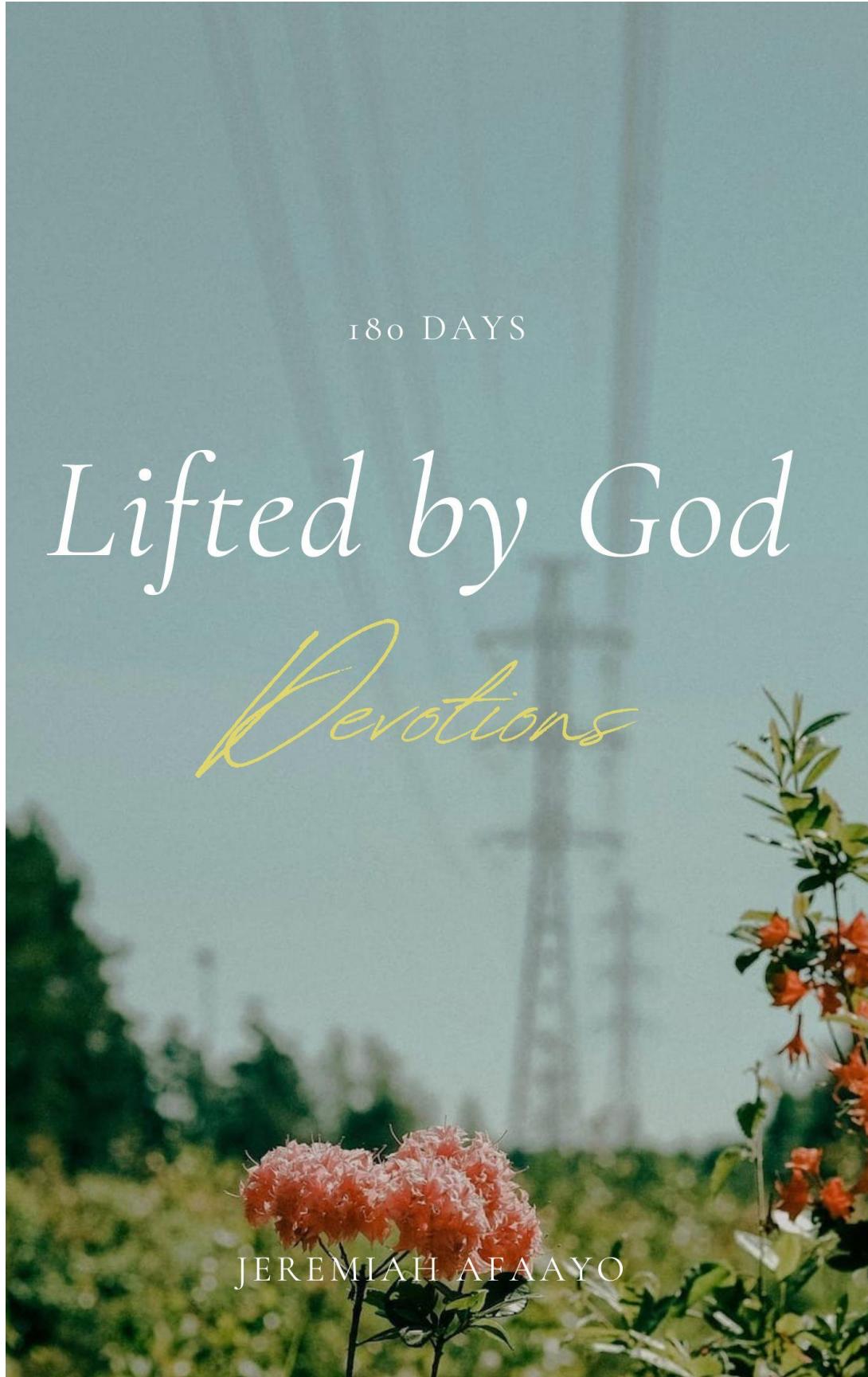


180 DAYS

Lifted by God

Devotions

JEREMIAH AFAAYO



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Proverbs 18:10 NKJV

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

CHRIST IN YOU

Colossians 1:27 NKJV

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

For a long time in my life, I had this question: “If I have the fruits of the Holy Spirit such as love, joy, peace and self control, then why do I feel like I am lacking in them at certain times?”

Until I read our theme verse, and my eyes were opened to this mystery. Christ in me, floods me with the expectation of his glory. This expectation is called hope and Romans 5:5 assures us that hope does not disappoint. Day by day, we are transformed into His image, by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. Christ in me doesn't mean I will be perfect. It means I am moving towards perfection.

I may be pressed but I won't be crushed because of the hope Jesus brings in me. As a child of God, quitting is not an option.

Prayer

Loving father, thank for this truth, I am aware of your presence in me and am assured that I carry your glory with me. You didn't choose me because I was at my highest, so you won't leave me at my lowest.

OVERCOMING FEAR

II Timothy 1:7 NKJV

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

When God tells us not to bow to any other god but Him, our minds run to things like worshiping of graven images. But did you know that fear is a god you could be bowing to.

Many of us have missed great opportunities to advance the kingdom of God because of bowing to fear. This is because we believe in Jesus as savior and not as Lord. If someone is your Lord, you do whatever they tell you to do with no questions asked. When the Bible says that there is no fear in love, it means you are to love God with the Agape love which is sacrificial. This means in spite of your urges to cower back in fear; you will choose to move in faith sacrificially.

When you get into a situation that causes you to fear, remind yourself that you will not bow to any other god apart from Jehovah Himself.

Prayer

Loving father, I thank you for your word. I choose to bow to only you and not let fear control me. You have given me a spirit of boldness to be able to face any situation. I will therefore not be intimidated or afraid.

LET GOD BE TRUE

Romans 3:4 NKJV

Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged."

Our theme scripture teaches us that, even if every man lies, God will still be true.

The Bible says that God is not a son of man to lie or to change His mind. Many times, we tend to listen and believe people's words more than we do God's word. For example, we believe that it is normal that everyone should fall sick, yet God says that of the people of Zion no one will say am sick. (Isaiah 33:24) Our duty is submitting to God's word and resist the devil, and he will flee from us. (James 4:7)

Child of God, before you believe in anybody's say or report, first know God's say. If God says that you will not borrow but rather you will lend to nations, let no man convince you that you are poor. Move by what you know of your God, not what the world says.

Prayer

Loving father, I thank you for your word. I am fully convinced that all you promised me is true. I refuse to live and move as the world does and choose what you have said.

TRUST IN THE LORD

Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Our scripture today instructs us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts, and He will direct our paths.

The Bible says that anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame. (Romans 10:11) Trusting God for something while having a plan B at the same time is not what Paul is talking about here. God wants us to lean on Him entirely and to have confidence in His word.

As children of God, we must always recognize God as our only hope if He is to direct our paths. Our ways may seem right in the moment and yet they lead to death. (Proverbs 16:25) On the other hand, God's way always leads to life.

Prayer

Loving father, I thank you for this eye opener. I choose by the grace of God to trust you with all my heart. I walk and live in your understanding and word all the days of my life.

LOVE IS KIND

1 Corinthians 13:4 NLT

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud

Loving others God's way is not a feeling we need to have but rather a choice you and I have to make. This means choosing to take care of the people around us more than we do for ourselves without expecting anything in return.

Kindness should not only be shown to the people you know, but it should also be extended to whoever comes your way. The widow who only had a handful of flour, used it to feed Elijah first, who was even a stranger to her. And in return, God blessed her bountifully. Child of God, we must make the sacrificial decision to be kind always. Don't minimize the smallest acts of kindness for they can go a long way.

If you want to have a happy life, be kind. The message version puts it like this, "You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for. (Mathew 5:7) Choose to always show kindness to everyone regardless of their age or social status.

Prayer

Loving father, thank you for your word. Lord perfect me in your love. May I be kind no matter what the situation. I believe that my acts of kindness will result in the thanksgiving of many to the glory of your name.

LOVE DOES NOT ENVY

1 Corinthians 13:4 NKJV

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

One of the major factors that caused the Pharisees to crucify Jesus was envy. They were discontented seeing someone other than them succeed in any way. Needless to say, envy is one of the biggest problems in our day.

Our theme scripture points out that love does not envy. Rather it rejoices when others succeed. At the root of envy is often discontentment. Contentment comes from having an inward confidence based on the sufficiency of God. Child of God, you and I are parts of one body in Christ. If one part is honored, we should all rejoice with it. (1 Corinthians 12:26)

We have far more interesting things to do with our lives than compare ourselves with each other. When we choose to honor each other, we find ourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

Prayer

Loving father, we thank you for your word. Make us content with You and remind us that Your presence is all we need. I will not envy others because You are my shepherd and therefore, I lack nothing.

GO DEEPER

Luke 5:4 NKJV

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

In our theme scripture today, Simon and his friends had tried the whole night but failed to catch any fish. This went on until Jesus told them to launch deeper.

There are victories you will never experience in life until you go an extra mile. Be it in education, business or ministry. You have to get comfortable with being uncomfortable and launch deeper into the things of God.

Probably you're not receiving the answers for that prayer because you are shallow regarding the reasons for why you want that thing. Deep calls unto deep. The deeper you immerse yourself into God's word, the more your eyes will open regarding what you are praying for.

Prayer

Loving father, I thank you for your word. I put off the childish ways and commit myself to going deep in all things concerning the kingdom.

THE AWAKENED CONSCIOUS

James 1:17 NKJV

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Our theme verse speaks of a good and perfect gift, which in this case is the Holy spirit. He is given to whoever believes in Jesus Christ but for Him to work in you, you must be conscious of his availability and power!

To be conscious is to have knowledge of something. Do you know that the Holy Spirit is your guide, strengthener, comforter, counselor and standby just in case you need anything else. (John 14:16 AMP) You can live as a light to others because the Holy Spirit in you gives you power, love and a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)

Child of God, just as God does not change, the Holy Spirit does not change too. Walk in boldness knowing that the Holy Spirit and His abilities are always at work in you.

Prayer

Loving father, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. With Him I can live the abundant life you want me to live. I surrender my mind, will and emotions to His.

THE POWER TO LOVE

1 John 4:18 NIV

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

As a Child of God, you need not have any fear of punishment from God when you don't do things perfectly because Jesus settled your account once and for all.

If you struggle with perfectionism and judging yourself, you need to understand that Christ came so that you can be able to love others imperfectly and not be condemned or feel guilty. This is because your right standing with God does not come from you perfectly loving others but from you trusting that in Christ you love others perfectly. Since Christ loves perfectly, when you put your trust in Him, God counts Christ's perfection as your very own.

Just as Abraham believed and it was accounted to Him as righteousness, even so, when you and I believe in Jesus, we get Christ's righteousness on our account. This very assurance is the key to loving others. And if we lose this key we lose everything including the power to love others.

Prayer

Loving father, thank you for sending Jesus to empower me to love others without fear because I trust in you. I choose to walk in freedom and love.

STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NIV

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Our father God is not so concerned about us being perfect in the flesh rather, He is so concerned about us being humbler.

A weak person is one who won't accept God's help and instead tries to overcome their weakness in their own strength. Remember, you are as strong as you can recognize God's loving kindness in your life; that is His grace. This grace is the strength God gives us when we are weak. We can boast about our weaknesses and bad days because by them, we are able to see God's loving kindness in our lives.

Weaknesses are an opportunity for us to become humble before God knowing that in turn, He promises to lift us up.

Prayer

Loving Father, I thank you for this word. I believe that when I am weak, then I am strong because you are strong in me. I thank you that even my bad days prove that you are a good God.

MADE FOR VICTORY

Hebrews 4:15 NIV

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

When Jesus was on earth, He lived and experienced life as any other human being. He knew what it meant to be confident, scared, tired, happy, sad, angry, rejected, surprised, grieving, among the many other human emotions.

Through it all He kept trusting God because He knew that even though He had these emotions, He wasn't in union with them but was in union with the father. Therefore, He did what He had to do despite of the emotions present because He knew that He wasn't defined or controlled by any of them because His relationship with the Father is what defined Him.

God was with Him through it all just as He is with us. We are married to a person who overcame, and we too share in His victory. Hallelujah!

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for today's Word. I declare that I will not be ruled by my emotions. Thank you that I am more than victorious in You.

THE PACE OF GRACE

Ephesians 4:2 NIV

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

As children of God, we have to be patient with people because God was patient with us. We should not perceive people based on their faults because true love disregards others' faults and offenses.

Even our master Jesus was patient with people. He was patient with Thomas when he doubted. He did not condemn him but instead came down to his level and spoke to him with grace and truth. On another occasion, Jesus asked Peter three times whether he loved him and in all these events, Jesus re-assured Peter the same way. He showed him that for every mistake you have made there is grace available for it.

We have to know that we are all on a journey and we all need Jesus. We must be people who keep no record of wrongs but instead look for the best in others.

Prayer

Loving father, thank you for your fruit of patience in my life. May it grow to maturity as I walk daily with you. May I see the best in others just as you saw the best in me.

POWER OVER SIN

Titus 2:11-12 (AMPC)

For the grace of God (His unmerited favor and blessing) has come forward (appeared) for the deliverance from sin and the eternal salvation for all mankind. It has trained us to reject and renounce all ungodliness (irreligion) and worldly (passionate) desires, to live discreet (temperate, self-controlled), upright, devout (spiritually whole) lives in this present world.

When we received Jesus in our hearts, we became lights to which the darkness can not comprehend.

While Adam and Eve were unable to deny worldly lust such as the lust of the eyes, we however, as children of God can deny any form of lust. This is because the Holy Spirit in us has removed our old desires and given us new desires which in nature are His own desires. When we fall, we don't stay down for long. Our understanding of what Christ has achieved for us gets us back up. We now have a willingness to stick with things and a determination to say NO to sin. Because of the word of God, we are now being transformed into the image of God from Glory to Glory.

Our eyes are constantly beaming with delight, for we now see sin powerless and bowing down to the light of Jesus Christ in us.

Prayer

Loving father, I thank you for saving me and granting me power over sin. May I reject all the enemy's temptations and keep my eyes fixed on You.

MORE THAN A CONQUEROR

Romans 8:37 NIV

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

When God comes into a problem, He doesn't just conquer it, He makes sure it is more than conquered.

When Jesus fed the 5,000 and the 4,000 people, He made sure that on both occasions there were baskets of leftovers collected. This is because our God is a God of more than enough. That's why we should not just believe for God to give us a house or a car. We should believe God to give us houses and cars to give away! Jesus told the disciples to collect the leftovers as undeniable evidence. When the enemy comes to you with doubt for something you're believing for, be sure to show him your undeniable evidence which is your faith in God's promises that never fail.

Remember, in God's kingdom, faith is more precious than gold (1 Peter 1:7). As much as physical evidence could show that a situation is conquered, our faith in Christ is the evidence that shows that a situation is more than conquered! Hallelujah

Prayer:

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for being the God of more than enough. I believe all my challenges are not only conquered but more than conquered. My faith is the assurance that I have the things I hope for.

PEOPLE OF LIGHT

Psalm 119:105 KJV

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

The difference the word of God brings is like the distinction between night and day.

In the darkness of the world, we are so limited and blinded from experiencing all the benefits our creator and savior wants us to partake of. When we come into God's Kingdom, the word of God opens our eyes to the benefits we have in Jesus the Christ. Benefits such as freedom to live free from fear of death, demons, disease, lack, failure and eternal damnation. We now live free from the fear of death because we know death can no longer sting us or have victory because Jesus Christ won the victory. We live free from the fear of demons and witchcraft because Colossians 2:15 says, He made a public spectacle of principalities when He overcame them on the cross.

We walk in the light by declaring God's promises over our lives. Promises such as goodness and mercy will always follow us. When we do this, we get to see with our own eyes how God parts the red sea, how He brings water out of the rock, how He closes the mouths of lions and brings money out of the fish's mouth in our day to day lives.

Prayer

Loving father, I thank you for your word. No matter what I may be facing, I can sing with joy because your word has given me light that cannot be taken away. In Jesus Christ's Name, Amen.

GOD'S POWERFUL LOVE

Romans 5:8 NKJV

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

With all the forces trying to oppose us, including our own rebellion, we would have been so lost in despair. But God's love shows up every time, saves us, breaks our chains and sets us free.

That's why we have to worship and praise God with wholehearted devotion. We have to let the whole world know what the real thing is. It's the love of God. It transforms lives for the better. It makes people more caring, patient, kind, faithful and generous. It helps you take the burden of trying to control things off yourself so you can give it to Jesus. When you realize how much God loves you, your eyes will be opened, and you will understand that there is so much He wants to do for you and through you. He alone can give you the strength to hold on and to live an abundant and fulfilled life. God's love for us is what gives us confidence and inner peace. A confidence to know that everything is not only going to be alright but that it's going to turn out far better than we thought because God is in control.

We no longer need to draw what we need from this world or ourselves, but we can find true meaning and purpose from the love of Jesus, the comfort of the Holy spirit and the abundant mercies of our God.

Prayer

King of Glory, I am overwhelmed by your love for me that keeps chasing me down. I receive your love and the strength it brings.

LIVING HOPE

Hebrews 12:2 NKJV

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus was able to endure so much because of what He envisioned. He looked at us and envisioned us living an abundant life, a faith filled life, free of guilt and shame, a life where we are not just surviving but abounding.

