

FOLLOWING JESUS DAY BY DAY

PURE

People

Undergoing

Regeneration

Everyday

PURE

Devotional Ministry

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Our prayer for this devotional booklet is that you would meditate on the thoughts presented here, drawing closer to the Lord in your daily walk, and begin "reflecting the glory of the Lord...being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit". (2 Corinthians 3:18 HCSB)*

PURE Devotional Ministry

Donations towards the PURE or CURL ministries can be made to

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**Unless otherwise noted, all quotes are from the NIV translation of the Holy Bible.*



1 April

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."

Psalm 19:14 ESV

As we commence a new Devotional, let us give thanks to God with wholehearted devotion.

The Lord calls us to offer words from our mouths and meditations from our hearts which are acceptable in His sight.

Do you think on that? Do you place acceptability in God's sight as a filter over the words that you speak or the meditations in your heart?

For this devotional, this month, this week, or even just for today, let us apply that filter.

Pray: *Thank You, Dearest Lord, for the reminder that my words and my thoughts should be acceptable in Your sight.*

2 April

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

Psalm 19:14 ESV

Did you apply the filter to your words and your meditation yesterday, so that each was checked on whether it would be acceptable in God’s sight? Whether or not you did it yesterday, maybe you could start today.

Too often we may be tempted to think a thought which does not represent a thought acceptable in God’s sight. Sometimes these thoughts are self-deprecating. It is not good to be prideful or to think too highly of oneself. However, we may be at risk of undermining our own self-confidence.

Let us be willing to see ourselves as we are in God’s sight – not more, and not less.

Pray: Dearest Father God, thank You for leading me in deeper understanding of how You see me.



3 April

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

Psalm 19:14 ESV

When He walked this earth, Jesus cautioned those listening to be careful thinkers. Those holding anger in their hearts *“will be in danger of the judgment”* (Matt 5:22).

Not just the words which we speak, but the words in our hearts are to be *“acceptable in [God’s] sight”* (Ps 19:14).

Turn your thoughts to the Lord, for His inspection. Any which are not worthy of presentation for the Lord’s glory should be discarded.

Pray: Dear Holy Spirit, please help me to discern when my thoughts might not meet the Father’s approval. Please train me.

4 April

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

Psalm 19:14 ESV

As we prepare our hearts for the Easter miracle, let us come in confession before the Father. Where we have held or spoken words which are not acceptable in God’s sight, let us confess these failings. Our gracious Lord Jesus will meet us and restore (1 John 1:9).

In this final week of Lent, may we rededicate ourselves afresh to being God’s instruments pointing to His Kingdom ways.

Pray: *O Dearest Jesus, thank You for Your faithful forgiveness, care, and restoration.*



There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. ~Ps 19:3 ESV



5 April

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

Psalm 19:14 ESV

This week, as we have opportunity, may we seek forgiveness from those to whom we have words unacceptable in God’s sight. We personally know how much words can scar. God is guiding us in putting salve on the wounds we have inflicted.

Where these words have been in our meditations but not on our tongues, may we take the opportunity this week to pray for these ones. Although we may not have inflicted direct wounds, our hearts were still hardened against them. Let us confess to God and pray for them.

God already knows but, as we confess, we are outliving our repentance before the Lord.

Pray: *Dearest Father God, thank You for Your grace.*

6 April

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

Psalm 19:14 ESV

The Lord is my rock and my redeemer.

I sincerely want to walk in steadfast union with Him. While I hold grudges in my heart or spray wounding-words from my mouth, our fellowship is less than He intends.

Yes, Jesus has redeemed me. God is my rock. But, if my words and meditations are not acceptable in His sight, I am not being the glory-instrument that He planned and prepared me to be.

On this day, while we remember the earthly judgment that Jesus faced, let us recommit our words and thoughts to God’s glorification.

Pray: *Dearest Lord Jesus, thank You for being my rock and my redeemer.*



7 April

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

Psalm 19:14 ESV

Good Friday.

How amazingly has God demonstrated His abundant love for us in sending His Son to take the punishment for our sins.

Yes, this is Friday, but Sunday is coming. What Jesus achieved makes today a Good Friday.

Take time today to thank your Saviour. Rest in His love.

Even when the way forward appears to have fallen away or simply makes no sense, keep trusting. Keep waiting. God is faithful.

Sunday is coming.

Pray: *Dearest Lord Jesus, how incredibly You suffered on our behalf. You are my Lord, and I honour You. Please help me to stand firm in my faith even when I do not know the next steps. Through You, I know how the story ends.*

8 April

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight”

Psalm 19:14 ESV

Today we are waiting. We wait to rejoice tomorrow in the wonder of God’s salvation.

Perhaps you are also waiting in another way. Maybe you are seeking God’s intervention in a matter close to your heart. It might be a personal angst. It might also be a prodigal whom you are expecting to reconcile with God.

In this waiting, may our words and meditations be acceptable to God. Let no gossip come from our mouths. Let no frustration take shape on our tongues or in our minds. God is faithful. God is working all things together. Let us look to Him (Ps 27:14).

Pray: Dearest Father God, thank You for Your incredible faithfulness. Please help and strengthen me to remain faithful as I wait.



9 April – Resurrection Day

“... O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

Psalm 19:14 ESV

Today is Resurrection Sunday. Today let us celebrate our Amazing Saviour. Let us celebrate our Risen Lord!!

Let us rejoice together, knowing that Jesus has gained salvation and is calling us to Himself. He is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

Rejoice, and share your joy!!

Today marks the sure confidence that all who believe in Jesus will receive eternal life. “For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”” (Rom 10:13 ESV).

Call out in joyful hope. Come in trust and worship.

Today is Resurrection Sunday, our entry into victory with Christ.

Pray: Dearest Lord Jesus, thank You for being my Lord.

10 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

As we continue to know Easter blessings in our hearts, minds, and spirits, let us glorify God for His faithfulness.

Yes, there will still be times on this earth when we need to be faithful in waiting. The fullness of all that God has planned is still ahead of us.

In this waiting time, let us wait with patience.

God has proved Himself faithful. Let us continue to rest our trust in Him, even when the path ahead is hidden, or rocky, or appears to fall away. Let us be steadfast.

Pray: Dearest Lord, thank You that I can have experienced Your faithfulness. Please help me to wait well.



For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” ~Rom 10:13



11 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Sometimes waiting requires us to be strong.

