2:15

Prayer: O Lord my God, help me to find myself in you and to do the work you have assigned to me faithfully in Jesus name.



Living By Faith

Text: Hebrews 11

Sunday, November 26, 2023

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” - Hebrews 11:6

Hebrews chapter 11 gives us an excellent definition of faith, buttressed by numerous examples. Faith is a certainty of those things that God has promised, but which are not visible to the human eye. This may be because they are yet in the future, because they are spiritual and cannot be seen, or because in our humanity, they seem so impossible we cannot think of them as possibilities.

For the Christian, the things God has promised are those things for which we deeply long, but they are also things for which we must wait. We are so confident about these unseen things that they become reality to us, a reality that becomes the basis for living in the light of the unseen, and often despite what is seen.

Our text emphasizes the powerful contribution men and women make by living a life of faith, thus setting an example for us to follow. Our text reminds us that our faith in times of crisis is the outcome of a life that has consistently been lived by faith. Those who live by faith day by day are those who are most likely to continue to do so in the crises of life. Those who live by faith will stand out and apart from those who lack faith.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 10:17, Ephesians 2:8-9

Prayer: Father Lord, help my unbelief and let the blessings that surrounded Abraham through faith never elude me in Jesus name.



Stir Up Your Fire

Text: Matthew 24:12; Revelation 3:16

Monday, November 27, 2023

“The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.” Leviticus 6:13

Friends, it is time to rekindle the fire on your spiritual altar. It is time to wake up from spiritual slumber and say goodbye to the sinful life. Our first Bible text tells us that because iniquity shall abound in the last days, many people's love for God will grow cold.

Going by our memory verse, the fire on our spiritual altars should be always burning. However, the sad reality is that many Christians have lost their passion, zeal, and fire to sin and careless living. They are deliberately living in sin, forgetting the warning that God will cast people out because of lukewarmness (Revelation 3:16).

It is time to wake up before the fire totally goes out. All we need to do is to recognise where we have fallen, repent and return to the Lord. Remember His unfailing words: *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Matthew 11:28 **and** *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”* John 6:37. Return to the Lord, and your fire will be rekindled.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Habakkuk 3:2

Prayer: Holy Spirit, please rekindle my fire in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!



Why We Must Thank God 1

Text: 1st Chronicles 16:34

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1st Thessalonians 5:18

Friends, do you have any reason at all to give thanks to God? Do you remember this popular hymnal: *“Count your blessings name them one by one, count your blessings, see what God hath done”*

Do you think you have reasons to thank the Lord? Yes, you do. And they are innumerable. Do you want to talk about His sacrifice for the salvation of mankind? What about the gift of life, His provision, His goodness, favours and miracles, His protection, preservation and healing? When I remember all these benefits, then I must thank the Lord.

Remember, our text says to give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and His mercy that endure forever. Our memory verse says to give thanks in everything because it is the will of God. Arise today and give Him thanks for all things.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 95:1-6

Prayer: Father, give me the grace to always be full of thanks in Jesus' name. Amen!



Why We Must Thank God 2

Text Luke 17: 12-19

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

“There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.” Luke 17:18

Our Bible text in Luke 17 tells us about 10 individuals whom Jesus healed. He told them to go wash in the river and as they went, God miraculously healed them. Yet only one returned to thank Jesus. For his show of gratitude, the Lord made him whole. God loves a grateful heart.

Why must we thank God? We must thank God because He created us, He loves us, and He sustains us. He is the author and finisher of our faith. We must thank Him because He is God and not a man, He has done what no man could have done. He is the strength of the weak, the hope of the hopeless, helper of the helpless. We must thank Him for the unseen battles He fights for us and the unseen victories He gives us always.

We must thank God because He is ever present in the times of trouble. We must thank Him because He takes our yokes and bears our burdens. We must thank Him because He is the Sovereign Lord. Many of us have shown so much ingratitude to God. We are plagued with an entitlement mentality. Yet, all that we have and have become are mere privileges that has granted us. Let us repent now and be grateful to God for all He has done for us.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 12:4-6

Prayer: Oh Lord, open my eyes to behold your wondrous works so I can thank you for your immeasurable kindness, in Jesus' name. Amen!



The Confidence We Have In Him

Text: 1 John 5: 14 -15

Thursday, November 30, 2023

“He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him” - Psalm 91-15

Faith towards God in Jesus Christ is the essential activity of the Christian religion. Salvation begins where faith begins. When man opens his hand to receive, God opens His to give. Prayer is the essential function of faith — its natural activity. Prayer comes from faith; from the confidence we have in Him.

Let us see, then, what is the confidence on which prayer is founded. One, that it is possible to make known our thoughts, feelings, and desires to God, that if we ask anything, He hears us. That if we ask anything according to His will, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.

We can venture to draw near to God because we have this confidence in God that He will not yield to us against His own wisdom and will. God's refusal of one thing always means a grant of something better. Why according to His will? Because nothing that is not on a level with that will is good enough for us.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Ephesians 6:18

Prayer: Heavenly Father, let Your will be done in my life in Jesus name.



Show Love...Be Kind...Give

Text: Nehemiah 8:8-18

Friday, December 1, 2023

“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” Romans 5:5

Welcome to December, a special month for all peoples around the world. It is the last month of the year. A time that companies as well as individuals assess their performances in the outgoing year. They also get to re-strategize and project into the coming year.

December is a special month as millions of Christians embark on evangelistic efforts such as crusades and community outreaches, demonstrating the love of Christ to the world. It is the season when we celebrate the unconditional love, which God showed humanity when he sent Jesus Christ to the earth, to rescue us from everlasting separation from Him. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son that whosoever believeth In Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).*

This period presents us the opportunity to show love in practical terms and reawaken our love for humanity. It is a particularly good time to be more compassionate, more kind to others. It is a chance to demonstrate our love for Jesus Christ. December opens a window of opportunity for us to give to those less privileged amongst us and in our communities. Let us use this period to practically demonstrate charity to the weak and tell them that Jesus Christ cares about them and that He is enthusiastic about their well-being.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Romans 12:9

Prayer: Father, please help me to actively show true love to my fellow human beings just as Jesus loved us and left heaven and came to the world to die for us in Jesus' name. Amen!



Divine Encounter

Text: Genesis 50:24-25

Saturday, December 2, 2023

***“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people.”
Luke 1:68***

One encounter with God is all an individual needs for a glorious life? One encounter with God can change a life forever. It can turn sorrow to joy, pain to gain, and dead things can come alive. You need to regularly ask God for an encounter. It was revealed to Joseph that God would show up for Israel sometime in the future. He told Israel to take his bones back to his home country when God visits and takes them to the Promised Land. 400 years later, Israel was liberated from the bondage of Egypt through Moses. God visited His people just as He had promised.