A life so power filled, we tell mountains to move and be cast in the sea. A life where we are concerned about what really matters and that is faith, hope and love. We don't have to be worried about tomorrow because we are in very capable hands and He who started a good work in us will bring it to accomplishment (Philippians 1:6). God has given us exceedingly great and rich promises through His word. We must know these promises and declare them by faith. We have to live like we have attained these promises because God is not a man to lie. His word says all His promises are yes and amen.

His Spirit helps us to live out the truths of these promises as He encourages and strengthens us not to give up. That's why we always have to rely on Him for triumph.

Prayer

Loving father, thank You that I am fully known and loved by you. I am confident that you have good plans for me and even when I go through trials, I know endurance and faith are being built in me.

A GREAT PRIVILEGE

Philippians 4:6 NKJV

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Prayer is where we have to let God take control of things and simply trust that He has our best interests at heart.

The world will try to tell us that there is no need to pray because things are not immediately changing. But we have to know that the more we pray we build up our faith and as we declare God's word into situations they eventually bow. We should not look at prayer as something we have to do, we need to see it as something we get to do. It is a great privilege for us to have someone who is willing to have all our cares cast upon Him and who can do something about them.

The devil can also try to get us believing in the 'when then' lie. When everything is okay then I will thank God. We should not wait for results to thank God because it is the thanking that will bring results.

Prayer

Loving father, thank you for the gift of prayer where I can let you know about everything. I thank you in advance because I have seen of your faithfulness and I know you can never fail.

DRY BONES COME ALIVE

Ezekiel 37:5 NKJV

Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.

You might be going through a season of emptiness. You are working on something, but it seems like you just can't breakthrough.

You feel trapped for not being able to achieve anything. You have tried as hard as you can, but you have got nothing to show. Perhaps you feel tired and worn out. It's a valley of dry bones and you can't see a way out. But the scripture says that the dry bones will come alive. God says He will breathe new life into you. He will satisfy that deep longing you have inside. The psalmist says, "He lifts me up from the miry clay and sets my feet on solid ground." (Psalm 40:2)

God promises that those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they will mount up on wings like eagles, they shall run and not get weary, they shall walk and not faint. All that the enemy has done in your life won't stay. The Lord is not only going to bring you back to life, but He is also going to turn you into a mighty warrior.

So, breathe in his breathe of life today. Choose the Lord's report and that is His word. Declare it upon your life, ask the Lord for strength and then hold on to Him as He lifts you up.

Prayer

Dearest father, thank you for lifting me up when I am weak. I declare that I am strong in the Lord and in the power of His might and no weapon formed against me shall prosper. I condemn every tongue that rises against me in judgement for this is my portion and my righteousness comes from you.

THE VICTORY ANOINTING

1 John 2:27 NKJV

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

You might find yourself struggling with an addiction or a toxic mindset that you just can't seem to shake off. The good news is you have the power to be victorious over anything through the power of the anointing upon your life which is the Holy Spirit.

You need to get your focus off that issue you see with your physical senses and know that your real enemy is the devil. You conquer this enemy by submitting to God first (James 4:7). Peter submitted and let down His nets when Jesus told him to, even though it did not make sense to him. Secondly, you have to resist the devil by forsaking your unrighteous thoughts. Unrighteous thoughts speak of failure and defeat because they are not rooted in the word of God.

The Holy Spirit anointing on our lives reminds us of the victory we already have through Jesus Christ as we meditate on the word of God.

Prayer

Merciful father, thank you for making me victorious over any situation through the anointing of the Holy Spirit on my life. Through Him I can submit to you and resist any form of behavior that is contrary to your word.

LIVING WITHIN GOD'S LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:13 NKJV

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Our inclination as human beings is to live within the perfection we desire in our minds. But God's desire for us is to live within His love.

God's love is worth something to boast about because for ages past, His love has been and always will be liberating, sacrificial, life giving, restorative and hope filled. God wants to free us from being self absorbed by perfection. The problem with perfectionism is that the moment anything appears to fall out of the perfection bubble we have created, we get crippled with fear or condemnation.

On the other hand, God's love is a place where there is no record of wrongs kept! It's a place where we get to slow down and be kind to others. Where we get to be humble and have genuine care for others. Where we can believe all things, hope all things and endure all things.

Prayer

Heavenly father, I confidently trust and rely on your amazing love for me. Help me to have faith in your unfailing goodness. May your Holy spirit help me to live a life filled with the consciousness of your love for me which will give me the joy, peace, and hope I need.

JUNK WE TAKE FOR GRACE

Philippians 3:8 NKJV

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

There are so many things we suppose are good for us yet in actual sense they are the very things leading us to disaster. I refer to it as junk because it is toxic to our lives yet to satisfy our desires, we call it "grace".

Some of these include 'indifference' of which we say, "that's the way I am". Stinginess which we mask under "saving", Pride and rebellion which we mask under "my rights". Others include fear, impatience, complacency, bad relationships, a toxic work culture, a lack of self control, worry, dead works, always looking to the future and missing out on the present to mention but a few.

One that many of us fall prey to is having peace with the enemy. This is where we clearly see the devil coming after what's ours such as our loved ones, health, ministry, faith among others. But instead of fighting back by standing in faith on God's promises, we choose to let the devil have his run of the house.

Child of God, you cannot playhouse with the enemy. You have to tell the devil that if it's a war he wants then it's a war he's going to get. You have been given powerful weapons such as the word of God and prayer. With these in your hands, the enemy has got nothing on you.

Prayer

Heavenly father, thank you for making me a fighter. Help me to discern junk from what's truly precious. I vow to fight the good fight of faith by the power of your grace working in me. I am more than a conqueror because of Christ who is alive and at work in me.

THE EVERLASTING COVENANT

Hebrews 13:20-21 KJV

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Do you find yourself wondering where you are going to get the strength or patience to help others, yet you don't even have enough for yourself? Maybe you are frustrated that you are still making mistakes you thought you had outgrown by now.

It is the enemy's desire that he gets you stuck in this 'all or nothing' mindset. This mindset is one focused on perfection and not progress. It doesn't see any gains but rather sees only faults.

Because of Jesus, we can have peace with ourselves because we have a blood guaranteed covenant with God in which we are being perfected for every good work through Jesus Christ.

Our part is to obediently do what the Lord tells us to. Students are given homework by their teachers; homework they better do because it's for their own good. In the same way, prayer, worship and reading the word are things we have to do regardless of how we feel because they are for our own benefit.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I thank you for your truth. Help me to live in the riches of peace, love, joy and strength that I possess in you. May I gladly proclaim your praises, for you have brought me out of darkness into your marvelous light.

DON'T JUST LOOK, SEE

Ephesians 1:18 NKJV

the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

People who rejoice in the face of affliction have one common characteristic. They choose to set their focus on what God is doing in every situation.

The same goes for people who are generous even when they are in poverty themselves. They choose to see that fact that their generosity will result in the thanksgiving of many which in turn will bring about an overflow of God's grace towards all. How you perceive things will determine your level of joy and peace. For example, instead of seeing a lack of faith in yourself choose to recognize the different ways God is using to build your faith. It might be through a sermon that speaks to you or through an uplifting conversation with a friend. Whatever it is, God is always at work in the lives of His children, and He wants them to be aware of it.

Thanksgiving prayers are key in helping you develop this kind of sight. Even when you haven't received the answer to your prayer, choose to give thanks as a sign of faith in the fact that God is able to do immeasurably more than you could ever ask.

Prayer

Loving father, open my eyes to see all that you are doing in my life. I believe that you who started a good work in me are working to bring it to accomplishment. I readily receive all that you have for me.

CHOOSE TO TRUST GOD

Isaiah 26:3-4 MSG

People with their minds set on you, you keep completely whole, Steady on their feet, because they keep at it and don't quit. Depend on God and keep at it because in the Lord God you have a sure thing.

Putting trust in the things of this world is like leaning on a broken rail, it's bound to break anytime. While we are here on earth, we can be sure empires fall, pillars fail, even people with good intentions disappoint us from time to time.

There is only one rock that is reliable and that is Jesus Christ. This is why we have to jealously guard our minds from things that take away our trust from God. Instead of trying to look to yourself or the world for confidence, self-control, kindness and love, look to the Holy Spirit in you who is a guarantee that you have all these and much more. Focus on the truth that all things are working together for your good, think about how you are fearfully and wonderfully made, how you are the righteousness of God, how you are rich in Christ Jesus your hope of glory.

When you think such thoughts, you gain a confidence in God that keeps you steady on your feet. You will be beholding the glorious image of God while at the same time being transformed into the same image.

Prayer prompt

Take time to ask God, through His Spirit, to help you meditate on His word. Ask Him to enable you to put your trust in Him always.

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE

John 13:14 AMP

If I then, your Lord and Teacher (Master), have washed your feet, you ought [it is your duty, you are under obligation, you owe it] to wash one another's feet.

One of the key attributes that differentiate a leader from a boss is servant hood. Anyone can boss people around, but an attitude of service is what makes a leader.

Many people who eventually rose to greatness were not driven by a desire to be great but a desire to serve. Servant hood does not mean thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less. One of the greatest ways to show gratitude to God for all He has done for you is by serving others. You might be a secretary, teacher, doctor or preacher. What is important is that you do it with an attitude of service. A servant seeks ways to help others. This is because when we serve others, we are serving Jesus Himself. When we give of our time and resources to others we are giving to Jesus Himself and Jesus rewards servant hood (Mathew 25:35-40). We know that we are not saved by good works but we are saved to do good works. In the same way, we are not saved by serving but we are saved to serve others.

You can choose to be a taker, always letting other people serve you or you can choose to see what God can do through you when you serve others.

Prayer prompt

Take time to ask God who you can serve today and how you can serve better.

JESUS IN YOUR BROKENNESS

Hosea 6:1 NLT

"Come, let us return to the LORD! He has torn us in pieces; now he will heal us. He has injured us; now he will bandage our wounds.

We normally view brokenness as a bad thing but sometimes it's for our own good. Some breaking is done by God because some things in our lives need to be broken so that better things can be built.

Some things that need to be broken include our will, pride and strongholds we've built. These things limit us from attaining the great things God has prepared for us. God therefore breaks us so that He can build humility, gratitude and a dependence on God. When you are going through a season of breakdown, your prayer should be 'Lord, what are you trying to teach me?' When Jesus was on the cross, His relationship with God was broken so that our relationship with God would be restored.

We can therefore be excited in times of breakdown because we know that times of restoration are just a breath away.

Prayer prompt

Take time and thank God for seasons in which He breaks you so that He can build something much better. Ask Him to open your eyes to see what He is teaching you in every circumstance.

THE HIGHEST FORM OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

1 Peter 4:8 AMP

Above all things have intense and unfailing love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregards the offenses of others].

Pat Barrett describes love as a beautiful garden that's bursting with color when tended with care. In other words, love takes effort.

Love is going to cost you something. It could be your time, pride or selfishness. If we are to love like God, we have to love without expecting anything in return. Remember Jesus died for us while we were of no use whatsoever to Him. We might have problems we are dealing with ourselves but the answers to our problems are found in choosing to forget ourselves and start living to make other people's lives better. The highest form of spiritual warfare we can use is love because it never fails. (1 Corinthians 13:8)

If we are to love, we have to forgive and disregard other people's offenses because those will always be there. Choose to believe in love for it always wins.

Prayer prompt

Take time to ask God to let His love flow through you to others. Ask Him to enable you walk in love no matter the circumstance.

FEAR NOT

Isaiah 41:10 NLT

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

One thing we must be conscious about are the enemies of faith. One of these enemies is the tongue.

In Luke 1, God made Zacharias unable to speak because He knew Zacharias' unbelief would cause him to say words that would hinder him from seeing the miracle God promised him. Another enemy is the inner voice saying negative things such as "you will never get well, or you are too far gone." Realize that this is the devil coming after your faith. In the face of negativity, reply by boldly declaring the truth of God's word over your life. In Mark 9:17-29, Jesus faced a situation which was a faith shaker. A father brought his son who had been possessed by a demon. The demon in the boy tried to shake Jesus' faith by throwing him down violently and making him appear as if he were dead. Jesus wasn't shaken because He knew that faith is what affirms and ensures that what is hoped for will come to pass. As you dwell in prayer and the word, you will become spiritually conscious so that you can overcome anything that comes against your faith.

When you overcome temptations and trials your faith gets strengthened and you are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy because you have witnessed your soul being victorious.

Prayer prompt

Take time to ask God to help you in the face of doubt and temptation, to choose His will over your own.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Philippians 4:6 NKJV

Do not be anxious about anything but with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

In a world that is so unpredictable, it is easy to get caught up in the anxiety and stress brought about by the fluctuating prices, job instability and debt.

But this doesn't have to be your story. In the Bible we see how God provided for Elijah during the 3 years of drought in Israel. God used ravens to bring him food in the morning and in the evening. Even when Elijah had to go somewhere else, God still provided for him. Elijah trusted in God and God never failed him. We do not have a way to stop ourselves from worrying but when we let God be God by choosing to bring all our worries to Him through prayer, the worries lose their power. The secret Elijah had was that he was a man of faith as we see in 1 Kings 18:41 where he tells Ahab of the sound of abundance of rain yet in reality there was no sign of rain. We too, like Elijah, can choose to live above the negative signs all around and declare increase every single day.

Don't discount the power of a prayer coupled with faith. Your prayers matter. Revelation 5 says our prayers are in golden bowls in heaven and just like gold is precious our prayers are also precious.

Prayer prompt

Take time to thank God for the gift of prayer. Ask Him to enable you trust and believe that all things are possible in His name.

WAIT ON THE LORD

Psalms 40:1-2 NKJV

I waited patiently for the LORD. and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit. out of the miry clay. and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

Many at times things don't work out the way we hoped. Our plans fail; visions fade. Maybe you thought you would be married by now or maybe you thought your business should have taken off by now or you were betrayed by those you trusted. But when in such situations where do you get your strength from.

The Bible talks of a man called David in 1 Samuel 30 who came back home one day only to find that his enemies had burnt down the city and taken as captives his family and the families of his soldiers. This was a huge blow to David as even his men turned on him. But the Bible tells us that in this moment when his world had turned upside down, David strengthened himself in the Lord. David knew in his heart that even if everything looked like it was failing, all he had to do was hide himself in the Lord with firm footed devotion. "The Hebrew word for waiting is qavah which means to be entwined with. David knew the secret that when you stick with God, He turns the mourning to dancing and the sorrow to joy.

I want to encourage you today that no matter the circumstances, lean on the Lord. Let your hope be anchored in Him. As you do this you will find that He will give you beauty for ashes and your strength will be renewed.

Prayer prompt

Take time to ask God to enable you to choose to wait on Him in all circumstances. Ask Him to incline your heart to His that you may believe Him without wavering.

A CONTENTED HEART

1 Timothy 6:6 KJV

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

In this world there will always be “better.” But God’s desire for us is not to build our lives on the pursuit of better but rather on contentment.

Adam and Eve thought they knew better than God and so they fell to the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Jesus on the other hand was able to overcome these three things when He was tempted by Satan in the desert. Using the word of God, He was able to remain content. We already have better right in front of us, but because of comparison we miss out on the blessings God has availed for us. We should not be like the Pharisees who missed out on Jesus because they were looking for better.

God has already done so much for us, we are forgiven, set free, anointed and redeemed. We can rejoice because it’s already better!

Prayer prompt

Take time to thank God for all that He has already done for you. Ask Him to enable you be content because He has already given you everything you need.

GOD MY HELPER

Psalm 121:1-2 NKJV

I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

There is a great spiritual battle for the souls of people. The enemy wants to silence every believer whether you have just given your life to Christ, or you have been walking with Jesus for a while.

He may come to you with the lie that the darkness will not end, so you might just as well stop singing. This is when you declare the word of God that promises that night tears end, and joy comes (Psalm 30:5). If you are leading people to Jesus, or if you are walking in the will of God expect push backs from the enemy. Paul and Silas were thrown into prison because they rebuked a demon out of a slave girl. Even in prison, they did not keep silent. They prayed and sung to God because they knew that they were born of God and were therefore one step closer to victory.

When you are faced with the temptation to fear, stand firm in the glory Christ gave you and remember that God is with you and your help has come.

Prayer prompt

Take time to thank God for always being with you. Declare that you will not fear though the mountains shake for He alone is your refuge and strength. Ask Him to enable you trust and know that all the darkness bows down to Him.

GOD WANTS YOU SEATED

Ephesians 2:6 NIV

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

When a baby is growing up, they first have to learn how to sit before they can stand or walk. The same applies to us in our spiritual journey as children of God. Before you desire to go out and do things for God have you learnt how to sit in God?

By this I mean, have you believed in the finished works of Jesus; that everything you need has already been provided (Phil. 4:19), that your healing was already given (1 Pet. 2:24), that all things are working for your good (Romans 8:28), that God will perfect that concerns you (Psalm 138:8). These and so many others are promises and truths that God gave us to rid us of striving and losing our peace over things He has already achieved for us. With this truth embedded in you, you don't give to be blessed, you give because you know that you are already blessed. You don't do spiritual warfare to defeat the devil; you do spiritual warfare because you know the devil has already been defeated.