You may remember as a parent, grandparent or in another guardian role where you needed to watch and wait while young minds, hands, and hearts persevered with a learning or practical task. They needed your patient perseverance, and kindness. In time, their skills grew.

Just as that child persevered in the tasks before them, let us now push through in the parts we must enact, but wait on God for the rest.

He is a loving Father, and His perfect will will come to pass in time.

Pray: Dearest Holy Spirit, please still my hands and heart from rushing.

12 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Waiting can be challenging.

Are you waiting today? Maybe it is a simple waiting for guests to arrive. You know that the simplest things can cause delays. So you wait. It may be that they arrive a little late. It may be that they arrive a lot late. As we wait, let us pray for their safety, and ask the Lord to hold us all in His patient care.

When our guests arrive, whether a little or a lot late, they may not follow the norms of our expectations. Even if not, let us extend forgiveness in our hearts, and treat them as honoured guests.

Pray: Dearest Lord, please help me to love my brothers and sisters well, for Your glory. Please lay Your hand of peace upon each one.



13 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Yesterday we talked about hospitality where the expected patterns are not followed. When Jesus visited the home of Simon the Pharisee, He had a similar experience. Simon had not followed the norms of feet-washing, a kiss of welcome, or head-anointing (Luke 7:44-46). Instead, Simon chose to judge a woman who performed washing, kissing, and anointing on Jesus's feet (Luke 7:39).

When others welcome us in hospitality or accept ours, let us be willing to love them generously, and listen well. In their culture, bringing a plate may represent spare crockery instead of a meal to share. Being late could be an extended grace. Welcome with kindness.

Pray: Dearest Lord, thank You for those I can welcome in Your name.

14 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

What if, instead of late, your guests arrive early!

Drawing together the timing of the different elements of a meal takes skill. Sometimes we can feel very confident in the process. In other cases, we may be pushing through with prayer. Then, to have guests arrive when wrangling together stray processes and ingredients, stress levels may rise. Breathe. Wait for the Lord’s ever-present peace to well up inside you, and let your heart take courage (Ps 27:14). You’ve got this!

If you are feeling really courageous, this may be the Lord’s way of deepening your friendship with these guests. Ask for their help. It may be that you will learn together, be united in achieving success together, or they may take the opportunity to explain a similar dish or method from their culinary background. Either way, enjoy this extra time.

Pray: Dearest Lord, please grow me by Your grace.



15 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Sometimes, by a miscalculation or in the scheme of things, your meal is running late, even if your guests arrive on time.

Accept what is happening. Rather than get anxious, continue to push through, confident that the Lord is with you (Luke 10:40-42). Be kind, rather than impatient with yourself. Even if the meal is not perfectly prepared before the others arrive, you can still enjoy good fellowship.

Be together. Accept that not every moment will be perfect. But know too that your perfect Lord is with you each moment. Wait on Him (Ps 27:14).

Pray: Dearest Lord Jesus, thank You for being my perfect Lord and Saviour.

16 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Waiting takes many forms. Perhaps, rather than a simple waiting for guests, you are waiting for results to be released.

It seems that in every season, from the beginning of life until the end, there is a waiting time for results. Before we anticipated a baby’s first cry, we received positive pregnancy results, however informally achieved.

At the other end of life, we or our loved ones may receive autopsy results. In every moment in between birth and death, and beyond it for our loved ones, we have a kind and gracious Lord who strengthens us, supports us, and covers us with His grace.

Pray: Dearest Lord, I seek to glorify You through all of my life.



I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word
I put my hope. ~ Psalms 130:5



17 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

We sometimes wait for exam and assessment results. In some cases, these may make a difference in our progression and in our career choices.

Let us prepare well for each exam and assessment. But let us not wait to ask for God’s support when we are about to face the assessment. Instead, let us ask in prayer for wisdom and discernment on the courses, subjects, and units which we feel prompted to undertake. God will guide our discernment, before we begin, in how well we engage with and absorb the material, and as we reflect before assessment pieces. Invite God into each space. Let Him be your strength and encourager (Ps 27:14).

Pray: Dearest Lord Jesus, thank You for walking with me.

18 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Sometimes waiting involves a health issue.

We may be waiting for test results, confirmation of surgical or IVF success, or results about a diagnosis for fractures, infections, or diseases.

Sometimes, these results may lead to tears.

You are not alone. When Jesus shared in the anxiety of His friends, He shared their grief. He wept (John 11:35).

You can come to the Lord with your tears. He will remain by your side, and offers you His strength (Ps 27:14).

Pray: Dearest Lord Jesus, thank You for walking through tears with me.



19 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Walking through a time of tears can be painful.

Sometimes it can seem quite isolating. Whatever the cause, some grief may not easily lend itself to easy sharing.

In some cases, the cause for pain might involve self-confession. Maybe this pain resulted from your own sin. You may not wish to disclose the details from loved ones, and so you keep yourself away.

Know that God is still with you. The Lord has promised to never leave you nor forsake you (Heb 13:5). But God does not want His beloved children to struggle alone. He will be calling others beside you (Rom 3:23).

Be courageous, and be prepared to allow those closest to you to know how you are hurting. True friends will not desert you. They know that they also have faults and are prone to failure. Be courageous (Ps 27:14).

Pray: Dearest Lord Jesus, thank You for those You lead to support me.

20 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Sometimes the thing causing us grief is downright embarrassing. We are still getting our heads around how this could have happened to us, and are not yet ready to share.

Confessing to this situation may necessitate lifting a mask. This may be a mask of privacy, a mask of perfection, or some other mask. Yet we all need to let others into our private world, if only one other.

Be ready to be courageous. Do not listen to the voice of the evil one. That errant voice would try to convince you to remain isolated. Instead, *“let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”* (Ps 27:14 ESV).

Remove the mask of embarrassment, and take comfort from those beloved to you.

Pray: *Dearest Lord, thank You for wrapping me in Your peace, and the constancy of Your loving care.*



21 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Sometimes we cannot speak of what is causing us grief because we cannot yet come to terms with it ourselves. If so, plan to take time away with the Lord, whether in nature, through a stress-relieving activity like gardening, swimming, or jogging. Further than that, ask close friends to pray for you. Although you may not be able to disclose the details yet, true friends will be willing to give their prayer support.

Lay your issue before the Lord, as King Hezekiah did, seeking His intercession (2 Kgs 19:14). Wait on the Lord (Ps 27:14).

Pray: *Dearest Lord, thank You that I can come away to seek Your comfort, confident that You will draw near.*

22 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Sometimes our waiting and tear-falling relate to the situation of another. Just yesterday, we talked about our friends coming before the Lord on our behalf, even if they did not know the details.