Friends, God still gives encounters with people. It is called 'Divine Encounter'. I don't know the issues bothering you and giving you heartache. I don't know the challenge that is making you lose your sleep, and you are looking for a way out. The Lord will give you an encounter for a positive transformation in the name of Jesus Christ.

God has the solution to all the troubles of life. Any trouble that is withholding your peace shall be dealt with by an encounter from God in the name of Jesus Christ. Remember Hannah had an encounter with God, and her joy showed up. Who would have thought that Hannah who prayed for only one son, would become a mother of six children? Yet, it happened because God gave her an encounter. That challenge of many years in your life is about to give up.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Luke 1:68

Prayer: Lord, remember me and pay me a visit for good now in Jesus' name.



Be Renewed

Text: Ephesians 4: 22-32

Sunday, December 3, 2023

“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” Ephesians 4:23-24

In Romans 12: 1-2, Apostle Paul urges us to put off the '*Old Man*' and put on the '*New Man*'. The '*Old Man*' is the old sinful life, which hopefully you have left behind; the '*New Man*' is your new life in Christ. This means not being conformed to this world but transformed through faith by the grace that has been bestowed on you to the renewing of your mind.

We have been justified by faith and therefore we must walk in Christ. There is no other way to walk but to walk in holiness and obedience, it is then that grace and mercy will have full reign in our lives. The grace of God teaches us to live godly, soberly, and righteously and to deny all that is contrary to God's will. 1 Corinthians 6:20 says ***“The body is for the Lord and the Lord for the body”***. Glorify God with your body as His child.

Avoid the corruption that is pervading the world by being committed and totally devoted to the complete observance of and doing the will of God. The shortest and easiest way to achieve this is to do things right or do the right things always.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 55: 2-3

Prayer: My heavenly Father, let Your blessed Spirit make available to me “all the means of grace” in Jesus name.



What Do You Treasure Most In Life?

Text: Philippians 4:5-8

Monday, December 4, 2023

*“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”
Colossians 3:1-2*

The Bible tells us in Matthew 6:21 that: “...where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Going by this verse, we need to pause and examine the thoughts that fill our hearts on a regular basis. What thoughts are priority to us every day? What thoughts do we think on continuously?

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8

Our Bible text encourages us to continuously think on, meditate, and commit to heart, those things that are true, pure, just, honest and of excellent report. This is the will of God concerning us. It is vital for Christians to learn to align their thoughts with God's thoughts and to think as Christ thinks.

Set your heart on things above; let your mind stay connected to His mind always.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Philippians 4:8

Prayer: I repent of continually yielding my thoughts to carnal instincts. I choose love, forgiveness, truth, purity, honesty and everything of excellent report in Jesus name. Amen!



Do As Commanded

Text Leviticus 10:1-3

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

“And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” 1 Samuel 15:22

Our Bible text today indicates that God had given the Israelites a template on how the work in the temple should be done. However, two sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, chose to do their own bidding. They offered strange fire at the altar and God killed them instantly. Why did God kill them?

First, it was the consequence of their disobedience, their deviation from divine instruction. Second, it was to teach the living that neglecting divine direction can be fatal. It is instructive on how service to the Lord should not be handled carelessly.

Today, many Christians have set their own standards for worshiping God. They even get involved in unbiblical practices, in the name of serving the Lord. Unfortunately, many have died as a result, and a lot have been led astray. Have you been offering strange fire to the Lord? In John 4:24, Jesus teaches us how we ought to offer worship: *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”* God expects you to act as the Holy Spirit directs you and not otherwise (Romans 8:14).

The Word and Prayer

Word: Exodus 40:16

Prayer: Father, please give me the grace to strictly follow Your spiritual rules of engagement in Jesus' name. Amen.



Becoming Doers Of The Word

Text: Hebrews 4: 1-7

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,....the working of His mighty power” Ephesians 1: 17-19

As Christians, we must constantly expose ourselves to God's Word because the entrance of God's Word is what gives light and produces the faith we require to live a successful life. Psalm 119: 130 says ***“The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple” (New Living Translation).***

You must ensure you are able to garner a lot of knowledge of God's word and then go a step further by applying this knowledge. This requires wisdom. It is only the knowledge you use that can benefit you. Wisdom is described as the proper application of knowledge. Knowledge is useless if it is not used.

You have received a measure of the light of God's word. What you have to do however, is apply that knowledge of the word of God i.e., put God's word into practice. The measure of the word that you put into practice will determine the extent to which that negative situation or challenge will change. You cannot imagine how much of your world and that of others you can affect as you apply the word of God you have received.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Peter 3:18, James 1:22

Prayer: O Lord, I thank You for Your word; give me the grace to perform it and do that which pleases You in Jesus name.



Christians That Please God

Text: Acts. 11:26

Thursday, December 7, 2023

***"When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."
Proverbs 16:7 ESV***

The Bible says that there were a group of people, who when they came to a city called Antioch, (Antioch was a city in Syria in Damascus) were behaving in a particular fashion; and because of the way the people behaved, the people of Antioch called them Christians for the first time. There were some characteristics that these people exhibited that made people give them the appellation 'Christian'.

A Christian is a person that believes in Christ; a person who is saved by Christ, who believes in the death and the resurrection of Christ and has the belief that there is an atonement through the blood of Jesus Christ. So, if you believe in God and you follow Jesus Christ, you are a Christian.

So, if you believe in Christ and follow Christ, you can be called a Christian but it's not quite as simple as that. The Christians who follow Christ must please the Lord that he follows. You must work and behave like the one you believe in. God expects you to please Him as His child. You should please God because it's an opportunity to declare your allegiance to Jesus. You should please God so that you can enjoy peace because Proverbs 16:17 says, *"When a man's way please the Lord, He will make even his enemies to be at peace with him"*. If you please God, you will reign here on earth and you will go to heaven.

The Word and Prayer

Word: John 8:29, Colossians 1: 9-10

Prayer: Father, help me to live a Christ-like life in the name of Jesus.



The Small Simple Things

Text: 1 Corinthians 1: 27-28

Friday, December 8, 2023

“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, this is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.” Zechariah 4:6

God tells us in our memory verse above that it is not by might nor by our power but by God's Spirit that the supernatural will happen in our lives and in this world. He takes us a step further to instruct us not to despise the days of small things and small beginnings (Zechariah 4:10).

God uses what looks like insignificant steps of faith to accomplish great things in life. Many times, we have missed the supernatural and failed to see the impossible become possible because we overlook small things that were within our power to do. These small things even though they seem insignificant should have been done leading to greater things.

We often fall into the situation of Andrew the disciple in the story of the five loaves and two fishes who said, *“What are they among so many?”* (John 6: 8-9). Whatever your situation and whatever you do, don't think, or say that something is small, do everything in the name of the Lord. We are dealing with a great God. Our Bible reading tells us that God uses the foolish and weak things to confound the wise and mighty. He would use that which you consider insignificant to bring about outstanding miracles in your life in Jesus name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Jeremiah 32:19

Prayer: My Father, help me to be faithful in all things in Jesus name.