When you are seated in Christ, you will always be a victor because you will not approach challenges to gain victory, but you will know that the victory is already yours!

Prayer prompt

Take time to thank God for all the wonderful things He has already achieved for you. Ask Him to enable you not to strive for you are already a victor in Him.

WEAKNESS TURNED INTO STRENGTH

Isaiah 61:3 NLT

To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory.

I am naturally a perfectionist. For a long time, I begged God to take perfectionism away from me until I realized our God can use anything for His glory. So now I boast about my weaknesses for they create a platform for God's grace to be manifested in my life.

Even from the Bible, Joseph being sold as slave was a bad thing and yet it was the very thing that God used to put him on the path of being a mighty man. Jesus' disciples were devastated when they saw their master on the cross and yet His crucifixion would be the very thing they would later boast about as the reason for their salvation. That's why the psalmist says, "I will fear no evil because you are with me. When faced with scary moments, we need to remember we have a God who turns graves into gardens.

Rejoice in the truth that the thing that was designed to keep you out is the very thing God is going to use to take you into His rich and wonderful promises.

Prayer

Thank you God, for I know with you, my weaknesses are strengths, and your grace will always be enough for me.

COVERED

Ephesians 2:4-5 NKJV

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

One of the tactics the enemy uses is to amplify the self-critical voices within us. As a result, every time you do or say something you regret, you immediately condemn yourself to be buried six feet beneath the ground.

But thanks be to God for His words of love with which He reassures us and sets us on firm ground. It's His word of love that reminds you that He will make no mention of your past sins or even recall them. (Zephaniah 3:17 AMP) and that there is no condemnation to those of us who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). And if you ever think that there is something you will do that His love cannot cover, He reminds you that there is grace to spare for all your mistakes (Ephesians 2:7).

So today, meditate on His great love for you, and see him take away that self condemnation from you so that you can be free to lift your hands in gratitude for what He has done for you.

Prayer

Loving father, thank you for your grace that is abundant and for your mercies that are new every morning. I let go of my fear and receive your love today.

TRUST IN GOD

Psalms 118:8 TPT

Lord, it is so much better to trust in you to save me than to put my confidence in someone else.

Trusting God is about having confidence in the truth that God's plan for you is good even when the situation looks otherwise.

When in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus had to trust His Father's plan above what His flesh wanted. Even though He wanted the cup of suffering to be taken away, He submitted to God all the way. Trust in God has to be manifested in your thoughts and in the words you speak.

Philemon 1:6 says, "the communication of your faith becomes effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus". Paul and Silas demonstrated this when they sung praises to God while in prison. Trusting God could also be described as getting out of the boat and walking on the water even when everyone else says otherwise. It's putting all your hope in Jesus. The Bible says we walk by faith and not by sight. Playing it safe robs us of an opportunity for us to see God moving in a mighty way on our behalf.

Today, surrender that troubling situation in your life to God because He is the only one with the power to never fail you.

Prayer

Loving father, I trust you above my ability to handle my finances, loved ones, or myself. You know the end from the beginning, and I confidently trust that you will handle it.

SET APART

Romans 12:2 NIV

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

God really loves us, more than we could ever know. He loves us to the point that He even gave His son's life for us. Therefore, when He tells us to stay away from certain things and lay our lives for Him, it's for our own good.

Contrary to the world, He requires us to speak the truth in love, rebuking where necessary, not afraid of displeasing some because Jesus said 'woe to you when all men speak well of you' Luke 6:26. The world may think we are old fashioned but we do not live by the law of the world, we live by a higher law, the law of love. In this law, we are always looking for ways of being more forgiving, tender-hearted, kind and compassionate even in the smallest things.

Today, look around, someone needs a word of encouragement or simply a listening ear that you can give. Remember, whenever you live selflessly, you bring out the God colors in you to shine in a dark world.

Prayer

Heavenly father, thank you for having set me apart. Thank you for your grace that enables me to live a life that honors you through my interactions and selfless actions.

YOU ARE RICH

Romans 8:17 NIV

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

In the story of the prodigal son, the older son refused to celebrate the return of His younger brother because he thought he was not as favored as his younger brother in the eyes of His father. The father simply reassured him that everything he owned also belonged to him as his son.

Likewise, as God's children, everything that is His is also ours. That includes His glory and dignity, His holiness and righteousness, His name and authority, His discipline and correction. What's more He has given us a relationship with Him that is intimate and secure. We can come to God's throne anytime, any day, anywhere with anything. We have the Holy Spirit who intercedes for us before the Father and gives us assurance that we truly belong to God.

This should give you reason to praise and worship God for the great and rich inheritance He has given you.

Prayer

Loving father, I am overwhelmed by your great love for me. Open my eyes to see the great riches you have bestowed upon me and may I walk in them with a heart of gratitude.

SPEND TIME WITH GOD

Psalm 27:4 AMP

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek, inquire for, and [insistently] require: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life, to behold and gaze upon the beauty [the sweet attractiveness and the delightful loveliness] of the Lord and to meditate, consider, and inquire in His temple.

God wants us to seek Him daily through prayer, praise and worship and reading the word. Just like tithing, giving God the first portion of our time shows that we know He is our source.

You need to earnestly seek God if you are going to be able to enjoy your life even in hard times. This is because He gives you peace that passes all understanding and infuses you with strength when your strength is long gone. Through His word, God promises that those who seek Him will be protected (Psalm 91:1), receive direction (Psalm 73:24) and find true satisfaction (Psalm 17:15). You should not seek God just to appease him or because of legalism or because you need something from him. You should seek Him because you absolutely cannot do without Him.

Seeking God may require you to wake up early and let go of some things in your life to make time for God. No matter the sacrifice, spending time with God is worth it all.

Prayer

Heavenly father, thank you for the opportunity to seek you everyday. May I desire more than anything to seek you with all my heart for in you is all I need.

CHOOSE HUMILITY

Matthew 5:5 AMP

“Blessed [inwardly peaceful, spiritually secure, worthy of respect] are the gentle [the kind-hearted, the sweet-spirited, the self-controlled], for they will inherit the earth.

Humility is often undervalued and misinterpreted with being weak. On the contrary though, humility is a strength and a Godly virtue that was clear in the life of our master Jesus.

Humility is about sacrifice and deep concern for others. Humble people do not have pride but instead possess Godly confidence. Pride says, I am better than you while Godly confidence says, what I have has been given to me by God. We should yearn for humility because it brings about wisdom (Proverbs 11:2), God's favor (James 4:6) and unity (Ephesians 4:2-3).

You can embrace humility today by listening more than you speak, showing gratitude and apologizing even for the little things.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, I want to be more like You and less like me. I want to carry the mind you have that made you leave all of heaven's glory to become human and die to save us. Give me a heart that has genuine concern for others.

GOOD AND TRUE FRIENDSHIPS

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 NIV

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Friendships are very crucial for a healthy Christian life. Without advice from a good friend, there is no safety (Proverbs 24:6). A good friend is one who can sharpen you in speech, love, conduct and Godly character. True friendship is about making sacrifices and speaking the truth in love.

Vulnerability is crucial because it is the key to real and authentic friendships. We should always confess what we are going through to one another because that is how we get healed (James 5:16). We are to desire and seek friends who sharpen us to be more patient, kind, humble and God fearing while also offering the same light to others. (Proverbs 27:17)

Today, show yourself friendly by stopping to have a conversation with someone or giving a helping hand.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the gift of friends. Open my eyes to see opportunities in which I can influence my friends for your Kingdom. I believe to have purposeful and authentic friendships.

A HIGHER REST

Mark 6:31 NLT

Then Jesus said, “Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.” He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn’t even have time to eat.

In our theme text, the disciples had just finished the assignment Jesus had given them in which they had gone out in pairs to preach the good news. They were tired and even Jesus recognized that they needed rest. Jesus therefore invites them to go away with Him to rest. Note that He didn’t send them away from Him but told them to go away with Him.

When we rest by spending time with God in prayer and meditation on His word, He gives us a joy and peace that is better and brighter than what we ever knew. God’s kind of rest makes us live continually refreshed because we rest in His ability to turn any situation around for our good.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for your rest. I can rest in you because you are a good father who cares for me more than I know. I believe that you will perfect everything that concerns me.

TAKE UP YOUR SPACE

Genesis 1:26 NIV

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

God's desire for us is to have dominion on the earth. The Greek word for the word dominion also means kingdom. Therefore, whenever we pray that "your Kingdom come", what we are saying is; Lord help us take up our space.

Taking up our space is about keeping a standard. Just like a father gives a standard that is to be kept in his home, we too are to set the standard for the world. For us Christians, Jesus has set the standard, and our job is to keep it. We have to imitate Him in love, speech and conduct.

We have to live lives that are self controlled, not being people pleasers by trying to do everything but rather emulating our savior who walked with wisdom and grace. Hallelujah!

Prayer:

Loving Father, thank you for giving me dominion to rule on the earth. May I not be conformed to the standards of this world but rather walk in your ways.

GIVE THANKS

Psalms 103:2 NIV

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—

Our daily desire as God's redeemed children should be to live in remembrance of what God has done for us. We should constantly remind ourselves of the hope, freedom, love and grace we received in Jesus. Remembering what God has done for us keeps us fueled and aflame.

It should never roll off our backs casually that all our sins have already been forgiven (Romans 3:24). We should never lose sight of God's immense love towards us that ensures that we always have the grace needed to abound to every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

We should use any opportunity we get to thank God. His will is for us to give thanks in everything and as a result, we will find ourselves more grateful day by day.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for blessing me with everything I need. Awaken my conscious to be grateful for all that you do for me.

FIGHT FOR YOUR IDENTITY

2 Timothy 1:7 NIV, For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

From our theme scripture, we see that God has given you and I an identity as powerful, loving and self-disciplined children of God.

The challenge we often fall prey to is the Esau syndrome. Just as Esau traded his birthright for some stew (Genesis 25:29), we too often trade our identity to satisfy our temporary feelings and desires. When faced with a challenge, we feel fear and so to satisfy this feeling, we label ourselves as incompetent. What we need to do is stand our ground and fight for our identity because the feeling of insufficiency or fear is momentary while our identity as a loving people is eternal.

Keeping close connection with the word and the Holy Spirit will help us in this fight because they will always confirm our identity to us.

Prayer:

Loving Father, thank you for giving me an identity as your child. Today I receive the grace to fight for my identity and stand my ground no matter the temptation I may face.

FIGHT FOR YOUR IDENTITY 2

2 Corinthians 5:7 NIV

For we live by faith, not by sight.

Life's challenges will shake us more in areas of our lives where we haven't embraced what God says about us.

One truth that we need to meditate upon often is that our Identity is not determined by our current circumstances or feelings. It doesn't matter whether you currently feel condemned, your identity as one with no condemnation doesn't change. (Romans 8:1). You might feel perplexed about a particular decision you have to make, that doesn't change the fact that you have access to all of heaven's wisdom. (1 Corinthians 1:30)

Our Identity in Christ is a finished work. It was achieved for us at the cross. We should therefore stop trying to achieve something that has already been achieved for us. All you and I have to do is live in this newness of life by walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16).

Prayer:

King of Glory, thank you for the gift of identity that I have in you. I walk like one who has been given everything. May your Holy Spirit continue reminding and revealing to me all things concerning who I am in Christ Jesus.

BEAUTY FROM PAIN

2 Corinthians 4:17 NIV

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

I love a famous quote from Abraham Lincoln which says, " We can complain because rosebushes have thorns, or we can rejoice that thornbushes have roses."

Just like the thorns on roses have a purpose of protecting the rose from predators, God also has a purpose for the thorns in our life. We should stop trying to always get rid of all our thorns because they play an important role. First, they help keep a check on our egos (2 Corinthians 12:7). Secondly, thorns help us trust God's Grace to be sufficient because they create a platform for God's power to be manifested in our lives.

We can rejoice during trials because just as pressure brings forth diamond, even so tests produce perseverance in us.

Prayer

Loving Father, I thank you for you have a plan for each thorn in my life. May I stand strong knowing that in everything, you are working for my good.

A REASON FOR LIVING

Matthew 6:33 NIV

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The teacher in Ecclesiastes speaks of a life that is ultimately focused on toiling, leaving a legacy, acquiring knowledge and pleasure as being utterly meaningless.

Jesus also emphasizes that these things should never be what our lives are all about (Matthew 6:25). Our lives are supposed to be about seeking the kingdom of God and His way of being right. One of the ways we seek the kingdom is through our words. Our speech should build us. This is why we should pray in tongues often for he who prays in tongues builds himself up (Jude 1:20).

We should also speak words of victory over ourselves and others. We have to be intentional about declaring the good things we have in Jesus for then do we fulfill our duty as ministers of Grace. (Ephesians 4:29)

Prayer

King of Glory, thank you for showing me what life is all about. May my speech always reflect heaven as I speak life in all circumstances.

A REASON FOR LIVING 2

2 Corinthians 3:6 NIV

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Our theme verse speaks of believers being ministers of a new covenant. The new covenant is described in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and it is mainly composed of two things.

First is that God's law will be on our hearts and minds. We are now able to live Holy lives, not by following a set of rules which reveal sin and demand obedience which in turn leads to death because man is powerless over sin. Instead, we now depend on the power of the Holy Spirit living in us to produce fruit that remains. Secondly, in the new covenant, our sins will be remembered NO more. We see this through how God keeps giving us Grace by always extending the day of salvation to today (2 Corinthians 6:2).

You and I have now been called to minister this covenant to ourselves and to others through the way we live. Whenever we feel incompetent to do so, we can always approach God's throne boldly through prayer and meditation on His word to find the divine enablement we need.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the gift of the new covenant. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, may I always minister this new covenant first to myself and to others.

LOVE UNVEILED

Hebrews 12:2 NIV

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God

A bridegroom has so much joy on his wedding day because he is being joined with the one, he loves. Even greater joy than this is what Jesus had when He faced crucifixion at Golgotha. The joy set before Him of being forever joined with the church enabled Him to endure the pain and shame.

Jesus finds great joy in the church. This is why He promises to present it to Himself without spot or wrinkle (Ephesians 5:27). He also ensured that He gave the church so much power that it is never on the defensive against the devil but rather on the offensive (Matthew 16:18).

From the book of Song of Songs, we get a glimpse of the immense love Christ and His bride the church have for each other. His banner over the church is a love that is passionate about saving, keeping, forgiving and embracing.

Prayer

Loving Savior, thank you for the great love you have for the church. May we receive the great love you have for us and be delighted in the fact that you find great joy in us.

THE PLACE OF LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:13 NKJV

And now abide faith, hope, these three; but the greatest of these is love

Any spiritual thing we do only carries meaning if it comes from a place of love. This is a place of unconditional patience, kindness, humility, forgiveness, endurance, faith and hope (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

The reason why Jesus' miracles and sacrifice on the cross carry meaning is because they were from a place of love. Even the two greatest commandments are a call to love. Jesus asked Peter three times whether he loved him because He was re-focusing him on what God desires most, and that is; love.

God wants us to come to a place where we don't just do things because we believe in Him or hope in Him, but because we love Him.

Prayer

Loving Father, I want to worship and serve You not because I want anything from You but because I love You and can't live without You. Focus my eyes on loving you because that's what matters most.

GOD DELIGHTS IN YOU

Psalms 18:19 NIV

He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.

From our theme verse, we see that God rescued David not because of any good thing he had done but simply because He loved him.

Child of God, you bring a smile on God's face, and He wants you to know that He takes pleasure in you because you are His. (Psalm 149:4) God the Father was pleased with Jesus even before Jesus had done a single miracle. (Mathew 3:19). This is because His love is unconditional.

Before you do anything for Him, He already loves you to the fullest. You are always on His mind and the joy of His heart.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for being completely known and loved by you. Give me a deeper understanding of the love you have for me. I walk with my head raised high because I don't have to prove anything.

GOD DELIGHTS IN YOU 2

1 Peter 1:14 NLT

So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then.

We cannot turn back to our old ways. We didn't know what we know now. We didn't know about the transforming Power of Jesus. We didn't know about the great sacrifice Christ had to pay to save us. We didn't know about His extraordinary gifts to us such as peace that passes understanding or Joy even in chaos.

But now we do! Through His word and His Spirit opening our eyes to His workings in our lives, we are now aware that we are tenderly loved and cared for. We now know that we are God's delight and that leaving Him would be us taking away the very thing He loves most.

This is why we choose to remain in Him because with us in Him and He in us, we are reminded that we are made for something much greater.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for always reminding me that I am made for more than any craving or desire I may have. Fix my eyes on the hope that is to be brought at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

PERFECTED THROUGH SUFFERINGS

Hebrews 2:10 NIV

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

The sufferings that Jesus went through perfected Him for the office of High priest. Because of His sufferings, He was able to know what it feels like to be human and yet He did not sin hence offering the perfect sacrifice that made us right with God for good.

In the same way, our sufferings make us perfect candidates for God to establish, strengthen and settle us. In other words, the sufferings are a sign that God's glory is just around the corner. Christ received glory after His sufferings and since we are one with Him because we are in Him and He is in us, we are confident that there will be glory after our sufferings.