It is possible that they could already tell that we were distressed or out-of-sorts. Potentially, they had already been going to the Lord in intercession. Whatever the circumstances, we can come before the Lord’s throne, knowing that He is drawing near (Jas 4:8). He accepts the burdens that we place before Him, and is acting to effect His perfect will.

Pray: Dearest Father God, thank You for effecting Your perfect will in my friends’ lives. Please help them to remain strong and courageous.



I removed the burden from their shoulders; their hands
were set free from the basket.

~ Ps 81:6



23 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

What a joy and a privilege to come before the Lord’s throne for another. What a most gracious God we serve. He is mighty to save.

Let us lay our burdens down, knowing that we are making requests of an omniscient and omnipresent God.

He knows each day that He has planned for each one of us (Ps 139:16). He is drawing all details together in perfect harmony. We can fully trust in Him. Today, as you pray, *“take courage; wait for the Lord!”* (Ps 27:14).

Pray: Thank You, Triune God. I trust in You.

24 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Sometimes waiting on the Lord is a waiting for revelation.

How do we wait?

Rather than stopping, we continue with what we have been given to do. Although we may not know what will happen after this task, job, placement, or exam ends, we can trust that the Lord will be faithful. Great is God’s faithfulness (Lam 3:22-23).

Waiting does not look like stopping. Waiting is a going until God says otherwise. Wait on the Lord to reveal His plan, and be strong and courageous (Ps 27:14).

Pray: Dearest Lord God, please forgive me for being impatient or wanting to quit. I know that You are my strength.



25 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Today we remember those who bravely chose to follow the command to step forward into battle-zones. Let us pray for those who never returned, for those still in battle-zones, and for the families of all who have been, or are currently, in battle-zones.

We could never repay what they have suffered. We do not know, and cannot fully comprehend, all the suffering that they or their loved ones have gone through. We pray that God would strengthen them, bring healing and reconciliation according to His perfect plan, and that He would wisely guide peacemakers in a way forward. We pray too for those making logistical decisions, that they will choose by God’s wisdom.

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, please fill with courage and strength those fighting for freedom. Please bless their families and loved ones.

26 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Yesterday, on Anzac Day, we remembered those who have fought, or are fighting, in war-zones, that God might be with them for courage, strength, and healing, and also shelter and protect their loved ones (Ps 27:14).

Today, let us remember other who have risked their lives for the safety and security of others. Some have fought fires, some in crime-zones, but all have followed the command to enter risky spaces. We thank God for them, and ask that they and their loved ones would also know God’s wisdom, strengthening, close presence, and protection. Through their courage, our loved ones, our homes, our livelihoods, and our communities have been protected.

Pray: Loving Father God, thank You for those You have called to these roles. Please protect and help them.



27 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Sometimes we will wait on the Lord after disaster has befallen us.

Yesterday, we considered first-responders to various disastrous situations. What happens when they leave, and we are left alone, in the middle of a mess, or unable to go home because of a mess?

We can trust God. Although this thing has happened, God was not surprised. He knew the outcome, and He knows what will happen next. We can trust in Him.

Although things may now look messy, God can turn this around. Wait with courage (Ps 27:14).

Pray: Father God, please release me from the “What-if” mind-games which are keeping me spinning. Please flood me with Your peace.

28 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

Sometimes as we look back on what has befallen us, we can see God’s hand of preparation.

It may have been an acquaintance that we just happened to make with a specific type of specialist shortly before your child needed exactly that type of expertise. Or it could be that the doors on an overseas trip closed so that you were local enough to support your grandchildren when your daughter became unwell.

God is not surprised. We can trust that He has been getting us prepared for this new season, even when the ways seem fuzzy. Wait (Ps 27:14).

Pray: Please forgive me, Lord, when I get anxious. Thank You for being my light and my hope. I am starting afresh in building my faith in You.



Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. ~ Ps 139:16



29 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

When we know that God has been preparing us, we can persevere. We can hold tighter to courage, and keep walking in perseverance.

If today you are experiencing doubt, choose to stubbornly persist. Take strength from the One who will never leave you. Replenish your courage, and wait for the Lord (Ps 27:14). He is amazing, can do the impossible, and is on your side (Matt 19:26; 28:19-20)..

Pray: Thank You, Lord, for deepening my faith and courage through Your lasting presence. I wait on You.

30 April

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalm 27:14 ESV

In recent weeks we have waited on the Lord.

While waiting, we have reflected on some challenging situations for ourselves and for those who are very dear to us. Through it all, we know that God is faithful.

Although bad circumstances may come our way, we can trust God. Like the prophet Habakkuk, we *“will rejoice in the LORD, [we] will be joyful in God [our] Savior”* (Hab 3:18).

Yes, there will still be tough times. We will not understand how God is working things out. **Yet**, we can have faith that God is working things out. We **can** trust in the goodness of God.

Pray: *Dearest Lord, thank You for the confidence I can have in You. I will wait and be courageous.*



1 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

May is mission month, so let us begin with God’s call to Abram, to leave his country, his people and his father’s household.

Like me, you may know those who has been called to join other communities locally, interstate, or overseas, to where their lives and mission activities can give glory to God.

Some have needed to learn a new language, but all have needed to settle themselves within a new culture.

As mission month begins, may we pray for those called away to serve, that the seeds they sow may be fruitful, and their hearts overflowing.

Pray: *Dearest Lord, thank You for the giving hearts of serving missionaries.*

2 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

Learning to live within a new culture can bring many joys but also many challenges. This is particularly so when committing to this new culture as a family unit.

During the early years of Jesus’s earthly life, his family moved quite a few times. When He was born, they were residing in temporary accommodation (Luke 2:7). Some time later, when Jesus was still relatively young (Matt 2:16), their home was a house in Bethlehem (Matt 2:9-11). Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled to Egypt for a time (Matt 2:13-15). Later they returned and made a home in Nazareth (Matt 2:23; Luke 2:39-40).

Like Jesus’s mother Mary, we can treasure the gifts and blessings of each season (Luke 2:51). With God, we can reflect and draw wisdom.

Pray: Dearest Lord, thank You for enabling me and those I love to persevere in different places and spaces. Please guide me by Your wisdom.



3 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

Have you known different homes in different seasons? You may now be residing in home #1 or home #21!

Wherever you now reside, ask God to show you how you can glorify Him in this space.

