Seed & Soil

As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty

Matthew 13.23



JANUARY- 2025

GLORY BE ONLY TO GOD

Seed & Soil

Praise God for using us to bring glory to His name. The purpose of this book, "SEED & SOIL", is reflected in its title—to help both the readers and all those involved in its creation become deeply rooted in His Word. Our aim is to cultivate hearts that are good soil, allowing us to be firmly planted in Christ, grow in Him, and bear fruit for His kingdom.

As Jesus calls us to be new creations in Him, our first goal is to be transformed by His love and grace. In turn, we hope to help others experience that transformation as well, becoming new creations for His glory.

If you read through our daily devotions, you'll notice the diverse involvement of people—from 9-year-olds to 45-year-olds. This reminds us that God can use anyone, regardless of age or background. If He can work through us, He can certainly work through you. So, don't hide the gifts and talents God has entrusted to you—use them for His kingdom. Let's leave behind our old ways and become new vessels for His glory.

We humbly ask for your prayers as we continue this journey.

Let His Name Alone Be Glorified.!!

"Sacrificing Human Desires"

Have you ever wanted something so much that you give it all your thoughts and importance? This is self-seeking, and it is a form of selfishness.

Philippians 2:3-4: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." God wants us to put others before us. As a human being, it is very difficult to do so, but ultimately, our human desires often contradict God's. Therefore, we must not be rigid in our selfish ambitions, but look to value others', and ultimately God's will.

However, this doesn't mean God wants us to miss out on things. Jesus even said "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." The Prophet Samuel said "Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, and to listen than the fat of rams." This shows that God is intent on our obedience to Him rather than sacrifice itself. Sacrifice of human desires is simply a way of showing our obedience and humility to The Father, to show Him that we are not self-seeking.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, I urge you to pray that God gives you His Holy Spirit to be able to give up our human desires in obedience to His Word, and that you are active in this.

2 January 2025 - Thursday

"The Lord will give what is Good"

Psalms 85:12 ***says, "Yes the Lord will give what is good and our land will yield its increase".*** The psalmist recalls how God restored Jacob's fortunes and covered their sins. Believing He will do so again, he confidently declares that the Lord will give what is good.

At the start of each year, we embrace God's promises, reflecting on the lives of Joseph and Jesus' disciples. Despite their bigger dreams, they experienced great miracles– Joseph rising to the throne and the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit, spreading the gospel.

How they would have felt when they were in the middle! When Joseph was in the pit and prison, he was betrayed! When the disciples were inside the room or when their Rabbi was arrested and put to death!

As this year begins, there will be times when we will also face what these people have felt and faced. Might be stuck in the middle, in the path of wilderness, where you cannot see the promised land. **Just because we haven't seen it yet doesn't mean God hasn't kept it for us!**

So let's be strengthened by His promises and believe that even when we cannot see that, the Lord will give us what is good, and it will make sense in the end!

3 January 2025 - Friday

“Being Confident in Him”

Philippians 1:6

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus".

Of late, the pressure of reaching the stage of life where everything needs to be sorted yet not, burdened me, especially while seeing my friends from school reaching the milestones of life on time. Every time the thought of it struck, guilt and embarrassment would make me panic and believe that I would never get anything sorted, until I read through Philippians 1 and came across verse 6.

The lessons I had learned at rock-bottom and how I would've never been the person that I am today if not for those years of pruning by Him dawned upon me and the **reassurance of His faithfulness** gave me the confidence to know that He is going to finish what He had started in His right time, and it need not comply with that of this world.

Ever since this realisation, although slow, life is indeed steady. So even if we have self-doubts about ourselves, let's be confident in Him. It's not us, but He is going to finish the good work He started in us.

4 January 2025 - Saturday

"Love others like how God Loves You"

Ruth was a Moabite; she lost her husband after 10 years of marriage and was left with no children. All she had was a sister-in-law and an old mother-in-law who were also widows. Many questions would have revolved in her mind. What am I going to do after this? How is my future going to be? What am I going to do for food and living?

