"BUT HE WHO RECEIVED SEED ON THE GOOD GROUND IS HE WHO HEARS THE WORD AND UNDERSTANDS IT, WHO INDEED BEARS FRUIT AND PRODUCES: SOME A HUNDREDFOLD, SOME SIXTY, SOME THIRTY."
MATTHEW 13:23

Seed & Soil



JULY 2026

GLORY BE ONLY TO GOD

Seed & Soil

All glory to God alone! We praise Him for the privilege of being used to bring glory to His name. The heart of this book, Seed and Soil, is to guide readers and writers into a deeper walk with God, rooted in His Word. Our prayer is that every heart becomes fertile soil ready to receive His truth, grow in His love, and bear lasting fruit for His Kingdom.

As Jesus calls us to be new creations, we long to walk in daily transformation through His grace. Changed by Him, we hope to become vessels through which others encounter His renewing power.

Behind each page are dedicated hearts of individuals who made space for God despite busy lives. Their obedience has inspired others to step forward in faith.

This journey reminds us that God can use anyone. No gift is too small when surrendered to Him. Offer what you have, He will multiply it for His glory.

We ask for your continued prayers. Let us lay aside the old, step boldly into the new, and build His Kingdom together.

Let His name alone be glorified!

Elijah: Responding To Stress

“Viewing Circumstances from God's Perspective”- 1 Kings 19



“Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee.” - Psalm 55:22.

The life of **Elijah** in **1 Kings 19** teaches us an important lesson about responding to stress and discouragement. After experiencing a remarkable victory on Mount Carmel, where God answered by fire and demonstrated His power before all Israel, Elijah expected spiritual renewal in the nation.

Instead, Queen Jezebel threatened to kill him. **Fear overwhelmed him, and he fled into the wilderness.** This shows us that even God's faithful servants can experience **moments of weakness, anxiety, and emotional exhaustion.**

“And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life...” - 1 Kings 19:3.

In his distress, Elijah lost sight of God's faithfulness and focused only on his circumstances. He felt alone, defeated, and believed that his work had been in vain. Stress distorted his perspective, causing him to forget the many ways God had already provided for and protected him. Yet God's response was not one of condemnation **but of compassion.** The Lord allowed Elijah to rest, provided food and water through an angel, and strengthened him physically before addressing his spiritual needs.

Elijah: Responding To Stress

“Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.” - 1 Kings 19:7.

God then gently corrected Elijah's misunderstanding. Elijah believed he was the only faithful servant left in Israel, but God revealed that there were still seven thousand people who had not bowed to Baal. What Elijah perceived as failure was actually part of God's ongoing work. The Lord reminded him that he was not alone and that God's plans were continuing even when he could not see them.

“Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel...” - 1 Kings 19:18.

After encouraging Elijah, God gave him fresh assignments and renewed his purpose. Instead of allowing him to remain in despair, God restored him and sent him back to continue the mission.

Elijah learned that God's presence, provision, and purposes were greater than his fears and feelings. Like Elijah, we may sometimes face situations that leave us overwhelmed, discouraged, or lonely. During such times, we need to remember God's faithfulness, rest in His care, and trust His promises.

Even when circumstances seem bleak and God appears silent, He is still at work. The awareness of God's presence gives us strength for today and hope for tomorrow.

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God.” - Isaiah 41:10

Life Principle: The awareness of God's presence energises us for our work. When we focus on God's faithfulness rather than our fears, we gain the strength to continue serving Him with confidence and hope.

Walk The Talk

Paul talks in **Romans 2:21, "You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?"**

This verse points out a common problem: **knowing what is right** but not doing it. Many people, including us, can explain the Bible well, correct others, and quote verses, **yet they do not apply those truths in their own lives.** They use knowledge as a badge of pride rather than letting it **change their hearts and behaviour.**

This verse warns against being a hypocrite. When someone teaches others but does not follow the same teaching, they lose credibility. Teaching should come from a humble heart that first checks itself. Instead of quickly pointing out others' faults, we should **first examine our own lives, confess our mistakes, and make changes.**

True spiritual growth is not only learning facts about God but letting those facts **shape our actions** in how we speak, how we treat people, and how we live daily. Forming good habits like prayer, kindness, justice, and mercy helps knowledge become real.

In short, **Paul asks us to practice what we preach.** Let our life match our teaching so that knowledge l**eads to real transformation,** not just outward show.