Have you met your neighbours? God may have called you to this neighbourhood for a reason. If you do not yet know them, and you are new, or they are new, perhaps you could issue an invitation for a get-together?

Pray: Dearest Lord, please guide me in offering welcoming hospitality.

4 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

Possibly you already know many of your neighbours, and are part of a vibrant community. Praise God for that, and be ready to offer a warm welcome to newcomers.

Perhaps, instead, there is someone at church with whom you could share a lunch? Hospitality is a wonderful way to get to know others. Even if you cannot have people over, you may be able to suggest a shared picnic meal. Be ready to follow God’s prompts.

Pray: Dearest Lord, I seek to follow Your prompts. Please hold me back from the fear and anxiety of unfamiliar situations.



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, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. ~ Eph 1:18-19



5 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

Perhaps you are already honouring God at home and at church.

Where are your frontlines? If you are unsure, ask God to help you recognise where you can be His instrument. It may be in a schoolyard, an office environment, a local playgroup, a science lab, a dance group, or a lecture hall. Seek the space where you can be a Kingdom-life for God’s glory. Shine God’s light wherever you go, glorifying Him.

Pray: Dearest Lord, please open my eyes to where I can glorify You.

6 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

When God sent Abram from his country, his people and his father’s household (Gen 12:1), there was no internet for keeping in contact.

For some contemporary missionaries, contact with their country, their people and their family unit can be difficult. Sometimes the access itself is limited due to uncertainties in being able to connect. In other cases, cultural challenges mean that coded language must be used.

Please pray for missionaries unable to connect with their loved ones and support networks regularly and confidently. Pray too for protection from the evil one, who loves to target those isolated and alone.

Pray: Dearest Holy Spirit, I seek Your strong hedge of protection over our missionary friends. Please tangibly presence Yourself with them today.



7 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

Before the internet, communications around the world were organised quite differently. Email gave more immediate access than ‘snail’-mail, while faxes could communicate a written word with great speed.

Receiving a hand-written note is still a huge comfort and joy.

Do you take the opportunity to write letters to those who need encouragement? These may be written to persecuted Christians. Similarly, it is possible to write to prisoners, missionaries, and others who would value an encouraging work. Seek ways to encourage (1 Thes 5:11).

Pray: Dearest Lord, please show me opportunities where I may be an encouragement to others. Please strengthen them as they wait.

8 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

Do you travel much? Have you lived and worked interstate or overseas? Some generations ago it was not uncommon for most of life to be lived within a relatively small area. All the necessities of life were there, as were family and friends.

Nowadays it would be very unusual that no member of the immediate or extended family had travelled or lived interstate or overseas. Some families include several different races within their midst.

Travel, or engaging with those from different cultures or nationalities, contributes to greater cultural awareness, and building wisdom.

Pray: Dearest Lord, please bless my travels, and my growing family.



9 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

Witnessing, and growing in understanding the experiences of others often leads to growing appreciation for home.

When Abram left all that he had known, he knew that he was following God’s plan. He was being called to *“the land I will show you”* (Gen 12:1).

Maybe you too feel called to the place that you call ‘home,’ if only temporarily. While this location is currently your ‘work home’ or ‘study home,’ you know that God is preparing to call you back to the place where you lived before. Perhaps He is preparing you for the frontline there.

While here, reflect on the ways that God is guiding you, and learn well.

Pray: Dearest Lord, thank You for how You are growing me through what I am experiencing in this season. I seek to glorify You in all I do and say.

10 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

When Abram left his father’s household, it was because God had called him to another place.

When the prodigal son left his father’s household, he had very different reasons.

Are you asking God for His leading in your life? Diligently seek God’s will. Ask Him to guide your plans, rather than ask Him to bless the plans that you have made. Go where He would send you.

Pray: *Dear Father God, I seek to follow faithfully.*



Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

~ Jas 4:15



11 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

Sometimes we may wish to leave our country, our people and our father’s household for our own reasons. Rather than run away, lay the reasons before the Lord’s throne. Open your heart, mind, and spirit to hear His wisdom.

Running away will not resolve whatever difficulties you may be encountering. Sometimes outside support may be needed in order to make forward progress. Ask trusted friends to pray for and guide in wisdom. Leaving without matters resolved may mean taking unresolved issues into another space, which could be unfruitful.

Pray: *Dear Holy Spirit, please help me to resolve these challenges.*

12 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

Do you know any missionaries? Perhaps you might like to contact a missionary organisation, and consider how you can uphold their work in prayer?

If you are able, you may also wish to financially support their work. In many cases, local workers are now being trained as missionaries to their own people. They already know the language, the customs, the culture, and already have established frontlines from which to engage for God.

Until you clarify specific needs, ask God to help missionaries. Holy Spirit will use your heart-prayers to achieve God’s will (Rom 8:26-27).

Pray: Dearest Holy Spirit, thank You for the amazing way that You are working to fulfill God’s plans, interpreting my prayers, even when I am unclear.



13 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

Have you received instructions but not yet put them into place?

Sometimes we may sense that God may be prompting us in a particular direction. However we may be unsure, nervous, fearful of taking a wrong step, or lacking courage to follow through on what God calls us to do.

Let me encourage you to step up.

Being in the centre of God’s express will is far better than ‘feeling safe’ in a different location. If God has called you, God will walk with you to it and through it. He will not leave you or forsake you (Heb 13:5). Go, ready to serve as God leads.

Pray: Dearest Lord, thank You for Your call. Please strengthen me.

14 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

Whether you are a mother, a grandmother, or are an influencer in a younger person’s life, what a joy when they return from their travels! How challenging it must have been for Abram’s family when he and Lot and Sarai moved away (Gen 12:4-5). But what a delight for the family when Abraham’s servant visited with Abraham’s brother Nahor many years later (Gen 24:15, 24).

As you celebrate Mother’s Day, may you know the delight of returning family, and the warm celebrations of loved ones. May God be praised in your celebrations.

Pray: Dearest Lord, thank You for the many wonderful blessings which I have received on my journey. I am grateful.



15 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

When God called Abram, he went. Does that mean that Abram never made any mistakes along the way or misunderstood God’s directions? No! Sometimes Abram doubted God’s protection (12:11-13; 20:2, 11-12). Abram also tried Plan B when God’s Plan A did not appear to be coming to pass (Gen 16:1-4). Yet ultimately, God’s Plan A came to pass in God’s perfect timing, just as God promised (Gen 21:1-2).