Later, when Naomi planned to leave Moab and asked her daughters-in-law to return to their house, Orpah returned to her house. **Ruth had two options**; either to go back to her house, worship her gods, get back to the life she lived before her marriage or to continue to be a widow, take care of Naomi in an unknown place, and work hard for living. Most of us tend to return to our comforts and are hesitant to take the extra mile for others. In ***Ruth 4:14, Then The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!***

But reflecting God's love for the world makes not only our lives but many others' lives better. Ruth's decision turned out to be a blessing not only to her but to her generation. When you **love others like how God loves you,** our ever-loving Lord will be with you and make every crooked path straight, like He did in Ruth's life.

"Jesus our Armor-Bearer"

We stand firm in faith only when we truly understand who God is. Dwelling on our problems often increases fear, but when we focus on knowing God, we see how faith works in our lives.

The Bible is filled with examples of people who trusted God and were victorious. Victory doesn't come from numbers but from God. ***Proverbs 21:31 says, "The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord."***

In 1 Samuel 14, we see this truth through Jonathan. While Saul, with 600 men, feared the Philistines, Jonathan, accompanied only by his armor-bearer, stepped out in faith. In 1 Samuel 14:6, Jonathan boldly declared, ***"Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few."*** Despite the odds, God acted on his behalf, and in verse 13, the Philistines fell before him as he climbed the mountain.

We might think Jonathan's armor-bearer supported him, but we have Jesus as our armor-bearer, carrying our weapons. Ephesians 6:10-17 describes the armor of God, symbolizing the protection bought by Christ's sacrifice on the cross. So, do not fear—believe in Him. God will act on your behalf.

"Jesus our Source"

He is the source of all. Look around... Everything's been masterfully designed. We breathe because we have been given lungs, oxygen, and an environment that sustains life. We move because we have been given muscles, tendons, and a brain that instructs your body. We think, dream, plan, design, create, build–because we have been given the desire, ability, and some raw materials.

So if you want to live a life that matters, a life that leaves an eternal legacy, you must stay connected to the source of life. In ***John 15:4-5 it says "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.*** "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me, you can do nothing."

When Jesus says, "I am the vine," He's making a statement. He's saying that **He is the source** –that anything that's made is because of His life-giving power. So if you long for real truth, for genuine wisdom, or to make a lasting difference in this world, stick close to God–because anything worth being or doing starts with Him. So let's grow more in Him and lead a fruitful life.

7 January 2025 - Tuesday

"We are Called to Be Good Soil"

Matthew 13:1-23 speak about the The Parable of the Sower.

The Parable of the Sower reminds us that the condition of our hearts determines how we receive God's word. Just as a sower scatters seed, God's message is given to all, but it falls on different kinds of soil. Some hearts are hardened like the path, while others are shallow, quickly fading when trials come. Some are distracted by the cares of life, while others, like good soil, receive His word, producing fruit. as the bible say in ***Mathew 13: 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.***

We need to ask ourselves what kind of soil our hearts are. Are we letting distractions, worries, or problems stop us from growing in God's word? When we open our hearts to God's message, letting it grow deep inside us, we can bear fruit that helps others and brings glory to God. Let's take time to check our hearts and make sure we're ready to **let God's word take root and change us!**

So, let us pray to God to receive spiritual ears, as the Bible says in Matthew 13:9, 'Whoever has ears, let them hear,' so that we may hear only His words and grow even more in faith.

8 January 2025 - Wednesday

“He cares for our Souls”

The Israelites, chosen as God's people, faced hardships when they did evil in His sight. When the Israelites were handed over to the Midianites, the Bible says in ***Judges 6:4, "They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys.”***

However, when God led them to the land of Canaan, the Bible says in ***Joshua 5:12, "The manna stopped the day after they ate the food from the land."*** God fed them manna until they ate the produce of Gilgal. Yet, their disobedience caused them to lose His blessings.

Why does God allow such things? In Judges 6:6, it says, ***"the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help."*** This shows that God often allows hardships to draw us back to Him because **He cares for our souls** and does not want us to perish.

When the Israelites cried out in their suffering, God raised up Gideon to deliver them. Though Gideon was weak, God strengthened him. In the same way, when we turn to God, abandon our sins, and cry out to Him, He will be with us. So, let us examine ourselves, and strive to do what is right in God’s sight.

9 January 2025 - Thursday

"We are the Temple of God"

The Lord our God is always there to protect us, might be the morning or may be the night ,whatever may be the destruction that the day unfolds the mighty Father is there to protect you.