When God Is Angry With You

Text: 1 Kings 11: 9-14

Saturday, December 9, 2023

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth." Romans 1:18 ESV

The passage above is what you called the epitaph of the wisest man on earth. God was angry with Solomon because his heart had turned from the Lord. Numbers 22: 21-22 tells us that if God is angry with you, your way may be blocked.

Numbers 32: 10-13 tells us that the Lord's anger was kindled against the children of Israel and he swore saying, ***"surely, none of the men that came up out of Egypt from twenty years old and upward shall see the land."*** God was angry with the children of Israel. They had come out of the land of Israel and they had provoked God.

My prayer is that God will not swear against you in Jesus' name. When there is no promotion, when there is no breakthrough, when your bank account is consistently dry, when the windows of heaven are shut against you, God may be angry with you. God was angry with Solomon and changed His mind and took his kingdom. My prayer is that God will not reverse His promises concerning you. Friends, God is to be feared. The most painful thing is that God's anger towards Solomon affected his son Rehoboam more.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Nahum 1: 2-6

Prayer: Father, please help me and grant me the grace not to do anything that will make You angry with me in the name of Jesus.



Seek The Kingdom Of God

Text: Luke 10: 38-42

Sunday, December 10, 2023

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” Luke 10: 41-42

The Bible says *“seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness and everything else will fall into place” Matthew 6:33*. If you are truly a Christian and you truly pursue after the teachings, lifestyle and character of Christ, your life will become better, you will have more satisfaction, you will have greater joy, you will have more happiness, you will have all the things you spend your time and resources looking for. All the things that you are looking for will come and look for you. All you need to do is to seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness and all the things that you are looking for will come and look for you because you have got the right thing.

Solomon wrote in Proverbs 14:12 that *“there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death”* Jeremiah added: *“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps”* (Jeremiah 10:23). Repentance and belief are the two foundational stepping stones by which entrance into this glorious Kingdom will be permitted.

The reason we must repent is because *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). Romans 6:23 adds that *“the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* The Bible reveals that *“the carnal [natural, human] mind is enmity [hostile] against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be”* (Romans 8:7). We thus need a change in thinking that will then lead to turning away from sin and keeping God's commandments.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Deuteronomy 4:29

Prayer: Lord, let Your kingdom come and let Your will be done in my life in Jesus name.



The Christian

Text: Titus 3: 1-8

Monday, December 11, 2023

"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." Romans 8:29 ESV

Our churches are no longer raising up disciples: people who can go out in the marketplace (the world) and stand for Christ. You truly know Christians by their composure, their behaviour, their attitude, their speech, their dressing, and the way they treat other people. A Christian is Christ-like, a Christian behaves just like Jesus.

The name Christian was formed after the behaviour of Christ-like men; men who behaved, dressed, prayed, performed miracles, comported themselves and spoke like Christ. It is worrying that today, one cannot tell a Christian from others. The only time you know that they are Christians is if you see them coming out of a building that seems to have some praise and worship, some hymns and some singing going on but as soon as they get on to the streets and everybody is in the market place, you are not so sure about them anymore and that is becoming a problem, and an issue because it means that our gospel is no longer being preached and everyone is coming to church or to Christ for what they can get and not what they can give.

One of the challenges of Christianity is that the Christ of Christianity is being shut out. We need to ensure we are coming to church for Christ and not just for miracles or power because if you find Christ, you will find power. He does not live in the building or walls of the church, but He lives inside you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 John 2:6, 1 Corinthians 11:1

Prayer: Lord, help me to be a true Christian in the name of Jesus.



The Word of God

Text: 1 Peter 2:2

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Our Bible text today encourages us to be as little babies and long for the milk of the word of God. The Bible is the written word of God. It is compared to milk because of the crucial role milk plays in babies' growth. By the word, we grow spiritually and physically. Everything that we need, to be fulfilled in life, is in the word of God.

The barren have received fruitfulness through this word. The word has turned poverty to prosperity, cured the incurable, and changed sinners to saints. What the word of God has done in the lives of people is unquantifiable. The word of God raises the dead, brings hope alive to those whose are in despair. The word of God produces all-round growth. That is why you cannot afford to toy with the word.

God has exalted His word above His name and so, if you really want to grow, never trivialize it. Hear David in Psalms 119:9: *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.”* Brethren, how do you value the word of God? How much of the word of God do you have in you? Choose to grow in your commitment to the study and practice of the word of God.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Colossians 3:16

Prayer: My Lord and my Maker, help me to make Your holy word the bedrock of my life in Jesus' name. Amen!



A Peculiar People

Text: 1 Samuel 8: 19-22

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

“If ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people, for all the earth is Mine:” Exodus 19:5

The Bible says, in Deuteronomy 7:6, *“For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth”*. From our Bible text, the Israelites wanted to be like other nations so they demanded for a king over them like other nations had. When they were told the consequences of their demand, they insisted on having their way and they paid dearly for it. The Israelites forgot that they were special to God.

Today, are you comparing yourself with others? Are you doing what you are doing because others are doing such? Apostle Paul in Romans 12:2 tells us that: *“Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”*. You must not conform to the system of the world. You must be unique.

God has made you a peculiar people and a treasure for Himself (Exodus 19:5). 1 Peter 2:9 says *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”*

The Word and Prayer

Word: Deuteronomy 14:2

Prayer: O Lord, I thank You for giving me the privilege of being a peculiar treasure for You in Jesus name.



Be A Student Of The Holy Spirit

Text: John 14:26

Thursday, December 14, 2023

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Romans 8:14

As a child of God, the Spirit of God bears witness with your spirit that you are His. *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:” (Romans 8:16).* As children of God, we must understand that we are all students under the Holy Spirit. That is why our text tells us that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things and bring to our remembrance the things we had previously known.

We need the Holy Spirit to accurately interpret the Word of God to us. Be willing to submit to the school of the Holy Spirit. He can groom us to perfection. A lot of people including Christians always say that nobody is perfect. Yes, God knows that nobody is perfect, but He still said, *“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”* We can attain perfection if we lean tenaciously on the Holy Spirit to teach us, guide us, and instruct us.

When God said that Holy Spirit will teach us all things and brings all things to our remembrance, what He meant is that we should submit our total beings to the Holy Spirit. In that way, we become teachable, and our lives will move up every inch - spiritually, physically, financially. The Holy Spirit is to us what Christ was to the disciples while here on earth – friend, teacher, counsellor, guide, and mentor.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Zechariah 4:6

Prayer: O Lord my Father, help me to submit totally to the dictates of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. Amen!