God brought his promise to fruition at exactly the right time. Trust Him.

Pray: Dear Lord, thank You for going with me wherever I go. Thank You for the faithfulness of Your promises. I am Yours..

16 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

Abram and Sarai left as God called (Gen 12:1). You may have also received a call or prompt from God and believe that you have been faithful in that. Yet, you still seem to be waiting on God’s promises. Could you have misheard?

Abram and Sarai probably thought that they had misheard God when they chose to develop Plan B. Perhaps you also believe that God needs “a little assistance” in achieving His plan?

No. God is the God of the impossible (Matt 19:26)! Even when it seems impossible, God can still come through. Hang in there! If God has promised, it will happen.

Pray: Dearest Father God, please forgive me for doubting.



Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.” ~ Luke 18:27



17 May

“The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 NIV

God called Abram to the land that He would show him (Gen 12:1).

Could there be a place or a person or a task to which God is calling you?

Ask God to give you open eyes to see what He would like you to undertake. It may be a call to serve within your church community, your neighbourhood, your work situation, or your family.

Ask Him to reveal more of His will, and lean in for special times with Him, whether in dedicated time in His Word, His world, or His Church (Jas 4:8).

Pray: Dearest Father God, I seek to hear You. Please guide me as Your hands and Your feet.

18 May

“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

Jesus gave the Great Commission to His disciples, to *“go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”* (Matt 28:19-20). But He never intended for them to do it in their own strength. In fact, Jesus told them to *“wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about”* (Acts 1:4).

We too have been given the power of the Holy Spirit. He is our intercessor and our enabler. In fact, even when we do not know the words to express or speak our needs and concerns, Holy Spirit intercedes in spirit words directly according to the Father’s will (Rom 8:26-27).

Pray: Thank You, Lord, for sending Your Holy Spirit to be our intercessor, our guide, and our enabler.



19 May

“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

The power with which Holy Spirit blesses us is the same power through which Jesus was raised from the dead!

This is the power now available to us. It is in this power that we can be God’s witnesses for His kingdom purposes.

Is God calling you to be His witness?

He may not be calling you to a formal missionary position, but He may still be calling you to witness to all that He has achieved in your life. Have you shared your testimony of His salvation of you? It is your story for God’s glory.

Pray: Dearest Holy Spirit, thank You for empowering me.

20 May

“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

Do you have a testimony which you can share of how God has been instrumental in changing and transforming your life?

You may not believe that your testimony is ‘dramatic’ enough.

Not all testimonies will involve a major turnaround from wild living, as experienced by the prodigal son (Luke 15:13-20).

But your story is equally important. Your story represents how God has worked in your life, drawing you to Himself. Further, God may use your recount to draw to Himself one who believes that they are “not that bad,” when in fact all are sinners (Rom 3:23)!

Pray: *Dearest Lord, thank You for saving me.*



21 May

“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

Yesterday, we talked about the testimony of someone who may not have a dramatic conversion story. Oftentimes, this will be because God has placed them within a loving Christian home.

That may not have been your experience. Does that mean that God loves you less?

Certainly not!

God knows our characters, and how each of us will respond in different situations (Ps 139:15). He knows how we ‘tick,’ and He knows what will be most effective in turning our attention to Him.

Come as you are, ready to claim Jesus as your Lord.

Pray: *Dearest Lord Jesus, thank You for what You suffered so that I could be reconciled with the Father.*

22 May

“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

Do you have a testimony which you can share?

Perhaps you are working with those who may not have a committed relationship with the Lord Jesus. That does not mean that they would not be open to hearing your story. But it needs to be shared with grace, respect, and kindness, in answer to the hope you hold (1 Pet 3:15).

But even if you have previously shared your testimony, it is important to be able to answer how God is working in your life right now.

Pray: *Dearest Holy Spirit, thank You for prompting me on what to share.*



Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” ~Isa 6:8



23 May

“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

Yesterday we briefly mentioned sharing an update of how God is working in your life right now. God does not simply get you over ‘the salvation line’ and then leave you to figure things out yourself! No.

Jesus told His disciples to wait for Holy Spirit. But now all those who believe have Holy Spirit living within them, as a seal *“for the day of redemption”* (Eph 4:30). Holy Spirit continues His work of transformation. This is why we can share our testimony of how God continues to transform us. Your transformation update may be exactly what a friend needs to hear.

Pray: *Dear Holy Spirit, please guide my times of sharing.*

24 May

“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

Holy Spirit power indwells you. He is prompting and leading you, just as He led Philip to speak to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-29).

Have you been experiencing a nudging from the Holy Spirit?

Perhaps He has been inviting you to be more involved as a witness on your frontlines. If you believe that Holy Spirit has been nudging you, come before God today and ask Him to reveal Himself through His Word or through a fellow believer.

Commit to being available that He may work through you.

Pray: Dearest Holy Spirit, I seek to be pleasing and pliable in following Your promptings. Please anoint me with Your power, and lead me as You will.



25 May

“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

Holy Spirit has made His power available to us. This is the same power which raised Jesus from the dead! This *“incomparably great power for us who believe ... is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms”* (Eph 1:19-20).

Let us be obedient in answering Holy Spirit’s call on our lives. Jesus had declared that, with this power, we will be His witnesses (Acts 1:8).

We have not been given this light of salvation so that we can hide it within the recesses of our lives (Matt 5:15)! Rather we are to fully glorify God through our lives so that others may come to know Jesus as their Saviour (Eph 1:7).

Pray: Dearest Lord, thank You for Your light. Dear Holy Spirit, I long to shine this light, that our Triune God may be glorified.

26 May

“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

Jesus was asking His disciples to have a ready openness to the power available through Holy Spirit. The power at Pentecost came on those with committed minds, hearts, and spirits (Acts 2:1-4).

In a similar way, Holy Spirit will not impose His power upon us.

When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, then Holy Spirit is received by us as a seal for the day of redemption (Eph 4:30).

Holy Spirit’s presence is a comforting confirmation to our hearts, minds, and spirits that we truly belong to the Lord.

Pray: Dearest Lord, thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit upon me. I seek to be Your witness in the various spheres of my life, that I may shine Your light for God’s Kingdom..



27 May

“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

Are we being called to the ends of the earth?

Holy Spirit may instruct us on a location which He would have us reach. But it is entirely according to God’s plan and purposes, and not according to our drives or whims.

Possibly we have the right combination of language, skill-set, cultural integrity, and wisdom to be able to be an effective Kingdom witness in some location(s). If so, Holy Spirit knows and will arrange it.