Christ held onto the hope that there would be glory after His sufferings and this hope got Him through. In the same way, we should hold onto our hope firmly because it is the anchor that will keep us in position to live in glory during and after the storm.

Prayer

King of Glory, thank You for being my hope of glory. With You in me, I am confident that I can live in glory during the trial and I know that there's going to be glory after the trial because I am one with You.

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

John 4:24 NKJV

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth.

Your true self is your spirit. Worshiping in Spirit and Truth means your worship must engage your spirit in pursuit of the truth.

The truth refers to the faithful promises of Jesus Christ (Psalm 91:4). God has given us over 800 promises in His word. All His promises are yes and amen.

Regarding worship, key to note is that worship is not merely a song but the way we live our lives. Our theme verse, therefore, is a call for us to live lives that are intentional about us walking in God's promises.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for being faithful to keep your promises. May I always seek to know and live in your promises.

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH 2

Galatians 5:16 NIV

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

During worship, though your flesh might make you feel embarrassed for dancing to God, your spirit doesn't care about being dignified. That's why we should live by the Spirit not the flesh.

While your flesh may feel fear, your spirit only knows power, love and a sound mind. In Christ our spirit man is born anew, and He is therefore inclined to the things of God.

Walking by the Spirit requires us to lean into whatever God calls us to do not with human ability but by receiving God's power and wisdom in our spirit.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for I am born again. I choose to walk by the Spirit and shine your light wherever I go. I receive all of your promises in my spirit in Jesus' Name, Amen.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REST

Mark 2:27 NLT

Then Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath.

God rested on the sixth day not because He was tired but to simply show us a pattern to follow. We should not rest only when we are tired. Without resting one day a week, we will not see work as a holy activity.

Many of us find it hard to rest because we have placed our identity in our work. Jesus didn't do any miracles for 30 years but that didn't change His identity as the all-powerful God.

Resting reminds us that our Identity does not come from what we do but from whom God says we are. Resting is how we show that we trust God.

Prayer:

Dearest Father, thank you for showing me the way to go regarding rest. I believe that my identity is not rooted in what I do but in who you say I am. I choose to rest because I trust you to take care of everything that concerns me.

PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Hebrews 12:5 NLT

And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, “My child, don’t make light of the Lord’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you.

God loves us. That's why He doesn't give up on us even when we go astray. When we are walking in disobedience, He doesn't force His way on us because that's not what His love does.

Instead, He is patient with us and will correct us gently when we soften our hearts to the truth in His word. By ourselves, we can only know God partly. But with the Holy Spirit casting light on God's word, our eyes are opened to the fullness of who He is.

One of the truth's God wants us to embrace is doing good works which He prepared beforehand for us to walk in (Ephesians 2:10). Notice the word good. God wants us to love good, serve good, worship good, be good employees among others. The works we do should not be shoddy but should reflect the nature of our God for He is good.

Prayer:

Loving Father, thank you for disciplining me. I know that as a farmer prunes a branch so that it bears more fruit, so are you pruning me so that I can bear fruit that remains. May I walk in your promise of doing only good works.

WHY STICK WITH PRAYER

1 Thessalonians 5:17 NIV

pray continually,

We should pray first because it is a command from God as our theme verse states. If our Lord and savior often withdrew from the crowds and prayed, then we cannot undermine prayer.

Even before raising Lazarus or feeding the 5000, we see Jesus prioritizing prayer. This means prayer is the key that opens miracles in our lives. Among its many advantages, I am grateful for how it helps us overcome temptation and aligns us to God's will.

Prayer should never be substituted for anything because only through it can we access God's wisdom, revelation and be able to walk in the fruits of the Holy Spirit such as joy amid chaos or have peace that makes no sense.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the gift of prayer. I believe it is a good and perfect gift from you. Give me the desire and grace to pray always.

WHY STICK WITH GOD

John 6:68 NLT

Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life.

One of the reasons we should stick with God is because God stays. Even when your mother and father forsake you, God will never forsake you. (Psalm 27:10)

Secondly, only He deserves the praise. This is because only He has continuously healed us, strengthened us, forgiven us, mended our broken hearts, saved us, provided for us and made ways where there were none. Thirdly, we should stick with God because only He showed us the greatest love by laying down His life for us. To God, you were worth dying for, therefore, you don't need to beg for His attention.

If you ever doubt the depths of God's love for you, look at the cross and you will know for sure that He couldn't love you anymore than He does right now.

Prayer

Dearest Father, I am so grateful for your love. I will always live in wonder of the fact that I awaken your jealous love. Eternity will almost be enough. I receive your perfect unconditional love today.

WHY STICK WITH PEOPLE

Ephesians 6:18 NIV

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

People matter to God and so they should matter to us too. If a person is by himself, woe unto him for when he falls, no one can lift him up. (Ecclesiastes 4:10)

Through people we get to see the transformative power of God's kingdom. Even the worst people have the potential to change and be world changers. Look at Paul, once a murderer turned into one of the greatest apostles.

We should therefore love and pray for people everywhere because in doing so, we walk in the most excellent way. (1 Corinthians 12:31)

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for loving people. Help me to love others the way you love them. May I always see the great value that is in every person you have created.

WHY GRATITUDE IS KEY

1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV

give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

When you see all that God has done for you, your only response is thanksgiving. Even if God didn't do one more thing, we have enough reasons to thank Him for the rest of our lives.

Having a heart of gratitude in hard situations reminds us that life is not a problem to be solved but a gift to be enjoyed. (Psalm 118:24)

When your response to life is always gratitude, your faith gets stronger because gratitude cultivates a blessed assurance in you that the one who said it will also do it.

Prayer

Dear Loving Father, thank you for the gift of gratitude. May I always give thanks no matter the situation. I am grateful for all you are doing in my life.

THE RIGHT RESPONSE

Romans 12:1 TPT

Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvelous mercies? To surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship.

The Right Response to God's mercy is living a life of surrender to God. This means choosing to be set apart for God in the way you live your life.

When it comes to God's grace, the right response is walking in the liberty it gives. This means not living as if sin still has power over you, yet you now have divine enablement by the power of the Holy Spirit.

And concerning God's love, the right response is intercession that God's people would experience the depths and heights of His love. With each new day, you now earnestly yearn to see people live full lives in the fullness of God.

Prayer

Dear Loving Father, thank you for you are enabling me to have the right response for each gift you have given me. I pray that all people everywhere will come to the knowledge of who you are and who you have called them to be.

A REASON TO WORSHIP

Romans 6:23 AMP

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God [that is, His remarkable, overwhelming gift of grace to believers] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We were supposed to die because that was the penalty for the sins we had committed. We were guilty and deserved the full weight of condemnation and shame. We were helpless, unable to save even those we love.

No amount of pleading would have saved us from receiving our wages of death. But then Jesus came. He took our place and suffered the death that was meant for us. Now, we get the indescribable gift of getting to live forever with God.

We now live free of condemnation, guilt or shame. We are no longer helpless. We have been empowered to share this good news with those dear and near to us and to those far away.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for dying in my place. May I always live in remembrance of how much you sacrificed so that I could live. May I always have the boldness to proclaim the good news of the great light that has shone in the land of darkness.

NEVER FORSAKEN

Isaiah 62:4 NKJV

You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; For the Lord delights in you, And your land shall be married.

One of the most comforting assurances we have from God is that we will never be forsaken. No matter how long the situation may take without changing, you can be sure that God is with you in it all the way.

Our God does not only rescue us from the fire, but He is also with us in the fire. He is a very present help in time of need (Psalm 46:1).

He also wants you to know that you have a new name (Revelation 2:17). From our theme verse you are now called Hephzibah, the one He delights in.

Today take comfort in Emmanuel, God with you.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for being always with me. May I stand confident that no matter what I may go through, you are always by my side.

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

James 1:17 NIV

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Our God can be trusted because He always comes through. That's why we should seek Him first and put Him at the center of other things. When we do this, we find that He meets all our other needs.

Holding on to money, status, relationships or ministry is just a fist full of air. On the other hand, when we hold onto God's faithfulness, we have a sure thing because even when we are not faithful, He remains faithful. In Genesis 15, God made a covenant with Abraham when he was asleep. This was to show that God would keep His end of the agreement even if Abraham did not.

It's God's nature to always come through for His children. Present circumstances may rush us into doubt but looking back at how He came through for us in the past gives us confidence to trust that even now, He will make a way.

Prayer

Faithful God, thank you for your unchangingness. I have seen your faithfulness in my life, and it gives me the confidence to know that you will do what you said.

OVERCOME THE LIES

Romans 15:13 AMP

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.

One thing that is true about the devil is that he is a liar. He will often come to you with lies about how you will never make it and about how you are too far gone.

His aim is to discourage you so that you may lose trust in God's promises. He knows God's promises to you will come to pass if you don't give up hope. So, he will not stop coming to you with his lies. But thanks be to God who fills us with the knowledge of the glory of God as we seek Him. This is a faith experience where you know for yourself that where God is, the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

This knowledge will give you a joy and a peace which will strengthen your confidence in God's promises and make you unshakable.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the truth in your word. When I look at where I am today, I know that the devil is a liar. Fill me with the knowledge of your glory.

WHAT TRULY MATTERS

1 Timothy 6:6 AMP

But godliness actually is a source of great gain when accompanied by contentment [that contentment which comes from a sense of inner confidence based on the sufficiency of God].

One of the reasons why we struggle with fear is because we haven't cultivated the confidence to trust that God is sufficient to sustain us in any situation.

A lack of this confidence will also make it hard to have self control because we think we are missing out. We will also be drawn to people pleasing instead of trusting that God is enough.

One thing that should give us contentment is the promise Jesus gave us that He will never leave us nor forsake us. In every situation, trust that God is enough. His approval is enough, His presence is what matters, and His way is better.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for being enough. I believe that you are what matters. Help me trust your will in every situation.

HOPE FOR THE BEST

Hebrews 11:1 KJV

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Our theme verse speaks of things hoped for. If you love yourself, you cannot hope that bad things will happen to you.

God wants us to prosper and that's why He encourages us to come to Him in faith. This is because faith only acknowledges the good things which are in us in Christ Jesus. (Philemon 1:6) God loves people who come to Him in faith (Hebrews 11:6). In other words, God loves people who speak good things over themselves and others.

You have a choice today to focus on the good and not the evil, to fix your eyes not on regrets but on God's promises, to restore you, to dwell not on God's wrath but God's mercy for you.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me and desiring good to happen to me. May I always come to you in faith knowing that you are faithful to do what you said.

TRUST

Proverbs 3:5 TPT

Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on him to guide you, and he will lead you in every decision you make.

Fear and worry come because of lack of trust. Trust is a confidence that God is who He says He is. Trusting God calls for a daily surrender to receive God's kindness and faithfulness to you.

Trusting God is the guiding light that leads us to the peace and joy we're looking for. Trust is not a denial of the facts, rather it's a refusal to listen to the devil's lies. It is about taking one step at a time amidst doubt but following what God says in His word.

Trusting in people or the things of this earth is sinking sand. But the one who trusts in God, is as one who built his house on a rock. Though storms may come, he knows that God is constant, and He will do what He promised.

Prayer

Glorious God, thank you for giving me the grace to trust you in all things. I know that you know everything I need, and you are too committed to me to fail me.

KEEP THE FAITH

1 John 5:4 AMP

For everyone born of God is victorious and overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has conquered and overcome the world—our [continuing, persistent] faith [in Jesus the Son of God].

In our journey of faith, our goal is to keep the faith no matter what. Keeping the faith means continuing to resist the temptation to quit on God even to the point of sweating blood. (Hebrews 12:4)

It means being willing to endure anything for Jesus. It means toughening in hard times while still bearing the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, faithfulness, goodness, self control, kindness and gentleness.

Living in remembrance of the night and day difference Jesus made in your life will help you keep holding onto faith. You will endure all things, trusting that just like the best wine was served last at Cana, your better days are ahead.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for enabling me to keep the faith. May I always stand in times of sorrow or joy knowing that even when my faith is weak, you are my hiding place and my safe refuge.

SURRENDER

Psalms 46:10 TPT

Surrender your anxiety. Be still and realize that I am God. I am God above all the nations, and I am exalted throughout the whole earth.

Let go, relax. Have you ever been told those words? Sometimes letting go is one of the hardest things to do. But following Jesus on the narrow way calls for this kind of surrender.

To surrender, you have to come to a point where you quit fighting to get your own way and realize that God is all powerful and He is in control. It's a place where you are less preoccupied with getting but instead you are responsive to what God has given you.

Surrendering is not being negligent or careless. Rather it's how we show that we exalt God above everything.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for always coming through for me every single time. May I learn not to always insist on my own way of doing things but instead trust that you got it all under control and you know what you are doing.

THE GOD OF MIRACLES

Psalms 114:8 NLT

He turned the rock into a pool of water; yes, a spring of water flowed from solid rock.

Our God has always been famous for doing miracles. We have read how he turned the sea into a highway, how he brought the dead back to life and how He transformed murderers into ministers of the gospel.

God does miracles even today. We just have to open our eyes and see Him at work all around us. The very fact that the Creator of the Universe waited for you is a miracle. Miracles come in all forms and sizes.

Elisha had to pray for Gehazi so that he could see what God was doing. We too have to pray that we would see how God is making a pathway through the wilderness and how He is creating rivers in the desert. What seems impossible for you is not impossible for God.

Prayer:

King of glory, thank for the miracles you are doing daily. You are the God who has the final say and you can turn everything around. I pray that you may over-rule in my situation.

EVERYTHING CHANGED

Matthew 4:16 NASB

The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great Light, And those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, Upon them a Light dawned.”

Our theme scripture tells us of the people who lived in darkness before the Christ. But when Christ came, He Redeemed them and so they saw the light.

The coming of Jesus changed everything on and in this world, He gave light and life to us who He drew out of the darkness by His grace. This light delivered us from sin and death, we are no longer debtors to a sinful life, but to salvation, He gave us a new life and a new Name. We are no longer slaves, but we are sons to the Most High and evil has no power over us anymore.

No one can see this light and remain the same. It heals the sick, delivers the oppressed and gives life to the dead. In and with Him, everything changes, and the darkness flees.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for saving me from darkness to your light. I am forever grateful. I am free because of You. You paid a great price for me. I will always rejoice because you came and saved me.

CHOOSE TO LOVE

1 Peter 4:8 NIV

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Offenses will always come, but we have to rise higher than them. The love God wants us to have is not a feeling but rather a willingness to unselfishly seek the best for the other person.

Love overlooks unkindness. What this means is that it is not easily provoked. It bears and makes space for others' opinions. It stays when things get tough.

Even today, there could be a reason that could cause things between you and someone else to grow cold. But choose to love because you too were also loved by Christ while you were still dead in your sins.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me. Help me to love others just as you have loved me. May I bear with others and overlook every offence.

COME TO THE WEDDING!

Matthew 22:2-3 NIV

The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

God has invited you and I to feast and enjoy all He has prepared for us. That includes His love, joy, peace, patience, faithfulness, goodness, self-control, kindness and gentleness.

The people in this parable refused to come because of reasons such as looking after their possessions, making more money and being with their spouse. Many of us also choose to ignore God's invitation because of similar reasons. God has prepared the very best for us and it's all eternal. We can't ignore it because of the temporary.

Just like in this parable, it is important that while at the wedding, we should have our wedding garment on. The wedding garment Represents both the righteousness Christ achieved for us and the daily decisions we have to make to be set apart for God. Only when we have these on, can we be fit to be at the wedding.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for inviting me to your banquet. May I see the value in all you have prepared for me.

ARE YOU SALT WITH FLAVOR?

Matthew 5:13 TPT

Your lives are like salt among the people. But if you, like salt, become bland, how can your ‘saltiness’ be restored? Flavorless salt is good for nothing and will be thrown out and trampled on by others.

When we compromise our godly values to please people, we have lost our saltiness. Whenever we live to please others or ourselves, we stop being servants of God.

Just like tasteless salt, we become good for nothing Christians whenever we shrink back in fear and fail to fulfill our purpose of preserving Christian values. Some of the other things that cause us to compromise include failure to get enough rest and making hasty decisions.

God wants us to walk in the wisdom of the truth found in His word. When we do this, we fulfill our purpose of bringing out the God flavors in this world and also make our lives shine brighter for God.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for making me the salt of the earth. May I put on strength and courage to never shrink back in fear of displeasing anyone. May I desire to please only You.

SURROUNDED BY GOD

Hebrews 12:1 NIV

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

One thing I love about going to church is that you get encouragement from other believers who are also on the journey of faith. Watching other people who are worshiping and praying in faith lifts our spirits.

Everyone has a unique story of the things they have gone through that are testament to how God was there with them in a tough season of their life. We also get to hear of testimonies from the Bible of people who withstood during trials. For example, Mary who never gave up on God's word even when she had to face many challenges before and after Jesus' birth.

Hearing such stories builds our faith and encourages us to keep the faith and trust God no matter what we are going through.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the church. Thank you for all the different witnesses you surround me with daily to encourage and uplift me. May I also uplift someone today as I tell the story of how you helped me not to fall.

THE VICTORY IN SURRENDERING

1 Peter 5:7 TPT

Pour out all your worries and stress upon him and leave them there, for he always tenderly cares for you.