Come And See

Text: John 1: 35-42

Friday, December 15, 2023

“Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great.... that Christ should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.” Acts 26: 22-23

When John the Baptist met Jesus, he could not help but proclaim the Lord. When he opened his mouth about Jesus, two people who heard him speak followed the Lord. When you meet Jesus and become born again, the first thing you must do is to open your mouth and proclaim God's salvation. Revelation 12:11 says our testimonies makes us overcomers.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother, Simon, and said to him: ***“We have found the Messiah”*** (which is translated, the Christ). Note that a chain reaction had started. John the Baptist says: ***“Behold the Lamb of God”*** and two men followed Jesus. One of them goes for his brother and brings him to Jesus. You will observe the word used says ***'first'*** found his own brother. This shows that you too must start from your home, your family, to tell them about Jesus.

Finally, we have the interesting case of the testimony of Philip about Jesus to Nathaniel. To persuade Nathaniel, Philip said: ***“Come and See”***. These short snippets from the first chapter of the Gospel according to John reveal to us what to do, to bring our friends and loved ones to Christ. You should be inviting them to ***“Come and See”***.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Peter 3:15

Prayer: My heavenly Father, empower me to be a vessel that will spread the Good News to friends and loved ones in Jesus name.



Be Not Unequally Yoked

Text: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Saturday, December 16, 2023

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” 2 Corinthians 6:17

There was a point in our lives when we were unbelievers. Those who had given their hearts to Jesus Christ addressed us as unbelievers because that is what we were. Today, by the grace of God, we are a different people. We have submitted to Christ, and He has made us part of His family. Because we are now in a totally new realm, God enjoins us to separate ourselves from evil. We are now a chosen generation, mandated to operate as Kingdom children in all that we do. (1 Peter 2:9)

Being separated from the world does not mean that we should isolate ourselves from people who are yet to know Christ. It does not mean that we should not mingle with them. After all, we have them as office colleagues, former classmates, even church members. If we completely isolate ourselves from them, how do we win them for Christ?

God is only telling us to separate ourselves anything sinful or evil they may be into or are doing. Do not be a part of any act that is contrary to the word of God, which they may come up with. We cannot claim to be the light and people see us operating in darkness. As a child of God, you are the light of the world, so go on and beam the light that is in you.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 59:1-2

Prayer: Lord, by Your refining fire, separate me from the sinful activities of the world in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen



Be Strong

Text: Ephesians 6: 10-18

Sunday, December 17, 2023

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

Life is a battle and very few people win this battle. The graveyard is full, and it is full of a lot of unfulfilled dreams and a lot of unachieved potentials; therein lies the bones of many men who have failed the battle of life. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that whether you know it or not, we are in a battle: there is a wrestling match going on and you and I are involved.

For many of us, there is one difficulty or the other, there is something that you are contesting against, fighting against that is beginning to destabilise you. Enemies you do not know, adversaries that you cannot see who are just fighting you for no obvious reasons.

If you are going through this life's battle, God will hear you when you cry to Him. Have things changed for you, has your life suddenly changed from a place of glory to a place of wilderness. A small mistake has thrown you off the course of life and now things are so tight. The Bible says Ishmael (meaning 'God hears') was in the wilderness about to die but he cried out to God and God heard him. My prayer is that God will hear your prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Deuteronomy 31:6, 2 Timothy 1:7

Prayer: Lord, fight for me and help me to win in every battle of my life in Jesus name.



The Blessings Of Abraham

Text: Genesis 17: 1-10

Monday, December 18, 2023

"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Genesis 17:1-2

A blessing is based on a covenant, it is based on an agreement; there is something that you must give up to be blessed. There must be a commitment on your part to be blessed. A blessing is not a favour; a blessing is not a gift of compassion. It is something that you earn; it is something that you pay for; it is something you give up something for, so that you may guarantee your blessing

The blessings of Abraham are guaranteed because they are based on a covenant that remained unbroken until Abraham died. A lot of people refer to Genesis 12:1-3 as the blessings of Abraham, but those are promises to Abraham and not the blessings of the covenant. God was just trying to get Abraham to be born again and told him in Genesis 12: 1-3, if you become born again, these things I promise you.

Genesis 17 tells us the terms of the covenant between Abraham and God. Because Abraham was a man of obedience and holiness; he obeyed God without thinking. For you to get the blessings of Abraham, you need to be ready to obey God without thinking.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Jeremiah 7:23

Prayer: Lord, help me to be ready to obey You in all things in the name of Jesus.



Kindness

Text: 2 Samuel 9: 1-13

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea they may forget, yet will I not forget thee” – Isaiah 49:15

The Bible passage you have read today is a marvelous story. With no known modern orthopedic techniques of today, Mephibosheth was expecting to live not only with a disability but in poverty. How was a cripple to hold a job in that age? Mephibosheth reportedly said to David in 2 Samuel 9:8, *“what is your servant, that you should look upon a dead dog such as I”?*

Mephibosheth certainly suffered in spirit as well as body, just like so many of us with one form of disability or the other, do suffer today. Disability comes in many forms. He thought of himself as damaged goods and was treated as such by society. The Lord will remove every disability and its effects from you in Jesus name.

What was it that made David treat Mephibosheth differently? The answer lies in one word, kindness and is used three times in 2 Samuel 9 that we read. The Hebrew word used here is *'hesed'*, which is translated as kindness or mercy. The Bible portrays God as a God of mercy, even to His enemies. David though a sinner, knew God, and knew that he needed mercy. But the good and applicable part of this about David is that what he got from God, he gave to Mephibosheth.

The message is about the kind of grace that reaches out to the undeserving and lifts them out of their poor condition, forever changing them and their surroundings. It may be at this minute that you need this kind of grace in your life. If it is so, I prophecy into your life that you will have this undeserving and great grace in the name of Jesus.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 49:13

Prayer: Lord, I thank you and take delivery of the all round benefits, which you have graciously provided for me in the name of Jesus.



Divine Reward

Text: Genesis 41: 37-45

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

“The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble, the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; send thee help from the sanctuary and strengthen thee out of Zion” Psalm 20:1-2

In Matthew 5: 1-12, our Lord Jesus, lists rewards offered to believers. If these were the only rewards offered in the Bible, they would be enough to encourage every person to want to live the Christian life. In concluding Christ said: *“Great is your reward in heaven”* (Matthew 5:12). This is what we are looking at and to encourage us to keep pressing forward towards the mark the Lord has set before us.

God rewards those who diligently seek and obey Him. Have you been serving the Lord faithfully and it seems no one notices or rewards you or shows appreciation? Jehovah El-Shaddai will reward you according to His promises. Frustration more often than not steps into the life of an individual when help seems not forthcoming, and no helper is in view and the situation seems hopeless.

God has given us a promise, that if we seek Him earnestly, we shall be rewarded. When God called Abraham to go into a land that He didn't know, God promised to give him many things. God promised many blessings, but above all God Himself promised to be Abraham's reward. God as a reward is much greater than anything we can receive from Him. You should not look to God just as the rewarder, which He is, but as the reward Himself. You should seek God Himself, and not just His hands.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Peter 5:10

Prayer: O Lord my God, remember me for good and settle me in your own divine way in Jesus name.