Otherwise, let us wait on the Lord for His leading (Ps 27:14).

Pray: Dear Holy Spirit, I am committed to serving as You would direct me. Please strengthen and guide me, and lead me with a courageous heart.

28 May

“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

You may have heard stories of the incredible bravery of persecuted Christians?

I believe that they have been able to withstand incredible difficulties precisely because they have received Holy Spirit power (Acts 1:8).

God is in control and, through their witness, they can attest to His power and might and majesty.

God is working, protecting His witnesses, and drawing others to Himself through them (Jas 4:8). To God be the glory.

Pray Father God, I, on this distant land, am incredibly moved by how You are working in various lands. Thank You for the encouragement this brings to my mind, heart and spirit.



And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. ~ Acts 13:52



29 May

“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

When we hear of how God has been working in the lives of persecuted Christians, we can also know that He can achieve great and mighty things through our lives. We are thankful to see His mighty hand.

As we see God’s work among persecuted people groups, let us share those stories with others. In that way they may know that God sees their situation too and that He is working out His perfect plan. Let us thank the Lord.

Pray: Dearest Lord, thank You for all that You are doing and completing.

30 May

“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

As we prepare to head into our winter months, we may notice a slow-down in nature. This is a time of natural rest.

While we may not see many trees lose their leaves in our Queensland winter, it is still a common occurrence elsewhere. The trees enter a time of bare branches and some colourful leaves still litter the gutters.

Although nature appears to slow down in this season, God is still at work (John 5:17-18).

While it may sometimes appear that God has stopped or even forgotten, His perfect timing will come around. Abram and Sarai looked at their ageing bodies and were filled with doubt. Yet, God was able.

Pray: *Dearest Father God, please help me to keep believing.*



31 May

“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

Although it may appear as though the time for promise-fulfillment has passed, remember to keep waiting on the Lord (Ps 27:14).

The God who raised Jesus from the dead is not finished with you yet!

There may still need to be one of two things resolved before your arms, mind, or heart will be open enough to be able to receive what God has planned to bring to pass.

Wait.

God is faithful.

Pray: *Thank You, Loving Father God, for all that You have planned and are achieving. I love You.*

1 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

Is thankfulness a natural disposition for you? If not, perhaps today, this week, this month, you might like to be more purposeful in thankfulness.

What does that look like?

We can begin simply with the cross. How thankful are we that Jesus chose the cross! Without His obedience, our future would lie in torture and hell, as deserving sinners (Rom 3:23). Instead God demonstrated His love for the world by sending Jesus (John 3:16). Let us live in thankfulness.

Pray: *Dearest Father God, thank You.*



Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

~ Heb 12:14



2 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

Jesus endured the cross. While that fills me with horror on the one hand, I am also incredibly thankful.

Jesus knew what lay ahead for humanity as *“each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death”* (Jas 1:14-15).

Jesus stepped in to take our place.

Pray: *Dearest Lord, I cannot ever fully express my sincere thankfulness to You for how You saved me, but I will try.*

3 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

Ever since the garden, humanity has been susceptible to enticement by sin (Jas 1:14-15). We needed a Saviour, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Rom 6:23).

Oh what a Saviour!!

Today, take some time to come before your Lord Jesus in grateful appreciation. Honour Him in all that you say and do today. Above all else, turn to Him when desires and worldly ways would attempt to steal your attention. Keep your eyes on Him (1 Chron 16:11).

Pray: Dearest Lord Jesus, thank You for submitting Yourself to the punishment which I deserved.



4 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

Jesus offered Himself on the cross for our sins. But we can feel a thankfulness to Jesus for so much more than that incredible selfless act! Jesus also showed us a way to handle temptation.

When Jesus was tempted by the evil one, His trust remained on the Father. The devil tried to tempt Him with bread for His hunger, but Jesus replied that *“man does not live by bread alone”* (Luke 4:4). Jesus was quoting Deut 8:3 *“that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”*

We can be thankful that the Lord showed us a way to defeat the enemy.

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for showing me how I can overcome the temptations of the enemy.

5 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

In Jesus’s second temptation, Jesus emphasised the importance of worshipping *“the Lord your God and serve him alone”* (Luke 4:8). In his letter, James, the Lord’s brother confirmed that *“friendship with the world means enmity against God”* (Jas 4:4).

Instead of blindly and foolishly following the world’s patterns and habits, *let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”* (Heb 12:28).

Pray: Dearest Lord Jesus, thank You for the Your faithful witness of how to resist the enemy and to live a truly God-glorifying life. I am thankful.



6 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

In Jesus’s third temptation, Jesus again quoted from God’s Word. *“Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test’”* (Luke 4:12; Deut 6:16).

Today, let us honour our God in thankfulness and not put Him to the test.

Thank Father God for the wonderful Saviour we have in Jesus (John 3:16).

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him” (John 3:17). Jesus saves us by how He died, destroying death, and bringing life and immortality to light through the gospel (2 Tim 1:10). Jesus also taught us by how He lived, honouring and glorifying the Father.

Pray: Dearest Lord, thank You for saving my life. Thank You too for the amazing legacy You have left for us in Your Word.

7 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

Did you notice how Jesus responded to temptations from the evil one? Jesus turned to God’s Word (Luke 4:4, 8, 12). How could Jesus do that? He had memorised Scripture for such a time as this.

Do you have Scripture verses planted in your heart? If not, spend time with God today and ask Him to lead you to a Scripture which will be most beneficial in fighting your particular temptations. Alternatively, you can do a Google search with “Bible verse” and the name of a battle you face, such as ‘anxiety,’ ‘loneliness,’ or ‘unforgiveness.’ In this way, you are using Jesus’s tactics for your battle-plan.

Pray: *Dearest Lord, thank You for Your example.*



“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.”

~ John 15:26



8 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

When in your battlefield, remember that the enemy can also use Scripture for his purposes (Luke 4:10-11). You need to know God’s true Word (John 14:6).

Take time today to memorise God’s true Word. It will be *“a lamp for [your] feet, a light on [your] path”* (Ps 119:105).

Pray: *O Lord, Jesus, You are the way, the truth and the life. You light my way forward. Thank You.*

9 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

As we worship God with reverence and awe (Heb 12:28), may we always trust in His true Word.

In the Garden of Eden, Eve became deluded by the twisted truth which the serpent offered. *“Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”* (Gen 3:1). Eve knew some of the true situation, but became confused on other points, whether through incorrect recall or incorrect communication by Adam (Gen 2:16-17; 3:2-3).