Our God who reigns up in the heavens neither sleeps' nor slumbers', and will shield us from all the darkness that the world tries to hide us in. As bible says in ***Psalm 91:5,6 "You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday".***

We know that the Lord our God died on the cross to deliver us from our sins. He does everything to protect each one of His children. Since **we are called the temple of God**, we must not return to our old sinful nature. By living righteously, we allow ourselves to truly be His temple and His children.

This gives us the confidence to face each day and the assurance that we will be with Him on that glorious day.**And he died for all**, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. Let us hold onto this faith and face each new day that God has prepared for us with Him.

10 January 2025 - Friday

"The Lord is My Helper"

Hebrews 13:5-6: 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. **6** So we say with confidence, "**The Lord is my helper**; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"

While reading the passage its reminds us to shift our focus from worldly concerns and instead anchor ourselves in His promises. By listening to His Word and standing firm in faith, we can find peace and assurance. As bible says in ***Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.***

Our God, who remains unchanging, promises to never leave or forsake us. As in verse 8 it says Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. He is our constant help and guide.

Let us trust in Him completely, knowing He is with us always. And just focus on Him and His kingdom as bible say in ***Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*** So, by this we gain confidence that the Lord is our helper, and what man can do to us.

"Trust God's Plan Over Man's Words"

In **Numbers 13,** Moses sent twelve spies to explore the Promised Land. They saw its abundance but also its challenges–fortified cities and powerful people. Ten spies focused on the obstacles, spreading fear among the Israelites, while only Caleb and Joshua trusted God's promise to give them the land.

This passage teaches us the **importance of trusting God's plan over the words of men**. The ten spies spoke from a fear and human perspective, but Caleb and Joshua saw through the **eyes of faith**. God has promised to give Israel the land, and His promises never fail. Too often, we allow the voices of doubt around us to overshadow God's truth.

Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, ***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."*** Human reasoning may see impossibilities, but God sees victory. God's faithfulness is unshakable. He brought the Israelites out of Egypt with mighty miracles, and He was ready to fulfill His promise.

Let us remember that God does not fail. Trust Him even when circumstances seem daunting, for He is faithful to doing what He has promised. Reject the words of fear and doubt, and cling to God's unchanging Word.

12 January 2025 - Sunday

"Jesus is our Everlasting Covenant"

Joshua 5:8 says, ***"After the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained in camp until they were healed."*** In Genesis 17:13-14, God established circumcision as an everlasting covenant, declaring that those who disobeyed would be cut off from His people.

This highlights that obedience to God's commandments defined His people. Likewise, through Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross, we now have an everlasting covenant. **But are we honouring it?** We desire healing, miracles, and victories, yet we must ask ourselves: Are we following God's Word and living according to His will? When Joshua obeyed God's command to circumcise the nation, the people were healed and experienced victory.

Jesus is our everlasting covenant. Are we sanctifying our hearts and lives, or are we hardening our hearts? It is never too late to repent and return to Him. God longs for us and desires to bless us, but most importantly, He wants us to be with Him in His kingdom forever.

Let us reflect on our lives and cast away sinful ways. Through Christ, we can grow deeper in faith and become a new creation, living in the fullness of His covenant. each new day that God has prepared for us with Him.

13 January 2025 - Monday

"Much Stronger"

Have you ever felt anxious, surrounded by people who make you feel low and pull you down? It can be overwhelming when we give too much weight to others' opinions, causing us to lose sight of what we truly want in life. This often leads to discouragement.

In **Deuteronomy 31:6**, God speaks directly to Joshua: ***"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."*** God reassured him repeatedly, especially in tough times. Joshua faced many challenges, but God was always there.

Sometimes people humiliate us, and we're left feeling embarrassed about our weaknesses. But Paul, in 2 Corinthians 12:7, proudly embraces his weakness, saying, **"I will boast in my weaknesses."** How could he say that? It's a powerful reminder: in our weakness, God's grace shines brightest.

When we meditate on this truth, we realize that God works through our weaknesses to transform us. His grace is sufficient, especially when life feels hardest. Never forget that, in God's eyes, you are valued, loved, and special.You are never weak–you're much stronger than you think.