God Will Make You Laugh

Text: Ecclesiastes 10:19

Thursday, December 21, 2023

***“And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.”
Genesis 21:6***

When last did you have a good, hearty laugh? And when last did you put a smile on someone's face? In a world riddled with stress, it is necessary to laugh and ease off the stress. You will be amazed at the drones of people that lose their lives every day from stress-related diseases. Laughter evokes happiness.

Our text establishes that a feast is made for laughter, and we all know that in a social gathering, there is always abundance of laughter, as people unwind, eat, drink and ease off tension. In Genesis 21:6, Mother Sarah testified that God had brought her laughter after many years of barrenness, bitterness, and sorrow.

Laughter makes life pleasant, healthier, and friendlier. Can you just imagine what life would be like if everybody was moody and melancholic? Nobody would have wanted such a world. People enjoy a friendly environment, where they can laugh, and live happily. That was God's original plan for man.

Only the Holy Spirit gives enduring joy. Today, God will fill your mouth with laughter in Jesus' name. Jesus is the ultimate giver of joy. Jesus is the source of true joy and happiness. He is the One who gives the peace that passes all understanding.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 126:2

Prayer: Father, help me to laugh in Christ for the rest of my life in Jesus' name. Amen



Each Moment

Text: Psalm 90: 12-17

Friday, December 22, 2023

“LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am” – Psalm 39:4

For us to make the most of any moment and/or opportunities, we need God to teach and guide us. Every life event is sent our way to teach us something about God and ourselves. Life is a whole bunch of lessons and if we fail to learn the lessons, we will find ourselves living meaningless and empty lives.

Every day, you and I are faced with choices and circumstances that we can either ignore or hope they will go away or embrace and allow God to make the best out of them. God has a perfect plan and purpose for everything that happens to us. We can get wrapped up in the event of the day, going through with heartless, passionless motions or we can see this moment right now as a chance to stop, listen, learn, embrace, value, savour, and do exploits.

How we embrace each moment in our lives, how we stop and think about what we are living for, how we take each event, whether good or bad, and how we respond, is important to our lives and God. The world measures success by wealth, power, numbers; God measures success by our faithfulness and humanity. We have a chance today, and every other day, to see our lives changed by the power of God. Take each moment, each event, and each day one at a time.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Deuteronomy 32:29

Prayer: Lord, teach me to be faithful and may your faithfulness build confidence in our lives in Jesus name.



Are You A Witness?

Text: Isaiah 43:12

Saturday, December 23, 2023

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

One major reason God did not take you to heaven immediately you got born again was so you could be a witness for Him here on earth. Our duty to Jesus is to keep testifying of His goodness and the power of salvation to all mankind till He calls us home or we meet Him at the rapture.

As witnesses, we must live credible, pure, and holy lives. You cannot be a witness and avoid all those things Paul mentions in Colossians 3:5-8. How can our witness be effective when we are doing these things, which used to be associated with our old selves.

Are you a true witness of Christ? We are supposed to follow the footsteps of Jesus and those worthy witnesses of His who have come before us, whose exemplary character won countless souls for Jesus Christ.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Isaiah 44:8

Prayer: Lord, please help me to be a true witness of Jesus Christ in this world in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!



Heaven Meets The Earth

Text: Luke 2: 7–14

Sunday, December 24, 2023

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” – Luke 2:14

In today's Bible reading, after the angel broke the joyful news of the birth of Jesus to the Shepherds, a multitude of the heavenly host suddenly appeared praising God and proclaiming goodwill towards all the earth. The shepherds were going about their normal duty, keeping watch over their flock when they received angelic visitation. When Heaven visits the earth, it is accompanied by angelic visitation. This season, whatever your situation or challenge you will receive angelic visitation in Jesus name.

Another experience by the shepherds was that the glory of God shone around them as they were visited. Jesus is the light that dispels every darkness (John 1: 4–5). God's glory and light will shine on you and your family. As this happens, all your fears will be dispelled in Jesus' name. Have you been battling with your decision to follow Christ and your inability to sustain that decision? Jesus is saying to you: 'Fear not I will uphold you, I will sustain you, I will carry you and give you my strength' – keep to that decision to follow Him absolutely.

When Heaven visits the earth, good news that brings inexplicable joy is the result. In this season, good news that brings unspeakable joy will reach you and you will not be able to hide it. Heaven will visit you and every sorrow will be turned to joy. Your joy will be overflowing in Jesus' name.

The Word and Prayer

Word: 1 Peter 1:8

Prayer: Father Lord, I thank you for your blessings and gifts please enable me to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ to others in Jesus' name.



The King Is Here

Text: Matthew 1:21

Monday, December 25, 2023

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

Our Bible text today reads, *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.”* This was part of the message that the angel who appeared to Joseph, the husband of Mary delivered to the young man. The couple would give birth to the Saviour of the world.

The prophecies of thousands of years earlier (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Micah 5:2) came to fulfilment on the glorious, quiet night that Jesus Christ was born. The birth of Jesus Christ is the greatest landmark in human history.

God Almighty left His royal robe of divinity and His throne in heaven and took on mortal flesh to become human like us. He lived among us, cried like us, suffered like us, and eventually died for the redemption of our souls. What can be greater and more sacrificial than this? Jesus is not just a king; He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Hallelujah!

While wining, dining, rejoicing, and making merry in this festive season, know that Jesus is the reason for the season! The King is here! Hallelujah!

The Word and Prayer

Word: 2 Timothy 4:5

Prayer: Lord please, help me to value Your sacrifice for me and take my salvation seriously in Jesus' name. Amen!



Love Your Neighbour As Yourself

Text: Luke 10:30-37

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” Galatians 5:14

Our devotional today centres on loving our neighbours. While that man and that woman who live around you are your neighbours, Jesus Christ gave us a broader definition of who a neighbour is. He tells the story of a certain man, who was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho and on the way, ran into thieves that beat him up leaving him half-dead, with serious injuries.

A priest saw him lying on the road and walked past without offering to help. A Levite saw him also and did same. These were men of the clergy. But then, came a Samaritan, somebody who was regarded as an unbeliever in that cultural setting. He picked up the dying man, took him to an inn and paid his medical bill.

Jesus then asked a very key question: Who was the man's neighbour? The audience responded that it was the Samaritan man. Jesus told them to go and do likewise. Are you a neighbour indeed? Have you been a good neighbour like the Good Samaritan? From Jesus' narrative, your neighbour can be anywhere - on the road, in the office, at the market, in church, wherever you find yourself. Whosoever you are able to help, that person is your neighbour.

The Word and Prayer

Word: John 13:34

Prayer: Father, please help me to be a neighbour indeed everywhere I find myself in Jesus name. Amen!