To surrender is not to be negligent. It is to put that issue in the hands of someone who has all power to do anything. It requires you to have your eyes set on a rock that is higher than you.

Paul was able to overcome the thorn in his flesh only when he surrendered and stopped focusing on his handicap. But that's not all he had to do. He also had to appreciate the gift. The gift was that he could give it all to God and trust that God will work out for His glory. Paul was able to see how God's grace was sufficient even in an area where he was weak.

The good thing with surrendering to God is that it never goes to waste. This is because caring for you gives God great joy.

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for the gift of surrender. May I always know that when I am weak then I am strong. Open my eyes to see how your power is made perfect in my weakness.

SPEAK FAITH

1 Samuel 10:6 NIV

The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.

The words you declare will shape the change you see in your life. Declare that you are free and you will be free.

Maybe you struggle with speaking words that don't glorify God. Keep believing and declaring that you are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus and that only holy words come out of your mouth.

As you do so, you create an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to make a change in your life. This is because faith pleases God and makes Him roll up His sleeves and get to work.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of prophecy. May I speak only words of faith in every situation I encounter. I believe that you are transforming me into a different person as I do so.

OBEDIENCE

Hebrews 5:8 AMP

Although He was a Son [who had never been disobedient to the Father], He learned [active, special] obedience through what He suffered.

Obedience is a virtue we have to embrace if we are going to be able to do big things for God. Many things don't take great faith, they take obedience.

God has a plan for your life. That plan is for you not to only be a nice person. He wants more for you. He wants His glory to be manifested in every area of your life.

It will take obedience for you to accept and become who God has called you to be. Just like Jesus let us let our sufferings teach us to trust and obey.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the times you have given me the grace to obey. May I abound more in this grace.

GRACE AND TRUTH

John 1:14 NIV

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Zechariah saw God's grace and received a baby in His old age and while at the same time, he received the truth that his unbelief did not please God.

Mary received the grace of giving birth to Jesus, but she still had to also trust in the truth of God's promise that He would never leave her nor forsake her.

We too need both God's grace and truth. We need the supernatural enablement while at the same time we need to allow God's truth to develop in us perseverance and confident trust in the Lord.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for your grace and truth. Help me to live in both your grace and truth. May I also extend this grace and truth to all those around me.

A GREATER HOPE

Matthew 12:21 NIV

In his name the nations will put their hope.”

The coming of Jesus reminds us that no matter how bad the situation is, we can still hope for better days.

For a world filled with so much pain, Jesus' promise to wipe away all our tears gives us strength to endure knowing that the story is not finished yet.

Even when we haven't yet seen the things we are praying for, we keep believing. This is because we know that if God gave us His only begotten Son, the other things won't be a problem for Him to give.

Prayer

Dearest Father, thank you for the gift of Jesus. I am amazed at how you keep giving to me even when I don't deserve it. May my hope always be in You for you are too good to not believe.

EXPECT GOODNESS

Psalms 27:13 AMP

I would have despaired had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living.

People who see God's goodness are people who expect it. God is good all the time. Not just sometimes. He wants us to always expect that goodness is coming to us.

This expectation of God's goodness kept David going even in hard times because He understood God's heart. Many of us are paranoid that bad things might happen to us.

Yet the truth is we are paranoid about the wrong thing. The only things following us are God's goodness and mercy. You don't have to live in fear; God's goodness is with you always.

Prayer

Loving Father, I know that your goodness is following me all the time. May I always expect it, for you are a good God, and you are always surrounding me. I receive your goodness today.

LET GO, LET GOD

Proverbs 3:5-6 MSG

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

No matter what level we are spiritually, God wants us to go deeper in Him. Many times, we resist His leading because it's different from what we are used to or because it goes out of our comfort zone.

We need to trust that God knows what we need and that He wants to take us to higher levels. The way we go up is by surrendering our plans to God and let Him lead. Surrender calls for a renewed way of thinking about everything. One that sees things as God sees them. For example, when you feel the urge to complain, choose to give thanks instead.

Let go of what you think works best and let God show you a better way. Reminding yourself of His unfailing promise to take care of you will help keep you hopeful. Remember the hope we have is not merely wishful thinking or positivity, it is a person, and His name is Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of trusting You. Help me to know that your plan for me is better. Thank you for being always with me and for me.

THE FUNDAMENTALS

2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

We need the grace daily; that is God's unmerited favor and divine enablement. These help us to do things that surpass our natural abilities and limitations. They also enable us to rest because they remind us that it's not by our power or might.

Secondly, we need the love of God because it is reckless and will always leave the ninety-nine to look for the one. Remembering His love for us removes all shame and condemnation and causes us to run back to Him.

Last but not least, is the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. His presence comes with love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, self control, kindness, faithfulness and gentleness. With these we can live freely, motivated by God's Spirit.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your grace, may I embrace all that is availed by it. May I be reminded of Father's love in every moment and let the presence of the Holy Spirit be manifested through the way I live.

ALL WE NEED

Exodus 33:13 AMP

Now therefore, I pray you, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways so that I may know You [becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with You, recognizing and understanding Your ways more clearly] and that I may find grace and favor in Your sight. And consider also, that this nation is Your people.”

Our theme verse is a change of prayer that Moses made after his eyes were opened to the truth. At first, Moses wanted God to show him who he would go with to do the work he was given. (v12)

God answers by telling him that He knows him by name and he has found favor in His sight. By this, God meant that He wanted Moses to ask for something bigger because He was willing to grant him whatever he asked. Moses then realized that if God's presence is with him then he doesn't need to know who else he would go with. He then changed his prayer and asked that he would know God deeper.

We too need to change the focus of our prayers that they may point to what really matters, and that is knowing God deeper.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your presence that is always with me. May I desire to know You more than anything else. You are all that matters and all that I need.

CALLED TO EXCELLENCE

Matthew 25:29 NLT

To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.

God blesses you when you step out and show some effort. Many times, we want the help to come before we take a step yet that's not how God works.

When we step out even when we feel afraid, God is pleased. This is because He sees us choosing to have faith even when we doubt our abilities to make it work.

God doesn't want you and I to stay where we are year after year. Therefore, when you feel Him nudging you to do more, trust Him and obey because He knows what's best.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for doing all You can to see that I rise higher above average or mediocre. Help me to trust that you have my back and may I always be reminded that help is on the way.

GOD IS MORE THAN ABLE TO KEEP

2 Timothy 1:12 TPT

The confidence of my calling enables me to overcome every difficulty without shame, for I have an intimate revelation of this God. And my faith in him convinces me that he is more than able to keep all that I've placed in his hands safe and secure until the fullness of his appearing.

God is a keeper. When you entrust Him with something, you can be rest assured that it is safe. You don't have to keep on living with worries. Give it all to God to take care of it.

Many times, we find it hard to give Him our worries because we are cuffed to control. We can't rest until it's all going our way. The hard truth is His way is not always our way, but the best part is that His way is always better.

I wonder what you might still be holding onto. Surrender it to God for He cares for you. He has promised to keep whatever you entrust Him with. From your mind to your possessions, and to your loved ones. Trust Him for He will never let you down.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for keeping what I give to you. I surrender it all to you for you are a good God. Help me to trust that Your way is always better.

PUT ON THE ARMOR 1

Ephesians 6:13 NLT

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

The armor of God is what we need to overcome the lies of the enemy. The enemy has so many lies, and his strategy is to shake you so that you will lose your ground and fall.

When everything else fails, we can look to these powerful tools God gave us. The breastplate of righteousness is there to protect your heart and remind you that you are right with God. The helmet of salvation protects your mind and reminds you that if God gave His son to save you, then there is nothing He won't do for you.

The belt of truth then sets you free by reminding you that you have a God who can do exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond anything you could ever ask, think or imagine.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the armor you have given me to protect me from the enemy's lies. I suit up today with righteousness, salvation and Truth.

PUT ON THE ARMOR 2

Ephesians 6:13 NLT

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

Part of the armor we have to wear includes shoes which represent the peace which comes from the Good News. Knowing that you have peace with God because of what Jesus did will give you a readiness and stability to stand prepared for anything.

The shield we use against the enemy's lies is faith. When he tries to scare you by what you see, remind yourself that you don't walk by sight but by faith. The word of God is the sword we use to fight the battles that come our way. Just like Jesus used the word to overcome temptation in the desert, we too are never powerless in the face of temptation.

The last but not least piece of armor is prayer. We have to pray at all times because prayer helps us connect to the one who knows what we really need.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the armor you have given me to fight against the enemy. I am not weak or defenseless against the enemy's schemes. I am more than a conqueror.

BOUNDARIES

John 15:4 NLT

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

Many times, we want God's presence without us being in Him. By this I mean, we want His love, joy and peace without following His command of staying in Him. This is because being in Him restricts us from certain things and yet we should embrace this because it is for our own benefit.

People who don't have boundaries to live by get to the end of their lives and realize that the crown they were chasing after was perishable after all. The crown could be more money, status or pleasure. Going after these is not bad. The problem is when you are willing to go against God's direction to attain them.

A parent puts a fence around their home to protect their child from harm they may encounter outside. In the same way, God's boundaries protect us from the enemy and his lies.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the gift of boundaries. Help me to embrace them for they are the key to leading me into the wonderful things you have in store for me.

KEEP HOPING

Psalms 78:7-8 NKJV

That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments; And may not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not set its heart aright, And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

God is patient with us when we go astray. All He asks is for us to keep on hoping for Him. Yes, the problem could seem impossible to turn around and it could even be your fault. God still wants you to believe that He can turn it around.

In scripture, we see that Abraham and David were not perfect, yet they kept on hoping in God to turn their messes around. This attitude of not giving up pleased God and as a result He was always there for both.

Today, choose to stay faithful to hoping in God. No matter what happens, ensure you are able to receive His encouragement. All He wants is for you to get entwined with Him and then watch how He will strengthen your heart.

Prayer

Loving Daddy, thank you for always being my living hope. May I always have hope in you to turn all things around.

PRAYER TRIGGERS

Philippians 4:6 NLT

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

God's desire for every child of His is for them to talk to Him about everything. The things that triggered you to worry and fret before, should now trigger you to pray.

If trouble comes, pray. When something gives you joy, give thanks. If you desire for a certain thing, ask God for it. We need to add God in the way we react to everything.

We should see to it that all the things we go through or experience whether good or bad, lead us back to God. May our whole lives prove that God is good.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the gift of prayer. May I enjoy the peace you give and receive your healing as I carry everything to You in prayer.

EXPRESSION OVER IMPRESSION

1 John 4:16 KJV

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

Many of us face a hard time with decision-making and doubting God because we choose to go by the impressions we have of God.

When we go through hard times, we get the impression that we are on our own and we are doomed to be stuck in whatever it is we are facing. In such a case, we have let an impression determine our view of God. But God wants us to live differently. He wants us to live by the expression of Himself that He has given us in His word. His expression is His character. For example, from our theme scripture, God is not just loving, but He is love itself.

When we do this, we can trust His heart even when going through tough seasons because we have seen how He has continuously expressed that He is for us.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for how you have expressed yourself to me. May I live by who I know you are not by the impressions I see around me.

LET YOUR FAITH GROW

1 Corinthians 13:2 NLT

If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing.

Faith is like a fetus that needs a womb to grow in. A fetus cannot grow in the stomach because it requires a particular environment that is only available in the womb.

The womb of faith is love. When we try to grow our faith outside of Love, we are headed down a path of disappointment. Whenever we believe for anything, we need to check our motives and heart. We need to make sure that our faith comes from a place of patience, kindness, truth, hope and endurance. Our faith should be devoid of jealousy, envy, boasting, irritability, rudeness or seeking our own way.

When we do this, our faith grows to maturity, and we can spread the gospel effectively as our lives speak to others.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for revealing to us the truth about growing our faith the right way. Help me to walk in love because I want my life to mean something.

GOD IS MORE THAN ABLE

Psalms 103:2 (KJV)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Many times, when we are going through a time that challenges our faith, we tend to forget how God has been there for us before.

While in the wilderness, God had miraculously fed the Israelites with bread from heaven. Yet, when they wanted to eat meat, they thought God couldn't do it (Numbers 11:1-6). If God was able to give up His only Son, then He is surely capable of doing the rest (Romans 8:32).

God wants us to come to a place of rest that is based on us trusting that the one who made a way before, will make it again.

Prayer

Dearest Father, thank you for all you have done in my life. I have seen you do great miracles for me before. Help me to trust that you are going to do all the rest.

ALL YOU NEED

Ephesians 3:19 NLT

May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

What we really need is to be filled with God Himself. This is because God is not just the source of the goodness we want in our lives, He is the goodness itself.

When we are filled with God, we won't fear whether we are safe no matter where we find ourselves. This is because we are living with a consciousness that He is always with us.

With God filling us, we don't hold on so much to the things of this world. This is because we get a realization that He is our greatest treasure. (Job 22:21-25)

Today, ask God to fill you with Himself. Let go of fear and receive the grace of God; that is both His unmerited favor and divine enablement.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of You. You are all I need and all I've ever needed. May I receive the perfect love you have for me, and may it cast out all fear.

FOCUS ON THE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

John 20:17 NLT

“Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.

We don’t have to hold on to the physical world, but we have to cling to the spiritual. This is because the physical aspect of everything will one day be no more. But the spiritual aspect goes on forever.

In our theme verse, Mary was clinging onto the physical aspect of Jesus. Jesus instead turns her attention to what’s more important which is the spiritual thing that had happened. The spiritual was that Jesus had now brought us all into the family of God.

We should therefore take care not to be blinded by the physical and miss out on the great spiritual blessings God has for us.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the spiritual blessings that can never be taken away. Open my eyes to see that which you want me to see in every situation.

THE GOD OF NOW

Proverbs 3:27-28 NLT

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them. If you can help your neighbor now, don't say, "Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you."

Our theme scripture speaks of a character of God that we too should emulate. Our God is a God of now. That's why He is called Hosanna which means the God who saves now.

When the woman who had an infirmity for 18 years came to Jesus on sabbath, He did not wait for sabbath to end to heal her. He healed her there and then. We should therefore live with a now faith. Now I'm healed, Now I'm free, Now I live in abundance of joy, peace and favor.

We should also not postpone doing good for others to another day. When we do this, we emulate God's character. Today, listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit when He convicts you to pray or give of your time and resources and then obey.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for you are a God of now. May I always live with a now faith and may I not postpone doing good for others.

ALL THINGS MANIFEST IN CHRIST

Titus 3:4 AMP

But when the goodness and kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared [in human form as the Man, Jesus Christ],

Things like peace, love and joy cannot be gotten through earthly means such as getting more money, fame or moving to a new location. This is because these things are a person, and His name is Jesus Christ.

We can only get these things by having a deep and meaningful relationship with Jesus. He promises to give us a rich and truly satisfying life if we abide in Him.

We should also remember that all the goodness and kindness that He is, is beyond anything we have ever seen or thought of.

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for you have everything I need in measures so great you can never run out. When I feel overwhelmed, may I be reminded that you are going to keep filling me with life and more life for all eternity.

BELIEVE GOD FOR MORE

2 Thessalonians 1:3 NLT

Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing.

God wants to stretch our faith to believe for more. This is why He will put you in situations where you are required to have more patience.

This is because He wants us to realize that He is an endless supply. When you feel like your love has reached a limit, He shows you that you can love even those that do you wrong.

Today, allow God to stretch your faith to believe Him for more love, joy, peace, patience, faithfulness, gentleness, goodness, kindness and self control.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for always ensuring that I grow in my faith. Today I am believing You for more of all that You give and all that You are.

GREATLY FORGIVEN

Psalms 34:1 KJV

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

One of the strongest weapons we have against the enemy is continual praise of God. We overcome only when we declare that God has made us His children and we are blessed with victory.

One of the reasons we should praise God is because we were forgiven. Sometimes, we praise a little because we assume that the forgiveness He gave us was minimal.

But when we realize that even after all we've done, our sin record is empty, our praise is ignited. Today, take a moment and thank God for the fact that you are forgiven and your debt was paid in full.

Prayer

Dearest Father, thank You for forgiving me of all my sins, past, present and future. For this one thing, I will forever love and praise You.

STAY IN PEACE

John 14:27 KJV

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.

One of the quickest ways to lose your peace is to take your eyes off Jesus and try to know how everything is going to work out.

But Jesus has showed us a better way to live. He promises to give us peace, but not as the world gives. The difference with His peace is that it's not dependent on whether your circumstances are good or bad.

Even when everything is going wrong, you can stay in peace simply because Jesus overcame the world and therefore you too have already overcome.

Today purpose to not let your heart be troubled or afraid by standing on God's word.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for your peace that passes understanding. Today, I remain in you and your promises for you overcame and therefore I also overcome.

LOVE SO GREAT

1 John 3:1 NLT

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him.

One thing you and I can count on to see us through anything is God's love for us. Take a look at the cross and then you will know for sure.

We have countless reasons why we should be grateful such as the faithfulness of the Holy Spirit among others. But one that should always be on our minds is the fact that we are His children. Even the devil did not see this coming. Now, nothing can separate us from God. Even the weapons formed against us can't prosper.

And to crown it all, we now bear the divine nature which is in Christ and are also heirs of exceedingly great and precious promises that will never come to an end.