"True Joy"

The true measure of joy lies in life's milestones, from childhood discoveries to the achievements of old age. Society celebrates each triumph, honoring personal growth, success, and contributions to the community. Every accomplishment illuminates the journey, bringing fulfillment and collective pride.

Paul experienced similar emotions until he discovered the true source of joy. **Genuine joy is found in a relationship with Christ.** In **Philippians 3,** Paul reflects on his personal journey. Once priding himself on his accomplishments and strict adherence to the law, he believed he was living a life that pleased God. Yet, he discovered that true joy goes far beyond mere achievements.

The Apostle Paul demonstrated this truth by viewing worldly accomplishments and possessions as insignificant compared to knowing Christ. He understood that true fulfillment and joy come not from external achievements **but from a deep connection with the Lord**.

By opening our heart to Christ's love and allowing Him to transform our life, we too can experience this profound joy. Embracing this truth empowers us to share that same joy with others, just as Paul did in his ministry.

"Broken to serve"

In **Deuteronomy 10:12**, it says, ***"Serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul."***

Elsie shared in church how God guided her through a challenging journey that led to her earning a general proficiency award in academics. Afterward, she realized the true testimony of her life lay in the deeper transformation she experienced along the way.

She realized that God, in His might, had used her broken self to serve others right where she was. God helped her become more patient, kinder, and more loving toward those around her. She began using her talents for God's glory. How amazing is that? ***God could even use broken me for His purpose!*** At that moment, she decided to serve the Lord with all her heart and soul, walking humbly with Him. **Micah 6:8** says, ***"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*** God expects us to serve Him wholeheartedly and walk humbly with Him.

So, what is our testimony really about? Is it always focused on what God has done for us or what we've received from Him? Or is it about how we've allowed ourselves to be used for His purpose? Let's reflect on this!

16 January 2025 - Thursday

“God is always beside us”

Psalm 23 This psalm, often memorized in childhood, reveals profound insights upon reflection. It serves as a beautiful glimpse into our life on earth. ***1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,*** it says about how God takes care of us, like a mother who takes care of her little child by giving them the best things and a comfortable life.

3 he refreshes my soul.He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. 4 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. It says when we grow up to become adults and try to figure out our lives on earth and get confused and go through difficult times.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Which is like a promise that God will give us victory no matter what we go through.

This psalm encourages us to live a life knowing that God is always beside us in every situation, and he'll always give us the victory we need. We only need to rely on Him for everything.

"Just One More Time"

As I was praying, "Just one more time," ran through my mind, and accompanying it were scriptures from the Bible, found in the book of **Hebrews 10:26** says, ***If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left.*** Sin is described in the Bible as transgression of the law of God and rebellion against God.

Some believers profess faith but fail to mature spiritually, gradually losing interest in Christ and turning toward worldly desires. As children of God, we must examine ourselves. Repeatedly falling into the same temptation torments our conscience, and Satan exploits our weaknesses. To resist, we should rely on the Holy Spirit's protection and offer heartfelt prayers during times of temptation to overcome and avoid sin.

King David prayed for God's guidance, saying, ***"Search me, O God, and know my heart; lead me in the way everlasting".*** No matter our past, Jesus seeks to transform us and calls us never to give up the fight. As bible says James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

So, let's not do the sinful mistake one more time knowing the truth !

18 January 2025 - Saturday

“Sleepless to Peaceful Night ”

In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety (Psalms 4:8). We lie down to sleep, but when distressed, our thoughts prevent us from sleeping, and our peace fades. David, who faced great distress, teaches us how to find peace. **Firstly**, He tried to remember God's nature ***(He alone can make us dwell in safety)***. **Secondly**, He trusted the Lord.

As we also read in ***Isaiah 26:3, “You will keep in perfect peace all who trusts in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you”.*** There is no shortcut to increase our faith. Faith comes by hearing the word of God. Though it is hard, just keep continuing reading the bible and call unto the Lord.

He is ready to catch you when you are falling, as Jesus did to Peter when he was about to fall by seeing the problem and restored his peace by silencing those haunting strong waves.

Let us remember that God is working all things for our good. Trust Him and His process, knowing He has prepared a good future for us.