As we take the time to receive the implanted word (Jas 1:21), it will bear fruit in our thought lives and in our communications. Trust in God’s favour and faithfulness.

Pray: Dearest Father God, thank You for helping me to instil Your word into my heart, mind, and spirit. Please help me to diligently remember.



10 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

The author of Hebrews assures us that *“we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken”* (Heb 12:28a).

Know the assurance of that promise *“and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe”* (Heb 12:28a).

Whatever is happening in your part of the world right now, take a moment to thank our Loving Heavenly Father. Thank our Lord Jesus, who stepped out of eternity and into the reality of our world that you might be saved. Thank our Holy Spirit intercessor, who guides and leads us. We are most richly blessed.

Pray: Thank You, Triune God, I am most sincerely grateful.

11 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

We acknowledged that Father God sent His Beloved Jesus to be our Saviour (John 3:16-17). We also looked at Jesus’s example of trusting in God’s Word during enemy attacks. But there is Another who was sent to be our Helper. *“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me”* (John 15:26).

Yes, it is good when we receive and bring to mind God’s implanted Word (Jas 1:21). Yes, it is a comfort to rest in God’s Word (Ps 119:105). But Jesus has made an even better way possible (John 15:26). Holy Spirit is with us, to guide, to lead, and to remind us (John 16:13-15). But more than that, Holy Spirit intercedes for us (Rom 8:26-27), and empowers us (Rom 15:13).

Pray: *Come, Holy Spirit.*



12 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

We have been worshipping God in His triune ways, thankful for how He intercedes, enables, and cares for us.

But maybe you have not yet come to accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.

If that is so, come now. Believe that God is calling you, and trust your life, your heart, your sins, and your future to His faithful healing grace.

I know that Jesus is calling each one of us to union with Him. Come. If you made that decision today, praise God!! But find some others to praise God with you too. Ask for help and leading to a Bible-believing church.

Pray: *Dearest Lord, please forgive me and please accept me.*

13 June

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ..."

Heb 12:28

Were you among those who first met the Lord Jesus yesterday?

If so, I am rejoicing with you!! You *"are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken"* (Heb 12:28a), I am thankful with you and together we can *"worship God acceptably with reverence and awe"* (28b). What joy and gladness when another life is saved (Luke 15:7).

Do not let this seed of faith be snatched away by the enemy or fall away through distraction or busyness. Instead, trust God to grow a rich harvest from your faith as you keep your eyes and attention on Him (Mark 4:1-20).

Pray: *Dearest Lord, thank You for my seed of faith. I pray that it may grow abundantly, blessing many others.*



I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

~ Luke 15:7



14 June

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ..."

Heb 12:28

As we turn to God in thankfulness and praise, may our words and actions resound to also inspire and bless others.

God did not simply save us that we might be saved, although that it is important to Him. God also saved us that we might be witnesses to others of our faith, leading to their faith in our Mighty God.

Just as new believers need to be attentive to good growth, may more mature believers find new ways to honour God before others.

Pray: *Dearest Lord, I honour You that others may know Your saving grace.*

15 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

To rephrase what I said yesterday, God saved us that we might be saved. That was and remains important to Him.

God loves you. You are beloved to Him. Read those words again – God loves you. You are beloved to Him. Soak in it.

You do not need to turn to the world, or anyone in it, to know your worth, your identity. You are a child of God, one who believes that He gave His only Son that you, a sinner, might be saved. You were in the kingdom of death and darkness but now, through what Jesus has achieved, you are in His Kingdom of life and light and goodness and grace (Col 1:12-14).

Pray: *Dearest Lord, thank You for adopting me as Your own. Thank You for loving me when I was unlovable, and for sacrificing that I might be saved.*



16 June

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe ...”

Heb 12:28

God has called and released us into the Kingdom of His light, love, grace, and peace (Col 1:13-14). Yes, it is for our goodness, grace, and peace, but God wants us to overflow His love to others, that their cups and joy might also overflow with His goodness, kindness, grace, and love. God has blessed us so that we may be His blessing to others too.

Even as we, in thankfulness, *“worship God acceptably with reverence and awe”* (Heb 12:28), we are igniting the love and passion of others, for His glory.

Pray: *Dearest Father God, I am grateful for Your overflowing goodness. I seek to pour out Your goodness and love on others so that they too may know joy and richness in You.*

17 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Phil 4:6

Do you sometimes find your breath catch and your mind, body, and spirit are stuck in a moment of hesitation?

It could be that anxiety has become a companion, whether fleeting or daily. God’s Word tells us not to be anxious about anything (Phil 4:6a).

Does that mean that we are doing something wrong when anxiety is stalking our steps?

No! I believe it means that God does not want anxiety to have a home in our hearts. God wants to protect us and keep us in His peace. I believe that God is calling us to lay down anxiety. Anxiety is not what He wants for us. Instead, when anxiety beckons, God is encouraging us to come *“by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to [Him]”* (Phil 4:6).

Pray: *Dearest Lord God, thank You that I can come to You when my heart is anxious, and You will not reject me.*



18 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Phil 4:6

Have you ever noticed the difference that thanksgiving can bring into your situation?

You might have been worried about any number of things. But, when you begin to recall all the blessings which God has poured into your life, thankfulness can flow.

Perhaps it is this glorifying of God which places Him back at the centre of your life. We recognise that these various concerns are miniscule by comparison to our Mighty God. In this our world is rebalanced.

Pray: *Dearest Lord, thank You for being my Mighty Saviour.*

19 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Phil 4:6

Yesterday we considered how recalling God’s goodness places His might and power at the centre.

This does not mean that those things which are weighing heavily on your heart are suddenly lightened. No, they may be incredibly critical. However, while their weight may not have changed, your lifting power has.

While you were tackling them alone, these challenges were well beyond your capacity to handle. But now you realise afresh that you are not alone. You have a Mighty Saviour. You have God in your corner. Trust in Him.

Pray: *Dear Lord, thank You for releasing me from my heavy burdens.*



And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

~ Phil 4:19



20 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Phil 4:6

As we recall God’s goodness, we remember how He has come through for us before. God is still God.

Whatever situation we are facing right now is not too big for Him. This might be bigger and more expansive than anything you have faced before, but God is sovereign.

Come, lay out your burdens and anxieties before Him, and receive His peace in exchange.