Today, take a moment and reflect on the amazing and wonderful truth that you are a dearly loved child of the Most High God.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for your tremendous love towards me. I will always live in wonder of the truth that you would always leave the ninety-nine just for me. Help me to live aware of the love you have for me.

THE GREATER ONE

Hebrews 4:15 NLT

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

In a world filled with artificial intelligence and fast developing technology, it's tempting to think that God will be pushed aside after all "A.I" can do it all.

But one thing that makes our God distinct from all other gods is the fact that He lived it all and He understands. He knows the pain of losing a loved one and He also knows the joy of friendship. He knows what it means to fight temptation, and He knows what it means to be loved and cared for. He went through betrayal, being misunderstood, being hated and feeling afraid. He trusted in God who saw Him through it all and achieved for us the victory.

Today, meditate and be encouraged by the fact that God understands fully whatever you are going through and He overcame so you too will.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, nothing will ever take your place. You alone understand whatever I am going through. I win over everything because you won.

PRAY

Ephesians 6:18 NIV

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

A really powerful tool that we have as children of God is intercessory prayer. A prayer for another coming from a place of faith is able to achieve the impossible. If Jesus prayed for others, then we should too.

Many times, when we see the injustices in the world, we feel powerless and unable to do something about them. But the good news is we have been given power in prayer.

When we pray for others, we are extending God's mighty hand to touch them. Though we might not be able to help them physically, our intercessory prayers cause God to do great and mighty things we do not know.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the gift of intercessory prayer. May I always lift up prayers for people everywhere.

THERE'S MORE

I Corinthians 2:9 NKJV

But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

With God, we always have to leave room for more. No matter how big a miracle you've seen, God is capable of even bigger things.

This should always leave us anticipating and excited about what's next. The situation might seem impossible, but God is able to turn everything around.

Today, leave room for God to do exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond anything you can ask, think or imagine.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I am sorry when I put you in a box with my limited thinking. You go far beyond everything I have seen or heard so far. Help me to live with the awareness that you are the God of infinite power.

ALREADY BLESSED

2 Peter 1:3 NLT

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

God wants us to seek Him not out of obligation but out of personal sincere love for Him.

He does not want to see us carrying around the weight of trying to be good on our own. He wants us to know that we are already accepted, and we don't have to prove anything.

He wants us to seek His face before we seek His hand. We do that by coming to the realization that we don't serve or give so that God can bless us, rather we serve and give out of gratitude for all He has done for us.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I thank you for I am already blessed. May I desire to serve and give simply because you have blessed me so much and I am grateful.

ALREADY BLESSED 2

2 Peter 1:3 NLT

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

Many times, we don't see how already blessed we are because we want some credit for the blessings in our lives. The things we normally look at as God's blessings to us are things to which we can also take some of the credit.

But there are so many things we should be thankful for even though we can't take credit for them. For example, the grace of God. It is free, unmerited favor that cannot be earned given to us over and over again.

There are even other blessings we don't pay attention to, simply because they did not come in the way we expected. Today, ask God to open your eyes so that you may see the many blessings in your life.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for saving me. I receive all your many blessings with thanksgiving. May I appreciate how you take care of me to the detail even if it's not done my way.

KEEP TO THE TRUTH

John 14:6 AMP

Jesus said to him, “I am the [only] Way [to God] and the [real] Truth and the [real] Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Jesus Christ is truly awesome. He is the only one who will be with you in the fire, and yet still cause you to get out of the fire without even the smell of smoke on you. He is both our friend and our God almighty.

That's why no matter what we may see with our eyes, we have to stick to the truth. When the devil brings fear, keep to the truth that you are more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus.

When your situation is not changing, stay believing that when God said it is finished, you already won the victory. Don't be shaken by the enemy's lies for He was defeated.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for you are the truth I live by. May I always stand firmly on the truth in your word no matter what may come my way.

NO LONGER A SLAVE

Romans 8:15 KJV

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.

Before Jesus set us free, there were problems that we faced that were like chains that we couldn't shake off no matter how hard we tried. But now because of Jesus we are free from every chain.

When Jesus set us free from bondage, He did it for good. Now no matter what problems come your way, you can shake them off because they no longer have the power to hold you down anymore. Sin, sickness, poverty, addictions and sorrow are no longer chains that you can't shake off.

Today meditate on the truth that what's holding you now is God's power, grace, love, goodness and mercy.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for making me free from every chain. Today I shake off everything that doesn't glorify you, because I have been already made free by You.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS

II Corinthians 6:18 NKJV

“I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.”

In the Old Testament, when people sinned, they sacrificed animals so that they could be made right with God. But when Jesus shed His blood for us, He did not just make us right with God, He made us sons and daughters.

A son or daughter has so many privileges in a family not because they do much but simply because of who they are. The devil though will try to lure us into thinking that we are still slaves who have to do things to prove our worth and earn our way into being God’s children.

This is when we have to stand our ground and remind ourselves, that we are already children of God. And if children, heirs. Heirs of an unbelievable inheritance. Hallelujah!

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for making me a child of God. Now I have already won because I am in God’s family.

THINGS CHANGED

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

When you and I became children of God, things changed. You are now a whole new creature entirely. What had power over you before has none now.

You are no longer who you used to be. You are now free from every curse. You have been blessed with every spiritual blessing. You have been forgiven. Your part now is to keep on declaring these truths over yourself. Philemon 1:6 reminds us that our faith becomes effective when we acknowledge all the good things which are in us because of Christ Jesus.

We should never speak negatively about ourselves. If God calls you forgiven, then you should never think of yourself as condemned. This is because God loves people of faith. (Hebrews 11:6)

Prayer

Father, thank you for your word. Thank you for the give of salvation and the newness of life. I am loved and forgiven.

TOTAL SURRENDER 1

Romans 12:1 AMP

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.

When our theme verse speaks of offering our whole selves, it means surrendering every part of who we are to God.

First, we surrender our eyes, which represents the way we see things. Here you choose to see each day as a gift from God filled with countless opportunities to love and serve. Secondly, you surrender your ears which represent how well you are hearing and listening to God's voice. With the enemy doing all He can to distract us from hearing from God, we have to be intentional about keeping out distractions.

Furthermore, we surrender our mouth, which represents our speech. Our words should always minister grace to the hearer since we are of a new covenant which does not kill but gives life.

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for giving me the grace to surrender. May you take full authority in my life as my Lord.

TOTAL SURRENDER 2

Romans 12:1 AMP

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.

When God calls us to surrender, He is calling us to live lives that are set apart for His purposes. Surrendering in different aspects of our lives later culminates into a life that will glorify God in every situation.

Taking parts of our bodies as examples, we surrender our hearts which represent our loyalty. Here we choose to live with integrity and purity in every area of our lives.

We also surrender our hands, which represents the work we do. We choose to work with diligence in whatever we do knowing that our real master is God.

Last but not least, we surrender our feet which represent our will. Here we take a stand not to lean on our own understanding but trust that God's way is better.

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for giving me the grace to surrender. May you take full authority in my life as my Lord.

THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S WORD

Psalms 119:105 NIV

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

How awesome is your word oh Lord. It refreshes my soul. It gives me strength to overcome every situation. It purifies my heart and opens my eyes.

When I am broken, it makes me whole again. My heart is satisfied when I hear you speak. Your words bring healing to my soul. Your word empowers me to leap over walls and run through troops. I'm fearless because your word protects me. I am rich and strong because my life is founded on your word.

Your word makes all things good. Your word has become my salvation and song. Jesus, How awesome is your word.

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for giving me the gift of your word. I will forever rejoice because of how unshakable your word makes me.

STAY

Luke 10:41-42 NIV

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

God cares more about us spending time with Him than serving Him. Serving is great but it should never take precedence over intimacy with God.

That's why Psalm 23:6 speaks of dwelling forever in the house of the Lord and not serving. This is because we are God's children before we are His servants. It's important that we don't misinterpret ourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to us. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him. (Romans 12:3 MSG)

God's presence is better than anything because while everything else comes to an end, His love never will.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for your presence. Truly there's nothing like it. Help me to give spending time with you first place in my life.

I WILL STAY

John 7:37 KJV

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

When we surrender ourselves to God during worship in church, our yearning invites the Holy Spirit in and causes Him to move in power.

God wants to give us this experience not only for a few minutes in worship but in every area of our lives. He wants to give us more of Himself, but we must first place a demand. We do this by staying in the attitude of faith with every passing moment. We have to keep on dwelling in boldness, surrender, gratitude, awe, pursuit and desperation for God.

That is when we can be in position for us to receive the flood of living water that we long for.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for your grace. May I see you with all my heart for then I will find you.

THE BLESSED LIFE

Romans 8:17 NIV

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Jesus took every curse, paid every debt and cast out all fear. Because of Jesus we now get to experience blessings such as walking with our heads held high because of the Spirit of God in us who makes us confident.

We don't have to live with a scarcity mindset because our God promises to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory. We don't have to live in fear of what might happen, because we know of the perfect love our father has for us, and this love casts out all fear. We don't even have to live in fear of disease because by Jesus' stripes we were healed.

Nothing can shake us now because God's love is with us wherever we go.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for your love. Because of you, I can live a blessed life free from oppression or fear. It will always be well with me because I am in your hands.

I AM AN OVERCOMER

Isaiah 55:7 NIV

Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Have you made the decision to simply forsake any form of thinking you may have and choose to take on the word of God? This is important for God's thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are His ways our ways (v8).

When Jesus told Peter to let down his nets in the water, Peter forsook his thinking about how the dynamics of fishing work and simply trusted Jesus' word (Luke 5:5). As you also step out in faith, remember you are anointed for victory and your declaration no matter the situation should be "...thanks be to God, who gives us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57)

The Holy Spirit is the one who enables us to overcome any toxic behavior or systems in our lives. He does this by bringing to your remembrance the truths of God's word over you. That's why we have to keep reading God's word for it is the power that sets us free.

Prayer

Lord Jesus thank you for your word and the Holy Spirit. May I embrace the victory you have given me.

HOW TO PRAY

Ephesians 6:18 AMP

With all prayer and petition pray [with specific requests] at all times [on every occasion and in every season] in the Spirit, and with this in view, stay alert with all perseverance and petition [interceding in prayer] for all God's people.

When you go to God in prayer, first of all thank Him for loving you. Thank Him for protecting you. Thank Him for keeping your mind. Thank Him for the blessings of family, work, ministry, friends, rest, open eyes and a heart of gratitude.

Secondly, repent of any time you have resisted His commands and His leading to bless you. Ask Him to give you the courage to trust that His way is better and to follow Him wherever He leads you. Thirdly, ask Him for what you want to see happening in your life, the life of your loved ones and others.

Lastly, believe and declare that His promises are yes and amen. Declare the promises in His word such as no weapon formed against you will prosper and that you are free from any condemnation. Believe that God is working right now and that He is in control.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I come trusting that my prayer is precious in your eyes and that you are more than able.

GOD'S PRESENCE

Psalm 139:7-10 NIV

“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”

God's presence is better than anything else. Where else would we find someone who knows us completely and yet does not love us any less.

Any emptiness we feel inside was meant to be filled by God alone. Only God can satisfy our hungry hearts for we were made to long for Him. It's in God's presence alone that we get to see dead things come alive, blind eyes opened and troubled hearts finding peace.

God's presence is worthy of us leaving everything else because it's only there that we are truly alive.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for your presence. It means more to me than the best this world has to offer. I receive all that you have for me in your presence.

THE GOD WHO DOES GOOD

Acts 10:38 NIV

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

One thing we need to emulate from Jesus is the wisdom and compassion He had to always choose what was good. He never went with what was popular or accepted convenience. He always stuck to what was good in His Father's eyes.

When it came to healing a man on the sabbath, He chose doing good over fulfilling a law. When it came to eating with tax collectors and outcasts, He chose to give grace instead of trying to keep a reputation. His heart was set on giving life then just as He does even today. When we call on Him, He looks for every way possible not to harm but to do you and I good.

We too should ask God for the courage to choose to do good over any other pressures we may be facing.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for doing me good all these years. May I rest in the confidence that you are working all things together for my good. Help me to choose doing good in every situation.

INVITE GOD IN

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 NIV

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

Many times, when we are struggling with a particular situation, our prayer is that God would take it away. But just like Paul in our theme verse, God wants us to invite Him in the situations we are going through.

Paul wanted the thorn to be taken away, but God showed Him a better way. Each day has trouble that comes with it (Mathew 6:34). So, if you base your happiness on having a problem free life, then you may never be happy.

A much better approach is to live with an awareness that God is with you, and He is going to use the challenge to strengthen and grow you. Our victory lies in us living with a readiness to receive God’s grace for every hard thing we face.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you so much for your grace that you abundantly provide for me in every situation. I invite you in this challenge I am facing confident that you are in control.

ALL YOU NEED IS THE WORD

2 Timothy 3:16 NIV

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

The word of God is the only foundation that has the peace, purpose and power to sustain our souls. Money, relationships or pleasure can all be a gift when handled through the lens of God's word.

God's word can be depended on because while other things are temporary, God's word lasts forever (Psalm 40:8). Secondly, I and countless others have testimony upon testimony of how the word has broken chains, given wisdom and brought lasting fruit such as love, joy and peace.

The word of God is also the fuel you and I need to step out in faith. When we declare the word in faith, broken hearts are mended, destinies are aligned, and God's love is manifested.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for your word. Help me to walk with the confidence that your word gives. Your word is all I need to live victoriously.

NOW THAT'S IMPRESSIVE

Galatians 5:6 ESV

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Faith working through love is more like giving grace to others while at the same time confronting them gently when they are going astray.

It is refusing to think with a scarcity mindset and choosing to believe in the greatness of God. When you know Him as the God of abundance, then you can be generous without being limited by thoughts of not having enough.

Jesus' dying on the cross is also testament to faith working through love. His love for you and I plus His faith in God's power enabled Him to accomplish His purpose. Nothing can be more impressive!

Prayer

Dear Loving Father, thank you for faith and love. May I desire to always be a person who embraces these two qualities in all that I do.

STRENGTH UNDER CONTROL

Luke 10:42 KJV

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Martha's mistake was thinking that both serving God and spending time with Him had equal value. Serving is good but it is lesser in importance as compared with you and I sitting at Jesus' feet.

While we can be able to do so many things for God, true worship calls us to a different path. One that requires us to walk in self control and surrender.

God has a purpose for each season of our lives. Like Martha, He might require you to do less. Trusting Him and not leaning on our own understanding is strength under control.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of self control. Help me to surrender and trust you in all my ways.

THE ALL-SUFFICIENT GOD

II Corinthians 3:5 NKJV

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,

Our God is all sufficient. That means we can depend on Him for all we need. We should never lean on what experience, talents or possessions we have because they all fail at a certain point.

When we are anxious about our future, we can trust that God's grace will be sufficient for us. Paul experienced this and that's why he wasn't afraid or discouraged when he felt incompetent.

God never runs low on anything. Be it joy, peace, strength, wisdom or courage. You and I can always count on Him to give us all we need when we need it.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for your sufficiency. May I always lean on you for when I am weak then I am strong for you are strong in me.

GOD MAKES EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL

Romans 8:28 NKJV

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

We have a God who cares so much. He protects us in the good times and in the bad times (Psalm 121:6). With God on our side, we have nothing to be afraid of.

This is because God always makes everything beautiful in itself and in its time (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Because you and I are His children, He is very intentional and at work in every detail in our lives.

That's why we have to be patient and maintain a good attitude through the hard times. This is because God uses it all, the setbacks and the failures to develop greater things in our lives.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for your great love towards me. May I always trust that you are working in all things for my good.

ON MATURITY

I Corinthians 13:11 NKJV

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.

One thing that I remember I did as a child was play “pretend”. I pretended to be different kinds of people as I played with other children. This continued even as a teenager as I tried to appear a certain way in front of my peers.

A sign that shows maturity is when you quit trying to be something you are not. We don't have to come to God all happy and having our lives put together. We can come to God with our brokenness for He has the power to heal and mend.

God invites us to come to Him just as we are daily with all our doubts, questions and fears. This is because He wants to bring us into a place of freedom and trust in Him.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for I can come to you just the way I am. May I embrace your healing and freedom as I come openly before you.

LOVED BY GOD

1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

When everything else fails, love never will. There will be times when circumstances or the devil causes our faith and hope to go very low. Our enemy would very much love us to be in this vulnerable state.

While in the garden, before His crucifixion, Jesus was heavily burdened with the weight of what He was going to go through (Luke 22:42). This is when God the Father sends an angel to strengthen Him. I believe the angel reminded Him of the great love the Father had for Him. He was able to continue with His mission because of the confidence He had in the fact that, no matter what would come His way, His Father's love would see Him through.

This same truth is what you and I should also look to when we are at our weakest. The Father loves us, and He will never leave us. So be encouraged and know whatever it is, He will see you through.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for your love for me. May I always be reminded of the great love you have for me.

I WILL PRAISE

Habakkuk 3:18 NKJV

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

What do you do when things don't go as planned? It's a place of frustration that can leave you in a state of despair and helplessness.