"Love your ENEMIES"

Matthew 5:43-48

How difficult is it to love someone who has wronged us? The world generally loves a friend and might hate an enemy, which might seem logical. But Jesus has commanded us to take a different approach to that. ***Jesus commands us to forgive and love them without limits***, which is essential for our spiritual growth. ***By loving our enemies, we are obeying God's mission***. As children of God, we are expected to follow that and there's no way around it. One way of expressing love is by ***praying for them***. Jesus did not just command us but also modelled this to us on the cross. Jesus wants us to do the same, which might be both hard and courageous for us to follow. The world is still talking about these 2000 years later. How? That is because Jesus chose to forgive and love his enemies.

How we treat others can also influence people around us. It can tell us a lot about our faith and the true God we believe in. God is very forgiving and merciful to us, and He wants us to extend the same to others. ***Jesus treated Judas so well that none of His disciples were able to identify that Judas would be the one to betray Jesus-that is, loving your enemies***. Since God is love, let us love our neighbors and enemies as ourselves.

20 January 2025 - Monday

"Look Unto Jesus"

Matthew 14: 22 – 34

Jesus sent his disciples ahead by boat while He prayed alone on a mountainside. During the night, the boat was battered by waves. Near dawn, Jesus walked on the water toward them, causing fear as they thought He was a ghost. He reassured them, saying, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Peter asked to join Him, stepped out, and walked on water, but fear caused him to sink. Crying out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus caught him, saying, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" Once they entered the boat, the wind calmed, and the disciples worshiped Jesus, declaring, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The disciples getting into the boat and crossing the **lake is like our life**. When our life gets beaten up by waves and storms, it is like going through tough times. But Jesus will walk towards you. When you walk to Jesus, do not look at all your problems and start sinking. Instead, **just look toward Jesus and He will help you**. He will give you peace. **Psalm 4:8** says, ***I will lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, Oh Lord, make me dwell safe.***

So, if you have any problems in your life, just look towards Jesus. He is there for you.

“Our Daily Bread”

In Matthew:6:10-13 Jesus teaches the disciples how to pray. The first two verses which are verses 9 and 10 teaches us how we can **worship or praise god**. The 11th verse is **asking your need**. Verses 12-13 **till ‘evil’ is forgiveness**. The last bit tells us **how great God is**. But when we look on **Matthew 6:11**, it says ***Give us today our daily bread***. What does this mean? Does it mean the physical food and water that we that we eat and drink? No, Jesus means **the spiritual food**. And what is the spiritual food? It is the **word of God**.

The word of God is as important as the food we eat everyday. When you read the bible you realise that God gives you something new every day to meditate on. For example for chrisma-chrischild I got a journal as a gift. I decided that I would write a verse in it everyday. On Thursday I wrote John 3:16 in my new journal. The next day I wrote the verse Exodus 3:14, the verse that periappa told the day before. Like this, God always teaches you new things everyday, it might be through a person or when you’re reading the bible.

But the main thing is He speaks to us, which is the most interesting and exciting way to get closer to God.

"Author of Impossible"

Luke 8:43-48 Twelve years of bleeding, no cure, no hope. She spent all she had but grew worse. Then one day, Hope walked among the crowd. Summoning her last courage, she touched fringe of His garment, and her bleeding stopped instantly."Who touched Me?" Jesus asked, sensing power leave Him. Trembling, she confessed her act of faith before all, and her years of suffering ended in a moment. ***With a mustard seed of faith, she moved the power of God and found healing at last.***

I am sure people around her must have looked down on her. ***Her suffering was great, but greater was her healing***. That day she couldn't find all the answers for her why's. That one touch of healing satisfied everything in her. It gave her the courage to come before the multitude. He says, ***"Daughter, be of good cheer, your faith has made you well. "Go in peace.***" Jesus gives her a new identity. Now the bleeding woman is a daughter. She kept her faith. Jesus gave her a new life with a new peace.

Feeling stuck in life? Healing might seem like a deep, unknown pit, and the pain overwhelming. But hold on to the God of wonders–who walks on water, turns water into wine, and raises the dead. If you're waiting for healing, take heart. He is about to do something beyond your imagination.

23 January 2025 - Thursday

“The Battle belongs to the Lord”

In 2 Chronicles 20, after hearing about the army of Ammonites and the Moabites coming against Jehoshaphat. He was alarmed, **yet the path he chose was towards God**. He and the entire region of Judah and Jerusalem submitted everything to the Lord, trusting in the promises that were given to them.