Pray: *Thank You, Lord, although these burdens are far mightier than anything I can handle, You are mightier still. Thank You.*

21 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Phil 4:6

Once we have travelled with the Lord through various trenches, we become more confident in coming to faithfully leave our burdens at His feet (1 Pet 5:7).

But what about those reading this who do not yet have a shared history with God?

In one way, that comparison is a little like when Jesus dined with Simon the Pharisee. Simon had probably not yet experienced the loving kindness and rich forgiveness which the woman had known. Her heart overflowed with such gratitude. She knew the mighty love of God (Luke 7:44-47). It had not yet been experienced by Simon. Yet he could see her victory.

Pray: *Dearest Father God, thank You for my victories.*



22 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Phil 4:6

Yesterday you may have realised that, even when you cannot recall your own victories, you can still praise God for His victories for others.

As a new(er) believer, you may not yet have victory stories. However, God’s Word has a rich collection of other people’s victories with God.

Hebrews 11 recalls many of the heroes of the faith, but the wonderful narratives in Genesis also recount God’s mighty hand in the affairs of people.

Even if you cannot yet recount your own mighty victory, come to God in faith when you need a Mighty Hero. God will be with you in the battles.

Pray: *Dear Father God, thank You that I can come to You in confidence when I am unequally matched in battles, or overwhelmed in strife.*

23 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Phil 4:6

Have you had a situation where you needed emergency help or funds, and the usual methods did not work, or failed to work as planned? For instance, it might have been a public holiday where your bank was headquartered, so the funds did not clear as anticipated.

Yes, that is concerning, but it makes us realise just how close and available and present God is to us!! In seeking to *“present your requests to God,”* you do not need to be concerned about whether God’s zone has daylight savings, whether He might be napping, has notifications turned off, etc. God is simply present, and we can present our requests to Him.

Pray: *Thank You, Lord, that You are simply available. I am grateful.*



24 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Phil 4:6

We do not need to have a firm booking with God in order to present our requests to Him. There is no call-waiting music, no queue-number listing, and God does not limit us to one call a day.

God regards us as His beloved children. He makes Himself available. He wants to lift our anxieties from our hearts, minds, and spirits.

Come and place your petition before Him.

It may be your first time, but you are still welcome. Come.

You may forget some of what you wanted to ask, and may need to come back almost as soon as you have left. Come.

Pray: Dear and Loving Father, thank You for welcoming me. Thank You for relieving me of my burdens.

25 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Phil 4:6

Do you sometimes hesitate to come to the Lord because you are embarrassed about what you want to ask?

At one level that is totally understandable. We know that God is holy and we know that we are not. But, beloved child of God, God also knows that you are not holy. Our holy God already knows exactly what has happened to cause you embarrassment. You are not telling Him anything He does not already know.

However, in coming before Him, you are owning up to what He already knows. You are accepting that this has happened to you, or by you. Yes, that it still incredibly challenging. But our Loving Father will receive you graciously, with no love held back. Your actions do not diminish His love.

Pray: *Dearest Lord, it is unfathomable to me that You could not love me less.*



The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Amen.

~ Phil 4:23



26 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Phil 4:6

We can come and petition God. This is not for a cause that needs one thousand signatures before it has merit. Your presence has merit. Come.

God will receive your petition. Even when all the ‘t’s are not crossed and the ‘l’s are not dotted, God will listen. Come.

Come in with thanksgiving. God is so incredibly amazing that it is usually easy to come before Him without thanksgiving. Come.

Pray: *Dear God, thank You for the way that You are at work in my life. Thank You for Your transformation in my life, heart, and spirit. I am made new.*

27 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Phil 4:6

Yes, we come to God with thanksgiving. We are grateful.

Sometimes, though, we are struggling so hard to get past the pain, pressures, anxieties, and grief in our hearts that our thankfulness is diminished.

We may even feel angry with God. God is not put off by our anger. God knows the challenges in this world, in earthly life. Although He is sovereign, this part of the plan is not yet perfect.

Imagine for a second that you are part-way through baking a most amazing cake. Part-way through, an offering taste would not be very appealing. The end will be amazing. But part-way through, the taste can be off-putting. God is not offended by our anger. His plan is not finished yet.

Pray: Dearest Lord, thank You for Your unfolding plan. Please forgive my impatience with this part.



28 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Phil 4:6

Yesterday we talked about anger being akin to tasting cake mixture while only part-way through cake-baking. At that point, the ingredients are not properly mixed, some elements need to be cooked to reveal their best flavour, and some, like flour, work best as a binding ingredient, rather than a crowd-pleasing ingredient, like chocolate.

In a similar way, we need to wait on God’s perfect plan to come to fruition, rather than getting angry with Him part-way through His transformation process. What seems unfortunate and out-of-place now might make the most incredible head-turning finale later.

Let us wait on the Lord (Ps 27:14).

Pray: Dearest Lord, thank You for all that You are planning to achieve.

29 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Phil 4:6

Two days ago, we wondered about tasting part-blended cake. Yesterday, we considered the challenges in different elements, such as flour and chocolate.

While our original analogy related to anger with God when His plan is only part-way through, it may also be applicable to church communities.

Just as a cake needs the right combination of blending and baking, church communities need the right combinations of leadership, training, mentorship, volunteerism, creativity, and much grace and wisdom.

Too much of some ingredients can be very overpowering. In other cases, insufficient quantities of other ingredients can unbalance the whole mix.

Whether plans, people, or church communities, God knows the perfect combinations, pressure points, and blends for successful transformations.

Pray: *Dearest Lord, thank You, for the wonder of Your processes..*



30 June

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Phil 4:6

As we finish another Devotional, let us make every effort to go in peace, and to live at peace with others, reflecting the *“unity of the Spirit”* (Eph 4:3) in our lives. May we be quick to listen, showing kindness and grace.

May we walk in the wisdom of the Lord (Jas 3:17), sincerely offering our lives for God’s glory, and carrying His light. May we use the gifts which God has given us to lovingly serve others. May each know that we are committed to the Lord in body, mind, and spirit.

Pray: *Dearest Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness in blessing us richly.*

May we see and greet others with Your mercy and grace, knowing peace.



"Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins ...

God has given each of you a gift from [H]is great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

... Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to [H]im forever and ever! Amen." (1 Pet 4:8, 10-11 NLT)

The Holy Spirit was the inspiration behind these thoughts, and we pray that they will encourage, challenge and stretch you in your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, according to the will of the Heavenly Father.

Gelly McAuliffe-Bunker for PURE Devotional Ministry



Notes

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