At the cross, as Jesus bore our sins He was in a state of despair for the wrath of God against sin was upon Him. He therefore cried out "My God My God why have you forsaken me?" as a way of pointing us to Psalm 22 which begins with these same words. In this psalm, though feeling abandoned, David reminds himself of how God helped his fathers(v4). People like Moses and Joseph encountered situations where things didn't go as planned but they trusted God and He saw them through.

David chose to praise God amid trouble(v22).) So today, when faced with disruptions, choose to not complain but use every breath to glorify God. Hallelujah!

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for showing me the way to overcome in every situation. I will not be drowned in despair but will praise you in every moment.

ABOUNDING ALWAYS

Philippians 4:12 NLT

I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.

The world tries to convince us that if everything in our day is not going at terrific speed then that's not a good day.

But God wants more for us than just getting what we want when we want it. He wants us to discover the freedom that comes from depending on Him for the joy and peace we need.

He wants us to be focused on Him and not on getting our own way. When we base our joy and peace on God, we can then be able to abound in every situation.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for when I am depending on you, I don't need to worry about my circumstances. I confidently trust that your way is better.

ON FLEXIBILITY

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 ESV

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

One thing that God requires from us is flexibility. If we are to walk in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control, we have to be flexible with others.

If we are so rigid to our way of doing things, we will fail to walk in God's purpose for our lives. While it's good to have standards and be focused in our lives, we have to learn when to let go of our way. A palm tree is able to withstand stormy weather because it has the ability to bend.

We too have to adopt this powerful virtue if we are to accomplish God's will in our lives.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for your Holy Spirit who enables me to be flexible in any situation. May I not insist on my own way but receive your guidance in the way I interact with others.

THE HIGHER GOOD LOVE

1 John 4:11 AMP

Beloved, if God so loved us [in this incredible way], we also ought to love one another.

The kind of love God wants us to love others with is not an emotion but a decision to seek the higher good for the other person.

With this kind of love there is no room for excuses. This kind of love requires you to get out of your comfort zone. It will require you to give more than is required.

There will have to be a breaking of pride and a stepping into a life of sacrifice and selflessness. Furthermore, this kind of love will require us to break any scarcity mindsets we may have and walk by faith.

Prayer:

Dear Father, thank you for showing me what real love is. May I always seek the higher good for others.

GOD'S LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 NIV

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

We fail but God keeps growing us and being there for us. Even at our best we will fail but God will never give up on us.

While we can stay angry with someone for a long time when they wrong us, our heavenly Father does not keep a record of the wrongs we do. His instruction is not one of condemnation but of love and guidance.

His desire is to always see us rise again when we fall. This is because He does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for always forgiving me and never giving up on me. May I not be crippled by condemnation but receive the gift of your forgiveness.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Mark 12:31 TPT

And the second is this: ‘You must love your neighbor in the same way you love yourself.’ You will never find a greater commandment than these.”

God wants us to make a difference in the communities He has placed us in. It is the devil’s desire to see that we don’t do this so he will try to make it look so complicated.

Making a difference is about loving your neighbor as yourself. Before you look so far, there are people around you who are in need and God has given you the ability to meet some of those needs.

Making a difference is about obeying God’s voice to walk in generosity, service, love and intercession for others.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me the ability to make a difference. May I be obedient to love my neighbor as I love myself.

NAIL IN A ROCK

Isaiah 51:1 KJV

Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

Jesus is referred to as the rock of ages. Which is to imply He is unshakable and unmovable. At the cross, they put nails in His hands, but He remained stable, constant, firm and dependable.

You too could be going through a situation that looks like unshakable but just as the nails were not the end for Jesus, even so that situation is not the end for you.

You and I are hewn from a rock that remained steadfast even when there were nails in it. Therefore, we too have the grace to remain unshaken even in tough times.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the grace to be unshakable in tough times. May I be reminded that with you the tough times are not the end.

RICH IN LOVE

Psalms 145:8-9 TPT

You're kind and tenderhearted to those who don't deserve it and very patient with people who fail you. Your love is like a flooding river overflowing its banks with kindness. God, everyone sees your goodness, for your tender love is blended into everything you do.

In matter of fact, we don't get what we really deserve. Many ask how a loving God can let bad things happen. The real question we should ask though is how such a Holy and righteous God can even let us see any form of goodness even after seeing all our sin.

It's because He is slow to anger and abounding in mercy. His love is everlasting, and His mercies are new every morning, great is His faithfulness. He is not slack in His promises as some would count slackness, but He is slow to anger, not wanting anyone to perish.

Our only response can then be a life of deep gratitude and great reverence for Him. For He has put a new song in our mouths. From shame to glory, from ashes to beauty and from mourning to dancing.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me. Thank you for being kind to me even when I don't deserve it. Help me to extend this same kindness to others.

THE GOD WHO IS ALMIGHTY

Ephesians 3:20 NIV

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

One of the key attributes about our God is that He is almighty. It's also one of His names Jehovah El Shaddai. That means He can do anything and everything we cannot do.

One of the reasons we worry is because we forget that He has the power to turn any situation around. We fret about what we will eat yet He owns the world and everything in it. We worry about tomorrow, yet He is the beginning and the end. We worry whether we will make ends meet, yet He can do exceedingly, abundantly, above all we could ever ask or think.

Today, live with an awareness that our God has the power to do all. He is mighty to save, heal and deliver. Therefore, live with a firm confidence in Him.

Prayer

King of Glory, thank you for reminding me that you are El Shaddai, the all-powerful God. I bring every problem to you knowing that it is in capable hands.

THE CONVICTING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 16:8 NKJV

And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

The Holy Spirit does not condemn. He convicts. Condemnation seeks to bring judgement while conviction is aimed at correction. That's why God made it clear that there is no condemnation to us who are in Christ Jesus.

What God wants for us is conviction. He wants us to be reminded like Martha in Luke 10:42 to shift our focus from wants to needs. He wants us to stick to doing the right thing when the right thing is the hard thing. He wants us to be people of integrity, flexibility, focus, gratitude and mercy. He wants to move away from the company of the selfish and unkind to the company of the generous and kind.

Today, take heed to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying because He is speaking.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the upgrade of the Holy Spirit. With Him, I can live a life that pleases you. I can walk above and not beneath because of His leading.

JOY AT THE CROSS

Hebrews 12:2 NKJV

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

One of the things that gave Jesus joy while nailed to the cross was when He looked into the future and saw you and I living an abundant life in Him.

A life where we live in His love daily, our past erased, our sin forgiven, our chains are broken and our lives marked by true freedom. He saw us overcoming a “just get by” kind of life to living an overcoming life.

God’s amazing grace and hope in His relentless love are the tools that enable us to live that life. His grace is the boat that carries us while our hope in His love is the anchor that holds us sure and steadfast. (Hebrews 6:19)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me. May I always know that I am a victor in everything I do because of the sacrifice Jesus made.

ALREADY DONE

Philippians 4:19 NKJV

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

The enemy's desire is for you to keep saying that you don't have what you need for you to do what you have to do. In Luke 19:30, Jesus instructs His disciples to bring Him a colt He would use to ride into Jerusalem. The disciples did not ask questions; they just obeyed.

Jesus was also at peace knowing that He didn't have to worry whether the colt was there or not because He knew the Father had already provided. In the same way God is calling you and I to tenderness, forgiveness, an abundance mindset among other things. Our tendency though is to live in worry that we don't have what it takes. Yet the truth is God has already provided whatever you will need. You just haven't seen it yet. Your part is to obey Him and go get the colt when the time comes.

Just like the disciples, you will be surprised to find out that God already arranged for the provision. Just like the women going to the tomb, you will be amazed that the huge stone you are worried about has already been rolled away.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for making a way for me always. May I walk in freedom and faith knowing that you will supply all my needs according to your riches in glory.

DISCERNING GOD'S VOICE

1 Samuel 28:16 AMP

Samuel said, “Why then do you ask me, since the Lord has left you and has become your enemy?

Our theme verse is from a conversation that Saul had with a demon that he thought was the spirit of Samuel.

Saul failed to recognize even from the words the spirit spoke that it was not from God. This is because he did not know God's word. Saul should have realized that this was a demon the moment the spirit told him that God had become his enemy. This is because God can never become our enemy because He is love itself. We too should always be keen to discern God's voice from the rest. His words teach, rebuke, correct and train in righteousness.

That's why we should take time to read and meditate on the word of God. While the words of the enemy bring condemnation and death, God's words bring justification and life.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your word that helps me to discern your voice. May I always read and meditate on it so that I may know your heart on every situation I encounter.

EXPECT GOD TO GUIDE YOU

John 16:13 NKJV

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Many of us feel like God is not guiding us yet He is. What we need to do is to live with an expectancy of always hearing from God.

The truth is He is always speaking through the people we meet, the circumstances we encounter the challenges we face, the joys and the sorrows. God uses it all to communicate to us. But if we are not always living like we know He speaks through it all, we will miss Him. For example, He might be using the traffic to speak to you about patience.

God's desire is to have intimacy with you and constant communication is key in playing that role.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your Holy Spirit who is always speaking to me. May I take care to always listen for what He is saying.

DO IT ALL FOR GOD

Colossians 3:23 NIV,

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

One of the reasons we get frustrated with certain things is because we take God out of what we are doing. What we have to do is invite God in.

In Luke 10:40, Martha was frustrated by the fact that she was serving yet her sister Mary was seated with Jesus. Martha was struggling with trusting that Jesus should be invited in every situation.

When we do this, we can keep a good attitude of patience, self control and love. We can walk in gentleness and goodness because we know we do it all for Jesus.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for showing me that the way to walk in peace is by adding you to all my situations and doing everything for you. May I trust in you always.

ALL YOU REALLY NEED

John 5:7-9 MSG

The sick man said, “Sir, when the water is stirred, I don’t have anybody to put me in the pool. By the time I get there, somebody else is already in.” Jesus said, “Get up, take your bedroll, start walking.” The man was healed on the spot. He picked up his bedroll and walked off. That day happened to be the Sabbath. The Jews stopped the healed man and said, “It’s the Sabbath. You can’t carry your bedroll around. It’s against the rules.”

From our theme verse, the sick man thought he needed a helper and the pool for him to get healed. What he didn’t know is that all he needed was a word from Jesus.

We too have dreams God has given us to accomplish. But we keep waiting for a helper to come and give us the ‘push’ we need to see our dreams come to life.

We forget that when God gives you a word, all you have to do is receive it by faith and obey. From His word, God has promised to you and me long life, healing, peace, joy, favor among others.

Just like the crippled man, we don’t have to wait for a helper or a pool anymore. This is because God’s word is enough.

Prayer

Mighty Father, thank you for your word. I believe what you say of me. May I not be crippled by thinking I need certain things to do what you have called me to do. I stand on your word for it never fails.

IT WILL NOT BE AS HARD AS YOU THOUGHT

2 Kings 6:5-6 NLT

But as one of them was cutting a tree, his ax head fell into the river. “Oh, sir!” he cried. “It was a borrowed ax!” “Where did it fall?” the man of God asked. When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it into the water at that spot. Then the ax head floated to the surface .

Many times when we are faced with a challenge, we worry because we think of how much work it will take for us to overcome the problem.

From our theme scripture, one of the prophets who was with Elisha faced a problem that he thought was going to be so hard to solve. He must have gone into despair thinking of how hard it would be to recover the axe head.

But with God, our seemingly huge problems have very easy and quick solutions. We don't have to worry about how everything is going to work out. We just have to bring everything to God and watch Him work it all out for our good.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for you are always working for me. May I have confident trust in your mighty power.

WE SEE OURSELVES IN HIM

2 Corinthians 3:18 KJV

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

We can only become who God created us to be by looking at Jesus. When we look at Jesus, we get to see our true selves.

Many times, we depend on our feelings or judgement of ourselves to tell us who we are. Even mere positivity can not tell us who we really are. Only when we look at Jesus can we know who God says we are. Jesus is patient and kind. He does not envy or boast. He does not keep a record of wrongs. He doesn't put Himself first. He looks for the best in others. That is the kind of person God wants you and I to be.

The more we look at Jesus through the word, worship and prayer, the more we become more like Him.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for sending Jesus to show me who you have called me to be. I receive my identity as one who is like Jesus in thought, speech and behavior.

LIVING BEYOND THE EDGE

Matthew 10:39 TPT,

Those who cling to their lives will give up true life. But those who let go of their lives for my sake and surrender it all to me will discover true life!

God's design for us is not to live in the comfort and safety that the world can offer. He wants us to trust Him.

Many times, we try to protect ourselves from reaching our limits forgetting that our sufficiency comes from God. So, what we do to ensure our well-being is to be selfish with our time and resources. But Jesus lived differently. He didn't try to protect Himself, he lavishly spent Himself for God and for others. He attended to people's Needs even when He was tired. He went against the systems and risked His life to show the true way to eternal life.

Throughout history, we see people like Daniel, Joseph and David all lived a life of trusting God. This call is for us too. It's a call to simply obey God's commands, trust Him, and then watch as He upholds you in His arms. Throughout this day, ask God to reveal to you what it really means to trust in Him.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for showing me how to live a life of trusting you. May I not lean on my own understanding but trust that you will uphold me as I step out into the unknown.

THE GOD WHO FORGIVES

Hebrews 12:24 NLT

You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.

One of the most amazing attributes of God is that He forgives. I don't know about you, but I am sure that I do need God's forgiveness considering how much I mess up or fail in my endeavors to attain all that He has in store for me.

In verses 23 and 24, God reminds us that He is a God of life and joy. He wants us to know that we can come boldly to Him because our names are already written in heaven. He wants us to know that we can come unafraid because we are now at peace with Him. But He knows that even after knowing all that, we might still condemn ourselves when we go wrong. That's why in our theme verse; He reminds us that He is the God who forgives.

No matter what you have done, God is always ready to forgive you because of Jesus' blood that was shed at the cross. That is the good news.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for always forgiving me when I go wrong. May I receive your forgiveness as a sign of you giving me another chance.

THE GOD WHO FORGIVES 2

Psalms 103:2-3 NLT

Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.

One of the reasons God gives us grace is because He wants us to do the same for others. God is so extravagant with grace that it doesn't matter what you have done, the moment you come to Him, you can be sure of finding forgiveness.

The reason we struggle with giving others grace is because we forget how much we have been forgiven. If we could only see that we too are only where we are by God's grace, we would cover over a multitude of others' sins.

We have every reason to bless the Lord because we are forgiven for all our faults including those we haven't done yet. Nothing can ever separate us from God because our forgiveness was purchased by the precious blood of Jesus.

Prayer

I will always bless you Lord for the great forgiveness you have showed me. I receive your mercy and grace towards me. Give me the grace to give this same grace and mercy to others.

IT IS FINISHED, SO REST

Hebrews 4:10 NIV

for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.

In Genesis 2:2, God finished the work he had been doing; so, on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Note that after He 'finished' He 'rested'.

The next time we hear of the word finished is later, when Jesus was on the cross. Knowing that He had won for us the victory, He said it is finished. Following the pattern from Genesis, what is left for us to do now is rest. That's why our theme verse invites us to enter this rest. We don't have to strive to attain God's promises. God wants us to have a response of rest to His word. Resting in the truth that His promises are sure and His word is alive and active in us.

Even when we fail to walk in this rest sometimes, we can still come to God's throne with confidence. This is because Jesus our high priest, understands our weakness and there is grace and mercy available for us at God's throne.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for finishing the work so I can rest. May I respond to your word with rest.

I DON'T WANT TO CONTROL, I WANT POWER

2 Corinthians 5:7 AMP

for we walk by faith, not by sight [living our lives in a manner consistent with our confident belief in God's promises]—

The opposite of walking in trust is living in control. The problem is that control is a cheap imitation of power. Many of us forfeit walking in real power because we are clinging so tightly to control.

The desire for control is created and fueled by fear. Seeking to be in control causes us to live in worry. As parents, we fear that our children will go astray, so we are anxious every time we don't know where they are. We worry about working enough hours so we can pay our bills and have enough to eat. But God is in control. If you want to walk through life in His power that requires trust. Trust in God's promise that He will perfect that which concerns you (Psalm 138:8). Trust in His unchangingness (Hebrews 13:8). Trust in His promise that all things work together for good to those who love the Lord and who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Trust in His power that can do immeasurably more than you and I can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20-21). Trust in His mercies that are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). Trust that He is doing something new (Isaiah 43:19).

Trying to be in control of everything is attractive, perhaps even easy. But God has not called us for easy. He has called us to walk in real power, the power of His Spirit, and real power is in the place of trust.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for your promise to give me power. May I not walk in fear but in faith. I will not live by what I see but by your unfailing promises.

THE GOD WHO IS NEVER UNDONE.

Ephesians 3:20 NIV

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

There are two miracles in the Bible that have key similarities that we can draw from regarding how God is never undone. One is the story of the widow at Zarephath who fed Elijah with her last meal (1 Kings 17:8-16), and the other is the feeding of the 5000 (Matthew 14:15-21).

Some of the similarities from these stories are.

1. In both miracles, we see that God intervenes miraculously to save lives that are at the brink of perishing.
2. Even though both situations begin with extreme scarcity, they both end with overflowing abundance.
3. In both miracles, the people had to surrender the little they had to God and then watch as He multiplied it.
4. In both miracles, God proved Himself to be the God of more than enough.
5. Both miracles required stepping out into the unknown and simply trusting God.
6. In both, the insufficiency of the people did not limit God.