Most of the time when we face trouble, our heart wanders for worldly solutions. We tend to forget what God has promised and why he has brought us this situation. The people of Judah and Jerusalem marched against the vast army **singing praises to the Lord**. God made them fight against each other, and they were defeated. When they reached there, they just saw the dead bodies. They didn't even touch the army.

This is how great our Lord is. He can change the situation in a second without us doing anything. What God wants from us is **faith and submission**. In ***Proverbs 3:5-6 it says," Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will straighten your paths.”***

Let us have faith in the Lord and give our full efforts and submit the rest to him. He'll take care of it and give us victory.

24 January 2025 - Friday

"Imitating Christ's Humility"

In **Philippians 2:1-11**, we see Jesus, our Lord, serving as the ultimate example of humility. In verse 3, Paul exhorts us: ***"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. " Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves."*** This challenges us to look beyond our own interests and consider the needs and well-being of others.

In today's world of self-reliance and personal achievement, individualism often leads us to prioritize success over **serving others**, causing us to overlook opportunities to support and uplift those around us.

The apostle Paul calls us to a higher standard, urging us to be humble and adopt the same attitude as Christ, especially if we are united with the Spirit. True humility means ***putting the needs of others before our own*** and helping each other grow. As we walk through each day, let us strive to embody humility, just as our Lord Jesus did, by looking out for one another and offering help where it is needed. As **C.S. Lewis** beautifully said, ***"Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less."***

Are we ready to follow Christ's example of humility by serving and loving others as He calls us to? Let's take a moment to pray, humbling ourselves before God. Ask Him to guide us, show how we can serve others today, and use us in meaningful ways.

"The Good Life"

One of the best pieces of advice I have heard involved mediation on one's life at its end. How at the end of your life, **what would you like to look back on and see?** What directions, choices and paths in life would you want to choose?

At the heart of this pursuit is the love of God. The things that He loves. He loves what is good. He tells us what they are in His laws. **Do you love His laws?** Further, are you willing to trust Him in making decisions when joy and satisfaction are found only in Jesus?

Will you today consider how you can live your life in a way that will bring peace to you at the end of your life and glory to your father in heaven?

So let's take a moment to reflect on ourselves–are there any changes we need to make? Let's surrender ourselves to Him, take up our cross, and follow Him, for He is the way!

26 January 2025 - Sunday

"Reflecting Christ in Our Life"

Romans 12:2 ***Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.***

In relation to this verse, when I was recently having a conversation with a brother, I asked a question about ***how to share the gospel with unbelievers.*** He told me that before we even try to share the gospel with anyone, ***our life should reflect Christ***. That is, how we talk, behave, treat others etc. shows the type of relationship we have with God.

Romans 13:14 says But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. But living a life for Christ is a very difficult task to do alone, but when we ask for God's help and guidance, he will give us the strength to overcome the desires of this world and live a life which is an example to others.

This will automatically bring a change in how others look at us and make them think about what it is that makes the lives of children of God beautiful. And the answer to that is the love of Christ. So, let's reflect God in our lives, so that those who see us may see Him.

"GRACE"

2 Corinthians 12: 1-10, where the Apostle Paul talks about his visions and his thorns. He says even when he has got many things to boast about, he will choose to boast about his thorns, **which humbles him from becoming prideful.**

They say thorns make roses look beautiful!
Do they? Do we feel so?
When the thorns in our life could be our trail of anxious thoughts, failing health or difficulties at work, so on and so forth, which we would have asked God to clip off, our Dear Father says that ***His grace is sufficient, and His power will perfect our weakness when we go through it.***

So, the question is, are we going to choose **grace (or) guilt** through the pains of our thorns?

Through the resurrected power of Christ, let's receive His grace and power, which will enable us to live a fragrant life in this fallen world.

Let God's grace and power be the head of our lives, even as we face thorns at the bottom!

28 January 2025 - Tuesday

"He is Faithful and Just"

Day in and day out we face a lot of temptations in this world. Sometimes we think about why we have to go through so much. Sometimes, in our weakness, we give in to those temptations and think that God has forsaken us and that we are utterly cast down.