Let us examine ourselves and ask God to help us apply what we say.

Pray While You Wait

We bring so many prayers to God. We ask Him for specific things, for guidance in our decisions, for healing, for answers, and for so many other needs. Sometimes, His response to our requests is **not** a "**yes**" or a "**no**," but a "**wait**."

But what do we do when God asks us to wait?

The season of waiting can feel **long and exhausting.** Along the way, there may be struggles, questions, and trials. There may be days when you feel like giving up, when you are tempted to settle for whatever is immediately available. You may grow impatient, and your faith may feel like it is holding on by a thin thread.

Yet God reminds us that even in seasons of waiting, **He is at work.** He strengthens our hearts and teaches us to rely on Him. Although we may feel weak, His strength is enough to carry us through. The most important thing is that we never stop talking to Him along the journey. Tell him when you are tired. Tell Him when you wish the waiting would come to an end. Bring your doubts, your fears, and your hopes to Him.

C.S. Lewis writes in Mere Christianity: "I do not know why there is this difference, but I am sure that God keeps no one waiting **unless He sees that it is good for him to wait.** When you do enter your room, you will find that the long wait has done you some kind of good which you would not have had otherwise. But you must regard it as waiting, not as camping. You must keep on praying for light, and of course, even in the hall, you must begin trying to obey the rules which are common to the whole house. And above all, you must **be asking which door is the true one,** not which pleases you best by its paint and panelling."

The psalmist offers us a word of encouragement in **Psalm 27: 14,** saying, **"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."**

Today, hold on to the hope that what He is preparing you for is **far greater than anything you could create for yourself.** And while you wait, keep praying.

3 July 2026

Forgiveness Empowers Us

One of the central aspects of the gospel message is that every human has fallen short of God's moral standard. We have all sinned, or missed the mark of living rightly. We've all messed up, made mistakes, and acted in a way that goes against God's way of living.

Sin separates us from being in a right relationship with God. But while we were separated from God, **Jesus made a way** for us to return to God through His death and resurrection.

Now, we can be in a relationship with God again. But even though we've been forgiven for our sins, it doesn't always feel that way. We frequently carry around the guilt and shame from our sinful actions, even though we've been forgiven by Christ.

That's why **1 John 1:9** is a great reminder: **when we confess our sins to God, He is faithful to forgive us.** Our forgiveness is not based on our own faithfulness; **it's based on God's faithfulness.** Since we know God is faithful and cannot lie, we can trust that He will forgive us and purify us from everything that keeps us from Him.

This means that we don't need to live under the weight of our own guilt. We have truly been freed in Christ. **Forgiveness should empower us to continue to live righteous and faithful lives with God.**

Take a moment and thank God for forgiving your sins through Jesus' death and resurrection. Thank Him that you are now a child of God, free from the guilt of the past. Ask Him to strengthen you as you walk in that truth.

The Phase Of Struggle

A topic not many of us come forward to share, an area that makes or breaks us in terms of the future ahead, the phase that puts us in a shell with millions of unanswered questions, but have you ever seen it from a perspective that it's also the phase that gives us the solitude that we require to renew ourselves in our Saviour's sight?

The doubts, the worthlessness, the pain, the continued failures can even push us to the question of His existence sometimes, or like in my case, an acceptance that He doesn't care about me anymore cause I'm too far already.

But are we really that far away from his love?

Is it really bigger than the lashes he endured? Is it bigger than the pain he endured when the nail was struck in or when the crown was forced on? Is it as heavy as the cross he bore for you?

Let me tell you something even better: **He did it even before you were born, even before you committed your first sin.** With a Father that omnipotent, warm, welcoming, and humble, what are these so-called man-made struggles even?

This day, if you're someone who is going through this crucial phase, know that we have all sinned and have fallen short of God's glory, and no matter how much the world puts down its weight on you, **the One who knew you even before you were formed in your mother's womb overcame it, with zeal and power.**

Have a great day!

5 July 2026

Unexpected Transitions

(1 Kings 17:7-9)

God told **Elijah** to stay by the brook Cherith. There, God provided water from the brook and food through ravens. Day after day, Elijah experienced God's provision. Then something unexpected happened. The brook dried up. Imagine Elijah watching the water slowly disappear. **The very place God had led him was no longer sustaining him.**

Was God absent? Had God forgotten him? No. The dried brook was not a sign of abandonment. **It was a sign that God was preparing a new season.**

Many of us struggle when familiar sources begin to dry up. Opportunities change. Relationships shift. Plans fall apart. What once sustained us no longer does. We often pray for God to restore the brook. **But sometimes God allows the brook to dry because He is leading us somewhere new.**

Sometimes we ask God to restore what we lost, while He is preparing something better ahead. Faith is not just believing that God will provide; i**t is trusting in where He chooses to lead.** The brook was never Elijah's source; **God was.** The water was only a channel through which God's provision flowed.