The same God who did these miracles is still at work today. He wants us to trust Him and watch how He will do far more than we thought was possible.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for you are working miracles in my life. I ask that you enable me to step out into the unknown, confident that you are the God of abundance.

LIVING IN FREEDOM AND PURPOSE

Luke 15:31-32 NIV

‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’

In the story of the prodigal son, the older son who stayed with His father became angry because he didn’t know two things.

First was that he had access to all his father’s resources and therefore had no reason to envy or be jealous of things that were already his. Secondly, he now had another opportunity to honor his father by directing his younger brother in the right way. In the same way, we too worry and fret, forgetting that everything our Heavenly Father has also belongs to us. That includes peace, joy, love, mercy and grace among others.

Secondly, we now have an opportunity to honor God by showing others the way to pleasing God. When we walk in these two truths, then shall we live lives of freedom and purpose.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you that everything you have is mine. I don’t have to envy or be jealous because you will give me all that I need. May I be my brothers’ keeper, intentionally leading others closer to Jesus.

YOUR ROLE IN GOD'S STORY

Matthew 6:9-10 NIV

“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Our role in God's story is to lead others closer to Him. From the Lord's prayer, we get to see the part God wants us to play in His story.

Since it begins with "our," we should make it a priority not to have a mindset of self, but we should always consider others. Secondly, we should glorify the name of the Lord in all that we do. For example, when we work with excellence and integrity, we hallow God's Name.

Thirdly, we should bring God's kingdom, wherever we go. Through service, forgiveness, the words we speak, the things we watch, the way we dress among others. When we do these, we will be playing our role of leading others closer to the Father.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for showing me the part I have to play. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, may your purposes in me be fulfilled.

THE PROBLEM WITH COMPARISON.

Galatians 5:26 MSG

That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

In the story of the prodigal son, the older son refused to attend his younger brother's party because he was chained by comparison (Luke 15:29-30).

He was envious that their father had thrown his younger brother a party, yet he had never made him one. What he didn't know was that his younger brother had reached a point of eating pig's food and yet no one could give it to him. On the other hand, the older brother was always provided for, but that's what comparison does. It makes it look like the grass is greener on the other side. Someone once said if the grass is greener, it's probably astroturf. Comparison keeps us from seeing how God has blessed us. It keeps us looking at the negative and ignoring all the good things in our lives. Comparison also makes us miss the point. Instead of being happy for the brother who was once lost, he just labelled him as a squanderer.

Comparison makes us see our colleagues as enemies. We should, therefore, take great care to avoid falling into the dangerous trap of comparison.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me to celebrate with others when they win. May I not be caught up in comparison.

THE GOD WHO NEVER GIVES UP

Luke 22:31-32 NLT

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.”

God will stay with us even when we fall short of His glory. Peter failed in his endeavor to love Jesus sacrificially and yet Jesus' still gave him the assignment of taking care of His sheep.

God stays with us not because we deserve it but because of His grace. He does not wait for us to be perfect before He uses us. He perfects us along the way.

His eyes are not occupied with what's going on with you right now. He sees with eyes of faith and faith sees hope. That's why where others see failure, he sees victory, where others see despair, He sees hope and where others see a grave, He sees an empty tomb.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for always staying committed to me no matter what. I receive your love, forgiveness and strength.

A LIFE OF PURPOSE

Matthew 6:10 NLT

May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

When it came to purpose, I always wondered whether other people were walking in more purpose because of how successful they looked.

But God has been showing me that purpose for me is where He is. It is not about doing what I think is powerful but about obedience to His one step at a time leading.

Most of the time we focus on knowing what God's purpose for us is in our lives. But God wants us to pray a different prayer. He wants us to ask Him to mold us into the people who will fit into His purpose.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, make me into the kind of person who will fit into your purpose. May your will be done. May I be humble and choose your way over mine.

WILL ALIGNMENT

Colossians 3:2-4 NASB

Set your minds on things above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you will also appear with him in glory.

Wheel Alignment is the process of adjusting the angles of our vehicle's wheels to be perpendicular to the ground and parallel to each other.

In the same way, our spiritual lives should also be perpendicular to the ground — pointing upwards to God, not horizontally to people. There are several ways to realign our spiritual lives, including prayer, repenting our sinful behavior, worship time in church, reading God's word, and deep conversations with other accountable believers. When we're going astray or experiencing excessive vibrations in life, we can't just change the road or God's mind, but we can change how we travel by readjusting our lives into alignment with God's will and purpose.

Realigning to God's will gives us a sense of calm, clarity, and the ability to see light through a problem. By recasting the worries and fears of our problems to God's will, we become better equipped to face the adversity of the situation.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, align me to your will. May I desire to be more like you and less like me. Fix my eyes on your purposes.

THE POWER OF OBEDIENCE

James 4:6 AMP

But He gives us more and more grace [through the power of the Holy Spirit to defy sin and live an obedient life that reflects both our faith and our gratitude for our salvation]. Therefore, it says, “God is opposed to the proud and haughty, but [continually] gives [the gift of] grace to the humble [who turn away from self-righteousness].

When feelings want to lead me astray, obedience keeps me on track. One time I will be feeling like “God give me your glory, I can take it.” And at another time I will be feeling like “Maybe You can hold on to your glory for now.” Feelings are so unstable, and we should never depend on them.

God has given each of us instructions that we have to follow so that we manifest His glory. It could be letting go of some things or taking care of your health. Whatever it is, going by your feelings will cause you to think that it is about you and what you want. But following the path of obedience will remind you that it’s all about Jesus and His purposes.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for giving me the grace to obey. Help me not to go by my feelings, but to always trust in you.

SET YOUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT

Hebrews 12:2 NIV

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

One prayer we have to pray continually is that we may not lose sight of what truly matters. Many times, we forget that things like ministry or a spouse are not the end goal. Those should just be means to lead us to Jesus.

When we make those things our focus, we are like someone being so focused on a particular shoe that they want to wear to church that they give up on church altogether when they don't get that shoe. Many of us have become so focused on the things that are supposed to lead us to Christ, and we make them the end goal. It starts small until one day you realize you are so focused on ministry you forgot what you came for in the first place.

How you know this is when you are so focused on that thing being so perfect that you give it God's time too. This is why we have to ask God to keep us on track by reminding us of what we came for in the first place.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for leading me back to the right way with your word. Enable me to stick to the right path. May I not be discouraged but keep my eyes on you because you are all I need.

GOD'S PRESENCE

Psalms 23:4 NIV

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

From our theme verse, the only thing we should be confident in when in the valley is the fact that God is with us. Human strength will never do, only God will save us.

The money, spouse, abilities or friends will all fail us. God is the only one we can confidently lean on knowing He won't fail us. That's why He deserves all our worship and praise.

So, when we go through valleys, we need not fear, for our God is with us. He is the reason we will go through the fire and the storm and still come out victorious.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, I will not fear when I go through deep waters for you are with me and you have got my back. May I not put my trust in human strength but in you alone.

CALLED TO REPRESENT

1 Peter 4:9 AMPC

Practice hospitality to one another (those of the household of faith). [Be hospitable, be a lover of strangers, with brotherly affection for the unknown guests, the foreigners, the poor, and all others who come your way who are of Christ's body.] And [in each instance] do it ungrudgingly (cordially and graciously, without complaining but as representing Him).

As children of God, we are called to represent Him wherever we are, in all situations. We might naturally not be inclined to being hospitable let alone do it without complaining. But out of the love we have for God we will be able to do so.

Some of the reasons for us to be hospitable include the truth that we could be welcoming angels unaware and the undeniable truth that we all need each other. But I think one other important reason is that we are heavenly ambassadors on earth. When we are hospitable without complaining we bring God's kingdom and thus walk in dominion.

We need the to trust in the Holy Spirit though to give us the patience, goodness and kindness we need to represent God to others.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for You are working in me both to will and to do according to Your good pleasure. Enable me through the power of Your Holy Spirit to represent You through hospitality.

MAKING ROOM

Luke 10:41-42 KJV

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

The concept of making room for God is well illustrated by the picture of a man filling up a jar with stones of different sizes. He puts the big stones first because if he doesn't, he won't have space for them later.

The big stones for us children of God are prayer and the word of God. When we don't prioritize these above all else, we will find ourselves losing our center with every wind that comes our way. The problem with giving the smaller stones such as ministry first place is that we miss out on the wedding feast prepared for us just like the guests in Mathew 22:1-10.

The godly way to do ministry is to do it with an aim of creating room for God. God desires the best for us, and He knows that we are receiving the best when we are with Him.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for showing me what truly matters. May I always ensure to give you first place in my life.

LOVE IS THE GREATEST

I Corinthians 13:8 NKJV

Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

As Christians, we can never say things like "I was never meant to love that person." Just like you can predetermine to have a good day no matter what happens, you can also predetermine to love others no matter what they do.

This is what God did for us; "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love, he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will" (Ephesians 1:4-5)

How we know that Jesus loves us is because He stays even when we fail Him. He loves us regardless. This is the same love He wants us to give to others. The Agape love. Agape says I see your flaws, and I choose you anyway.

God's kind of love is also about letting go of what is passing and clinging to the permanent. That's why if the reason we are seeking God is for Him to give us the power to minister to others, then we are going astray. This is because ministry is passing but your relationship with God is forever.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for loving me, help me to love others selflessly. May I love you more than anything. Help me to lay my treasure in the dust so that You may become my treasure.

GIVEN BY GOD

Romans 12:3 MSG

I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.

One way to get overwhelmed by life is to think that you are the one bringing the goodness to God, yourself and others. This kind of thinking keeps you stressed with perfection and trying to hold everything together by yourself.

You need to realize and understand that God is the one who brings the goodness to you. He is the one orchestrating all the opportunities and putting everything in place. Be it spending time with your family or accomplishing a project. It's all being given to you by God. Your job is to take the opportunities as they come and do your best. God gives you the opportunities out of His great love for and if you trust Him, He will bring it all to pass beautifully.

Therefore, enjoy those opportunities fully for you have a God who is not only a master planner but a keeper and protector.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for always planning for me. Help me enjoy the opportunities you bring without fear for you are the one who holds it all together.

MY GREATEST DESIRE

Psalms 23:1 NIV

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

God wants us to come to a point where we know that any earthly thing we desire adds nothing to us and takes nothing from us, only God's presence does.

That's why Job 22:24-25 AMP says, "And place your gold in the dust, And the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks [considering it of little value] And make the Almighty your gold and your precious silver." Everything else has to pale in comparison with our God. We should be willing to let go of anything for God. It might not even be a sinful thing but if you love it more than God, then it has turned into an idol.

God wants us to reach a level where even when we don't get the thing we want, we are okay if we have Him. When God sees that you have reached that level, then He knows you are ready to receive that thing because even when you get it, your devotion will still be on Him.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, you are all I want. Nothing else compares to you. Help me lay it all down so that I can have You.

LIVE FOR JESUS

II Corinthians 5:15 NKJV

and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

Our verse first speaks of the truth that Jesus died for all. A reminder for us to share the good news that people don't have to go to hell for sins that were already paid for.

The truth that He paid for us doesn't give us a license to sin but rather teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and live righteously, soberly and godly in this present world. We can deny ungodliness because when Jesus defeated death, He also removed its sting which is sin (1 Corinthians 15:55-56). It may be true that just like me, what you want to do is not what you do, but thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. We can overcome sin because it no longer has dominion over us for, we now live under grace, God's divine enablement. (Romans 6:14)

Jesus is worthy of us living for Him after all how can we neglect such a great salvation that He paid for us with His very life.

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Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for paying the price I couldn't pay. May I live for You for you are worthy of it all.

JESUS PAID FOR ME

Galatians 5:1 NIV

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Not walking in the freedom Jesus paid for us to have is like suffering financially yet your bank account has a lot of money that you are not using.

Jesus paid for us, so that we can now walk in peace, joy, love, patience, faithfulness, goodness, gentleness, kindness and self-control. We can now walk in faith and boldness, abounding always not in our strength but in the strength of the Lord. When someone asks you how you are able to do it, you answer by telling them 'Jesus paid'.

Whatever difficulty you may encounter, know that you are able to overcome because Jesus did what had to be done for you to be victorious.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for loving so much that you paid it all. Help me to walk in the freedom that you achieved for me at calvary.

TRUE LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:4 NIV

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

One virtue that we must receive and give others is love. While tongues, prophecy and faith are good virtues, they cannot be compared with love. Love is on a whole other level.

Sadly, many people never get to receive or give true love. This is the kind of love described in 1 Corinthians 13. It's love that doesn't depend on the other person's qualities. Loving others based on their qualities is shaky ground. This is because qualities change. Instead, love someone because you have chosen to love them regardless. Whether they change or not, you will still love them. That's how Jesus loved us and how we ought to love others.

We can only give this love to others out of the overflow of the love we ourselves have received from Jesus.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, help me receive the love You have for me. May I also love others unconditionally just as you have loved me.

OUR DIFFERENCES ARE FOR HIS GLORY

1 Corinthians 4:7 NIV

For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

First of all, the differences are gifts, and they are no reason for us to boast because they were just given to us. Pride causes us to think that our differences make us better than others.

Secondly, the differences are necessary. You only realize that the moon's dimness is good for the night when compared with the sun's brightness. We should not shun others because of how different they are. The differences are part of God's design. Thirdly, there is no difference between us. God is the father to all of us regardless of how we differ. What really matters is who our Lord is.

Differences don't make us incompatible; they help fulfill the different purposes God has for us.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for making us unique in different ways. Help me to see the differences as part of your design to help fulfill your purposes on earth.

OUR MOST DANGEROUS WEAPONS

II Corinthians 10:4 NKJV

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

Some of the most dangerous weapons we have include kindness, love, joy, peace, patience, faithfulness, self-control, goodness and gentleness.

The enemy would want to convince us that the tools we have are weak and that they have no use whatsoever. We can truly appreciate the power of these weapons only when we put them to use. A friend testified to me recently that she accepted Christ because of how a Christian showed her kindness.

The challenge to all of us is to put these powerful weapons to use and see what God can do.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the weapons you have given me to fight back the enemy's reign. May I not undermine the power in these gifts.

SHINE FOR JESUS

2 Corinthians 3:2

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone.

For many people the only Bible they will ever read is you. That's why you should not only shine but also let others know who is making you shine.

Jesus put it like this, 'No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way let your good deeds shine for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.' (Matthew 5:15-16). Since the light of God dwells in us we can be sure, wherever we are, God has placed us there to shine. Our actions have to reflect the unending mercy and kindness of our God.

A heart of gratitude towards God for His grace is what will stir us up to glorify God with our bodies. Whether it is keeping ourselves pure from sexual sin or standing for integrity in a corrupt world, we can stand firm because for us, it's the least we can do considering all He has done for us.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank You for making me a light in a dark world. May I shine brightly for You wherever I go.

THE POWER OF THE CROSS

Luke 15:17 NIV

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!’

The story of the prodigal son returning to His father is a picture of how we should come back to the cross at any time. The cross is a reminder to us that no matter how far we have gone, grace is readily waiting for us with open arms.

When we are afraid, the cross reminds us that we are no longer slaves, to fear. When we feel condemned, the cross reminds us that Jesus took our punishment. We can rejoice because damnation is no longer our destination for at the cross, we were redeemed by Jesus’ blood. The cross reminds us that we are perfectly loved by God no matter what we’ve done. We don’t have to be timid as we come to God for the cross makes us holy.

At the cross is where our confusion is replaced with joy and our weaknesses turn into strength because of Christ our assurance of glory.

Prayer

Precious Jesus my Lord, thank You for the cross. Thank you that I can always come back to You. May I never hesitate to come to You with everything I am facing for in You is my victory.

GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU

Hebrews 13:5 AMPC

Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]

God didn't choose you because you were at your highest, so He won't leave you at your lowest. We should stop trying to chase perfect because it is an ever-changing target. We should instead seek progression.

You don't need to do anything to earn a place at Jesus' feet. It's a gift by grace. We do not need to first impress God for Him to accept us. We are accepted only by His grace. When everything and everyone else leaves you, God never will. Understanding God's grace helped the woman who anointed Jesus' feet with her hair revere Jesus more than the others. This is because when you realize that He will not leave you regardless of what you have done, laying down your crowns becomes your only response.

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for always being with me. You are with me to the end of the age. Help me know that You are near.

SITTING AT JESUS' FEET

Luke 10:38-39 NIV

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

Sitting at Jesus' feet could mean more than being still physically. It could mean being humble enough to listen. It means submitting and trusting that God has you covered.

Even while serving, you can be seated at Jesus' feet, that is if you are serving from a place of reasoning, intentional, spiritual devotion such as is inspired by God's love for and in you. It is about living with patience and kindness. Not being jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It's about not demanding your own way. It's about not being irritable and keeping no record of being wronged. It's about finding no delight in injustice but rejoicing whenever the truth wins out. It's about never giving up, never losing faith, hoping always and enduring through every circumstance.

Sitting at Jesus' feet is about always refocusing yourself back to what God desires most and that is loving Him and loving others.

Prayer

Dearest Father, thank you for showing me what it means to sit at your feet. May everything I do come from a place of love.

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AFAAYO JEREMIAH

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