Holiness Is Key

Text: 1 Peter 1: 13–16

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

“Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God” – Psalms 92:13

To flourish you must be holy; sin and prosperity do not walk together. Sin erodes your foundation for flourishing in prosperity, leaving only emptiness. According to Psalms 92:12 only the righteous will possess the capacity to flourish like the palm tree.

“But as He which hath called you is holy so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.” Apart from flourishing here on earth, we are also heaven bound and so must strive to please God and the Bible says it is impossible to see God without holiness (Hebrews 12:14).

As we move towards the close of the year, what is the state of your life in terms of living a holy life? Be sincere with yourself in answering this question. God who has brought you so far has plans for you to end well not only here on earth but also in Heaven. How holy are you? To what extent do you obey God's word? How pure are your thoughts? How clean are your hands? Are you involved in shady deals? Search yourself.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 139: 23-24

Prayer: Oh God my Father, help me to live a holy life daily without compromise in Jesus name.



Forgiveness

Text: Mark 11:25-26

Thursday, December 28, 2023

“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Matthew 6:14-15

An online article by Johns Hopkins Medicine, *Forgiveness: Your Health Depends on It*, had this to say about forgiveness:

Studies have shown that the act of forgiveness can reap huge rewards for your health, lowering the risk of heart attack; improving cholesterol levels and sleep; and reducing pain, blood pressure, and levels of anxiety, depression, and stress.

Our Bible text encourages forgiving our offenders. Brethren, understand that as long as you are in this world, people will offend you. Refuse to be offended, no matter whom the devil uses to bring the offence your way. In Luke 17:1, Jesus already alerted us that offences will certainly come but we must be like Him. He was never offended through all the ways the Pharisees, Sadducees and teachers of the Law always tried to get Him offended. Also, Stephen, at the point of his death, forgave and still prayed for those stoning him.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to be patient and overlook offences. Follow peace with all men and holiness. If Jesus Christ, Stephen, and the rest of Jesus' disciples overcame offences in this world and made it to heaven, you too will win. Amen.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Matthew 18: 21-35

Prayer: Father, please help me to forgive those who had or may offend me in Jesus' name. Amen!



Love Wins All

Text: 1 Corinthians 13

Friday, December 29, 2023

“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.” 1st Peter 4:8

Love is an intentional act to do right, regardless of good or bad feelings and emotions (sometimes, our loved ones may upset us). Our Bible text for today gives us what we can term the full measure of love's template. It is a bit of a long list, but it clearly describes what love is.

It says, love is: *i. Patient; ii. Kind; iii. Does not envy; iv. Does not boast; v. It's not proud; vi. It's not selfish; vii. Does not easily pick offence; viii. Does not harbour evil; ix. Does not take pleasure in abomination but rejoices in truth; x. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes and endures all things.*

In our world today, there is so much hatred, betrayal, acrimony, bitterness etc., because, essentially, love is missing amongst us. Being mean and disrespectful is almost becoming fashionable now. This is particularly rampant on social media platforms, where people insult others whom they don't even know in person, just for merely expressing their opinion on an issue. That ought not to be so with us, as Christians.

Love is kind. Love covers a multitude of sins. Jesus came to the world because He loves us. What have you sacrificed for others in love?

The Word and Prayer

Word: John 3:16

Prayer: Father, please fill my heart with Your love afresh in the name of Jesus. Amen!



Don't Waste Time

Text: 1st Chronicles 12:32, 1st Corinthians 7:29-31

Saturday, December 30, 2023

“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” Ephesians 5:16-17

Most Nigerians are familiar with the pidgin saying '*Time na money*'. The English have something similar in the maxim 'Time waits for no man'. Child of God, these two sayings point us to the need to make the most of our time. We need to wake up from spiritual slumber, sloth, and idleness, and pick up our gauntlet. It is time to contend for our salvation because the devil is ready to fight dirty to snatch it.

It is time to act wisely like the children of Issachar who had an understanding of the times. They knew what Israel ought to do per time and planned accordingly. Are you aware that we are in the last days? Are you aware that Jesus Christ may come any time soon? That is why our second text hints at the shortness of time and warns that we should live each day as if it was our last.

Redeem the time because the days are evil. It is time to be more serious with your heavenly race. When last did you remind someone about the imminence of the rapture? Waste no more time on things that are irrelevant to your salvation. Be alert to the things of the Spirit.

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 90:12

Prayer: Father, help me to redeem my time as I walk with You in Jesus' name. Amen!



Hallelujah!

Texts: Psalms 150, 103

Sunday, December 31, 2023

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” Psalms 100:4

Today, we shall bid farewell to the year 2023. What can we say to the Lord, if not thank you? He has graciously brought us to the last day of the year; what an awesome God. **That song writer said:** *Awesome God, how great You are. You are God, mighty are Your miracles, we stand in awe of Your holy name, LORD we bow and worship You.*

We are indeed grateful for His many miracles and deliverances, His grace, love, and outstretched arm that He revealed to us throughout the year 2023. With humble hearts, we declare:

How excellent is Your name, O, Lord; how mighty You are. We adore You, O, LORD for counting us worthy to be among the living on the last day of 2023. Thank You for sparing our lives till today. We entered this last month with thanksgiving and praises. As we come to the end of 2023, everything in us says, “Thank you, Lord!!!”

The Word and Prayer

Word: Psalms 100

Prayer: Lord, please give us the grace to ever be thankful to you and to worship You all the days of our lives, in Jesus' name. Amen!

One Year Chronological Bible Reader

January

Jan 1: Gen 1-3
Jan 2: Gen 4-7
Jan 3: Gen 8-11
Jan 4: Job 1-5
Jan 5: Job 6-9
Jan 6: Job 10-13
Jan 7: Job 14-16
Jan 8: Job 17-20
Jan 9: Job 21-23
Jan 10: Job 24-28
Jan 11: Job 29-31
Jan 12: Job 32-34
Jan 13: Job 35-37
Jan 14: Job 38-39
Jan 15: Job 40-42
Jan 16: Gen 12-15
Jan 17: Gen 16-18
Jan 18: Gen 19-21
Jan 19: Gen 22-24
Jan 20: Gen 25-26
Jan 21: Gen 27-29
Jan 22: Gen 30-31
Jan 23: Gen 32-34
Jan 24: Gen 35-37
Jan 25: Gen 38-40
Jan 26: Gen 41-42
Jan 27: Gen 43-45
Jan 28: Gen 46-47
Jan 29: Gen 48-50
Jan 30: Ex 1-3
Jan 31: Ex 4-6