But remember, that it is a lie of the enemy! For such a time as that, Jesus asks us to remember His promise. ***I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."***

Let's focus on the two words-**Faithful and Just.**

He is **faithful**. Whatever you confess to Him, He doesn't make fun of it, He doesn't mock it. He keeps it confidential! It's only between you and Him. He is committed to definitely doing what He has promised and that is to forgive you. He is **Just**. He will treat you fairly as a Saviour. After all, that is what His nature is: to love and to save you. He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness! What great news! He will clean us from everything that binds us to sin!

Thus, we become a new creation! Oh, let's believe Him completely and accept His forgiveness.

"STAND OUT"

Stephen loved God more than anything! He enjoyed bike rides, was an all-rounder in sports, and had many talents. But after he decided to follow Jesus, he made some major changes in his life. He stopped listening to secular music, watching worldly movies, and even decided not to take a girl on his bike to remain faithful to God. Standing out for God, however, sometimes made him feel isolated, like he was missing out on time with his friends. We might also face similar situations where we feel like we don't fit in or are not everyone's "cup of tea."

But the Bible tells us in ***Romans 12:2, "Do not conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*** Everyone wants to fit in, to be liked by everyone, or to be famous. But in the process, we often forget about the One we should really be pleasing.

There was a man in the Bible named Daniel who chose to stand out for God. When faced with food that could defile him, he chose not to eat it. Just like Stephen, Daniel's decision to please God over pleasing others showed how much he loved God.

Our true purpose is not to fit in or to be popular. Our approval comes from God alone. It's a privilege to stand out for Him!

30 January 2025 - Thursday

"The Power of Thoughts"

Proverbs 23:7 ***For as he thinks in his heart, so is he*** [in behavior—one who manipulates]**.** ***He says to you, "Eat and drink," Yet his heart is not with you*** [but it is begrudging the cost]**.** For every human being at some point in life, I believe God speaks to them through His verses from the Bible, which help them handle everyday life and overcome the hardships they face.

This verse from the Bible, Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he," may seem simple to understand, but applying it in our daily lives is the hard part. One of the most amazing gifts God has given us is the human mind. We have the power to think and reason, and our thoughts are more important, and we should strive daily to think positively about ourselves and others.

Even if we don't say something out loud, thinking bad and evil outcomes for others is a sin. We must control the background commentary in our minds, thinking pure and good thoughts for others. ***This can only be done with the Holy Spirit's help,*** as we can't rely on our own strength. Our thoughts shape our actions and behavior.

So, let's pray and ask Him to fill us with His Spirit and grant us the strength to cultivate self-control over our thoughts.

31 January 2025 - Friday

"Faith Beyond Understanding"

It's easy to look at the stars in the sky,
to hear the sound of gentle waterfalls,
To watch the hills rolls with green,
To know that gravity holds you down just right...
It's easy to look at the vast beauty of creation
And believe that there is a Creator.

But when I look at the world torn by war, when I look the pain in the eyes of those around me,
At the cry of a hungry child,
When I look at myself in the mirror and see brokenness
I believe there is a Saviour.

As a Christian, I have found myself limited to a peripheral understanding of who God is. God is love, God is someone who hears my prayers. When all else fails, God is someone who I seek in times of trouble. Faith must go beyond a need-based understanding of God.

Hebrews 11:1-6 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it, the elders obtained good testimony. By faith, we understand that the worlds are framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen are not made of things which are visible.

Faith puts into action what we believe. Faith is trusting God to lead you, even when the path is not the one you wish to walk on. Faith is knowing the nature of God and holding on to his promise when it is seen as departing from common sense. Faith is giving up control and submitting to His will, to die to yourself so that He lives in you.

Faith is knowing that the Creator of the world wishes to create you in His perfect image.

Spreading His Word Together With

- Abigail Hepsy P
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- Abishek Samson
- Adeline Sylvia
- Adrian Lemuel Prasath
- Austin Nowell Prasath
- Benita Albert
- Benita Rachel
- Blessing Jonathan R
- Hannah
- Hannah Pearl
- Helga Ayn Levina
- Irene Premsingh
- K. Simon
- Kelita Yupili
- Lemuela Saatchi
- Lipsa Rani Mahuka
- Mamathi K
- Mercy Ezhil Margret
- Nathaniel Philip
- Paul Enoch Selwyn
- Premsingh
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