February

Feb 1: Ex 7-9
Feb 2: Ex 10-12
Feb 3: Ex 13-15
Feb 4: Ex 16-18
Feb 5: Ex 19-21
Feb 6: Ex 22-24
Feb 7: Ex 25-27
Feb 8: Ex 28-29
Feb 9: Ex 30-32
Feb 10: Ex 33-35
Feb 11: Ex 36-38
Feb 12: Ex 39-40
Feb 13: Lev 1-4
Feb 14: Lev 5-7
Feb 15: Lev 8-10
Feb 16: Lev 11-13
Feb 17: Lev 14-15
Feb 18: Lev 16-18
Feb 19: Lev 19-21
Feb 20: Lev 22-23
Feb 21: Lev 24-25
Feb 22: Lev 26-27
Feb 23: Num 1-2
Feb 24: Num 3-4
Feb 25: Num 5-6
Feb 26: Num 7
Feb 27: Num 8-10
Feb 28: Num 11 -12
Feb 29: Num 13

March

Mar 1: Num 14-15; Psalm 90
Mar 2: Num 16-17
Mar 3: Num 18-20
Mar 4: Num 21-22
Mar 5: Num 23-25
Mar 6: Num 26-27
Mar 7: Num 28-30
Mar 8: Num 31-32
Mar 9: Num 33-34
Mar 10: Num 35-36
Mar 11: Deut 1-2
Mar 12: Deut 3-4
Mar 13: Deut 5-7
Mar 14: Deut 8-10
Mar 15: Deut 11-13
Mar 16: Deut 14-16
Mar 17: Deut 17-20
Mar 18: Deut 21-23
Mar 19: Deut 24-27
Mar 20: Deut 28-29
Mar 21: Deut 30-31
Mar 22: Deut 32-34; Psalm 91
Mar 23: Josh 1-4
Mar 24: Josh 5-8
Mar 25: Josh 9-11
Mar 26: Josh 12-15
Mar 27: Josh 16-18
Mar 28: Josh 19-21
Mar 29: Josh 22-24
Mar 30: Judges 1-2
Mar 31: Judges 3-5

April

Apr 1: Judges 6-7
Apr 2: Judges 8-9
Apr 3: Judges 10-12
Apr 4: Judges 13-15
Apr 5: Judges 16-18
Apr 6: Judges 19-21
Apr 7: Ruth
Apr 8: 1 Sam 1-3
Apr 9: 1 Sam 4-8
Apr 10: 1 Sam 9-12
Apr 11: 1 Sam 13-14
Apr 12: 1 Sam 15-17
Apr 13: 1 Sam 18-20; Ps 11/59
Apr 14: 1 Sam 21-24
Apr 15: Psalm 7/27/31/34/52
Apr 16: Psalm 56/120/140-142
Apr 17: 1 Sam 25-27
Apr 18: Psalm 17/35/54/63
Apr 19: 1 Sam 28-31; Ps18
Apr 20: Psalm 121/123-125/128-130
Apr 21: 2 Sam 1-4
Apr 22: Psalm 6/8-10/14/16/19/21
Apr 23: 1 Chron 1-2
Apr 24: Psalm 43-45/49/84-85/87
Apr 25: 1 Chron 3-5
Apr 26: Psalm 73/77-78
Apr 27: 1 Chron 6
Apr 28: Psalm 81/88/92-93
Apr 29: 1 Chron 7-10
Apr 30: Psalm 102-104

May

May 1: 2 Sam 5:1-10; 1 Chron 11-12
May 2: Psalm 133
May 3: Psalm 106-107
May 4: 2 Sam 5:11-6:23; 1 Chron 13-16
May 5: Psalm 1-2/15/22-24/47/68
May 6: Psalm 89/96/100-101/105/132
May 7: 2 Sam 7; 1 Chron 17
May 8: Psalm 25/29/33/36/39
May 9: 2 Sam 8-9; 1 Chron 18
May 10: Psalm 50/53/60/75
May 11: 2 Sam 10; 1 Chron 19; Ps 20
May 12: Psalm 65-67/69-70
May 13: 2 Sam 11-12; 1 Chron 20
May 14: Psalm 32/51/86/122
May 15: 2 Sam 13-15
May 16: Psalm 3-4/12-13/28/55
May 17: 2 Samuel 16-18
May 18: Psalm 26/40/58/61-62/64
May 19: 2 Sam 19-21
May 20: Psalm 5/38/41-42
May 21: 2 Sam 22-23; Ps 57
May 22: Psalm 95/97-99
May 23: 2 Sam 24; 1 Chron 21-22; Psalm 30
May 24: Psalm 108-110
May 25: 1 Chron 23-25
May 26: Psalm 131/138-139/143-145
May 27: 1 Chron 26-29; Ps 127

May 28: Psalm 111-118
May 29: 1 King 1-2; Psalm 37/71/94
May 30: Psalm 119:1-88
May 31: 1 King 3-4; 2 Chron 1; Ps 72

June

Jun 1: Psalm 119:89-176
Jun 2: Songs of Solomon
Jun 3: Proverbs 1-3
Jun 4: Proverbs 4-6
Jun 5: Proverbs 7-9
Jun 6: Proverbs 10-12
Jun 7: Proverbs 13-15
Jun 8: Proverbs 16-18
Jun 9: Proverbs 19-21
Jun 10: Proverbs 22-24
Jun 11: 1 King 5-6; 2 Chron 2-3
Jun 12: 1 King 7; 2 Chron 4
Jun 13: 1 King 8; 2 Chron 5
Jun 14: 2 Chron 6-7; Psalm 136
Jun 15: Psalm 134/146-150
Jun 16: 1 King 9; 2 Chron 8
Jun 17: Proverbs 25-26
Jun 18: Proverbs 27-29
Jun 19: Eccl 1-6
Jun 20: Eccl 7-12
Jun 21: 1 King 10-11; 2 Chron 9
Jun 22: Proverbs 30-31
Jun 23: 1 King 12-14
Jun 24: 2 Chron 10-12
Jun 25: 1 King 15:1-24; 2 Chron 13-16
Jun 26: 1 King 15:25-16:34; 2 Chron 17
Jun 27: 1 King 17-19

Jun 28: 1 King 20-21
Jun 29: 1 King 22; 2 Chron 18
Jun 30: 2 Chron 19-23

July

Jul 1: Obadiah; Ps 82-83
Jul 2: 2 King 1-4
Jul 3: 2 King 5-8
Jul 4: 2 King 9-11
Jul 5: 2 King 12-13; 2 Chron 24
Jul 6: 2 King 14; 2 Chron 25
Jul 7: Jonah
Jul 8: 2 King 15; 2 Chron 26
Jul 9: Isaiah 1-4
Jul 10: Isaiah 5-8
Jul 11: Amos 1-5
Jul 12: Amos 6-9
Jul 13: 2 Chron 27; Isaiah 9-12
Jul 14: Micah
Jul 15: 2 Chron 28; 2 King 16-17
Jul 16: Isaiah 13-17
Jul 17: Isaiah 18-22
Jul 18: Isaiah 23-27
Jul 19: 2 King 18:1-8; 2 Chron 29-31; Psalm 48
Jul 20: Hosea 1-7
Jul 21: Hosea 8-14
Jul 22: Isaiah 28-30
Jul 23: Isaiah 31-34
Jul 24: Isaiah 35-36
Jul 25: Isaiah 37-39; Psalm 76
Jul 26: Isaiah 40-43
Jul 27: Isaiah 44-48
Jul 28: 2 King 18:9-19:37; Psalm 46/80/135

Jul 29: Isaiah 49-53
Jul 30: Isaiah 54-58
Jul 31: Isaiah 59-63

August

Aug 1: Isaiah 64-66
Aug 2: 2 King 20-21
Aug 3: 2 Chron 32-33
Aug 4: Nahum
Aug 5: 2 King 22-23; 2 Chron 34-35
Aug 6: Zephaniah
Aug 7: Jeremiah 1-3
Aug 8: Jeremiah 4-6
Aug 9: Jeremiah 7-9
Aug 10: Jeremiah 10-13
Aug 11: Jeremiah 14-17
Aug 12: Jeremiah 18-22
Aug 13: Jeremiah 23-25
Aug 14: Jeremiah 26-29
Aug 15: Jeremiah 30-31
Aug 16: Jeremiah 32-34
Aug 17: Jeremiah 35-37
Aug 18: Jeremiah 38-40; Psalm 74/79
Aug 19: 2 King 24-25; 2 Chron 36
Aug 20: Habakkuk
Aug 21: Jeremiah 41-45
Aug 22: Jeremiah 46-48
Aug 23: Jeremiah 49-50
Aug 24: Jeremiah 51-52
Aug 25: Lamentations 1:1-3:36
Aug 26: Lamentations 3:37-5:22
Aug 27: Ezekiel 1-4
Aug 28: Ezekiel 5-8

Aug 29: Ezekiel 9-12
Aug 30: Ezekiel 13-15
Aug 31: Ezekiel 16-17

September

Sep 1: Ezekiel 18-19
Sep 2: Ezekiel 20-21
Sep 3: Ezekiel 22-23
Sep 4: Ezekiel 24-27
Sep 5: Ezekiel 28-31
Sep 6: Ezekiel 32-34
Sep 7: Ezekiel 35-37
Sep 8: Ezekiel 38-39
Sep 9: Ezekiel 40-41
Sep 10: Ezekiel 42-43
Sep 11: Ezekiel 44-45
Sep 12: Ezekiel 46-48
Sep 13: Joel
Sep 14: Daniel 1-3
Sep 15: Daniel 4-6
Sep 16: Daniel 7-9
Sep 17: Daniel 10-12
Sep 18: Ezra 1-3
Sep 19: Ezra 4-6; Ps 137
Sep 20: Haggai
Sep 21: Zechariah 1-7
Sep 22: Zechariah 8-14
Sep 23: Esther 1-5
Sep 24: Esther 6-10
Sep 25: Ezra 7-10
Sep 26: Nehemiah 1-5
Sep 27: Nehemiah 6-7
Sep 28: Nehemiah 8-10
Sep 29: Nehemiah 11-13;
Psalm 126
Sep 30: Malachi

October

Oct 1: Luke 1; John 1:1-14
Oct 2: Matt 1; Luke 2:1-38
Oct 3: Matt 2; Luke 2:39-52
Oct 4: Matt 3; Mark 1; Luke 3
Oct 5: Matt 4; Luke 4-5; John
1:15-51
Oct 6: John 2-4
Oct 7: Mark 2
Oct 8: John 5
Oct 9: Matt 12:1-21; Mark 3;
Luke 6
Oct 10: Matt 5-7
Oct 11: Matt 8:1-13; Luke 7
Oct 12: Matt 11
Oct 13: Matt 12:22-50
Oct 14: Matt 13; Luke 8
Oct 15: Matt 8:14-34; Mark 4-5
Oct 16: Matt 9-10
Oct 17: Matt 14; Mark 6; Luke
9:1-17
Oct 18: John 6
Oct 19: Matt 15; Mark 7
Oct 20: Matt 16; Mark 8; Luke
9:18-27
Oct 21: Matt 17; Mark 9; Luke
9:28-62
Oct 22: Matt 18
Oct 23: John 7-8
Oct 24: John 9:1-10:21
Oct 25: Luke 10-11; John
10:22-42
Oct 26: Luke 12-13
Oct 27: Luke 14-15
Oct 28: Luke 16-17:10
Oct 29: John 11
Oct 30: Luke 17:11-18:14
Oct 31: Matt 19; Mark 10

November

Nov 1: Matt 20-21
Nov 2: Luke 18:15-19:48
Nov 3: Mark 11; John 12
Nov 4: Matt 22; Mark 12
Nov 5: Matt 23; Luke 20-21
Nov 6: Mark 13
Nov 7: Matt 24
Nov 8: Matt 25
Nov 9: Matt 26; Mark 14
Nov 10: Luke 22; John 13
Nov 11: John 14-17
Nov 12: Matt 27; Mark 15
Nov 13: Luke 23; John 18-19
Nov 14: Matt 28; Mark 16
Nov 15: Luke 24; John 20-21
Nov 16: Acts 1-3
Nov 17: Acts 4-6
Nov 18: Acts 7-8
Nov 19: Acts 9-10
Nov 20: Acts 11-12
Nov 21: Acts 13-14
Nov 22: James
Nov 23: Acts 15-16
Nov 24: Gal 1-3
Nov 25: Gal 4-6
Nov 26: Acts 17-18:18
Nov 27: 1/2Thess
Nov 28: Acts 18:19-19:41
Nov 29: 1 Corinthians 1-4
Nov 30: 1 Corinthians 5-8

December

Dec 1: 1 Corinthians 9-11
Dec 2: 1 Corinthians 12-14
Dec 3: 1 Corinthians 15-16
Dec 4: 2 Corinthians 1-4
Dec 5: 2 Corinthians 5-9
Dec 6: 2 Corinthians 10-13
Dec 7: Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3
Dec 8: Romans 4-7
Dec 9: Romans 8-10
Dec 10: Romans 11-13
Dec 11: Romans 14-16
Dec 12: Acts 20:4-23:35
Dec 13: Acts 24-26
Dec 14: Acts 27-28
Dec 15: Colossians; Philemon
Dec 16: Ephesians
Dec 17: Philippians
Dec 18: 1 Timothy
Dec 19: Titus
Dec 20: 1 Peter
Dec 21: Hebrews 1-6
Dec 22: Hebrews 7-10
Dec 23: Hebrews 11-13
Dec 24: 2 Timothy
Dec 25: 2 Peter; Jude
Dec 26: 1 John
Dec 27: 2/3 John
Dec 28: Revelations 1-5
Dec 29: Revelations 6-11
Dec 30: Revelations 12-18
Dec 31: Revelations 19-22



A DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

*Believe & Command
The Mornings*

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023