When the channel dried up, the Source remained unchanged. If Cherith had remained full, Elijah might never have gone to Zarephath, where God had another miracle waiting. **Closed doors are not always rejection.**

Sometimes they are redirected. When one season ends, trust that God already has provision prepared for the next. The brook may dry up. **But God's faithfulness never does.**

Prayer: Lord, help me trust You when seasons change, and familiar things fade away. Give me faith to follow Your direction, knowing that Your provision never fails. Amen

Persistent Prayer

(1 Kings 18:41 - 46)

After Elijah prayed for rain, nothing happened. At least, not immediately. The sky remained clear. The drought continued. There was no visible sign that God was moving. **Yet Elijah kept praying.** Again. And again. Seven times he sent his servant to look toward the sea. Six times the answer was the same. There is nothing. Most people would have stopped. **But Elijah understood that God's silence is not God's refusal.**

Sometimes the greatest test of faith is continuing to pray when nothing seems to change. Many people pray once and quit. They assume that if the answer doesn't come quickly, God must not be listening. **But Elijah teaches us that persistent prayer** is not about convincing God; i**t is about trusting Him.**

Prayer often changes us before it changes our circumstances. Each time Elijah prayed, he was declaring his confidence in God's promise, even when there was no visible evidence. True faith is not measured by how quickly answers arrive, **but by how faithfully we continue to trust while we wait.**

On the seventh time, a small cloud appeared. Not a storm. Not a downpour. Just a small cloud. **Yet Elijah recognised it as the beginning of God's answer. Don't despise small beginnings.** The cloud was small, but it carried the promise of a breakthrough. **Keep praying. Keep believing. Keep trusting.** The God who sent the cloud also sent the rain. And the God who hears your prayers is still working, even when you cannot yet see it.

Prayer: Lord, help me remain faithful in prayer even when answers seem delayed. Strengthen my faith to keep trusting You, knowing that You are working behind the scenes. Amen.

Surviving Success

Have you ever felt we should be cautious even when we have plenty? God has graciously provided us with food, shelter, finances, education, and so much more. But once our needs are met, do we begin to take His blessings for granted? Many of us seek God earnestly in times of need, yet drift away once those needs are fulfilled. Hardships often draw us closer to God, but only a few remain close to Him in seasons of success.

Israelites entered the land of milk and honey - God's promised land for them. It wasn't an easy journey; it was years of struggle. **Deuteronomy 8:17-18 "You may say to yourself, My power and the strength of my hands have produced me this wealth. But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today."** The people of Israel sought God during their hardship, but sought him less when they had everything. We pray to God for our needs, but once they are met, we cling to our blessing rather than being humble about who we are.

Every success in our lives is by **God's grace,** yet we often b**egin to rely on ourselves.** Take a moment to reflect: after God has answered our prayers, do we still seek Him as earnestly as we did in our need? Has pride replaced dependence? Have our achievements made us believe we accomplished everything on our own? Even in seasons of great success, let us remain humble and keep God at the centre of our lives. **Never drift away from God.** The Israelites did not turn away from Him overnight. As they became comfortable and felt they had everything they needed, they slowly stopped depending on Him and forgot all He had done. Let us always remember God's faithfulness and hold firmly to Him not only in times of trouble but also in seasons of abundance.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for everything You have given me. Thank you for turning my failures into success and my weaknesses into strengths. I see now that every wilderness You led me through humbled me and taught me that success is Your gift, not something I earned. Help me always depend on You, even in times of success, and never forget that everything I have is because of You. May all the glory be Yours. Amen.

Persistent Faith

Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman physician in the world. Many of us knew Ida Scudder, but very few knew the forerunner who struggled hard to get the medicine degree in a chauvinistic world. She lost her father around nineteen where she had a thirst to serve as a doctor once a person who's in death bed said to Elizabeth that I would have been treated by a woman doctor. She had to take care of her small brothers, so she took a teaching job even though she didn't like it. She worked hard and applied for medical schools; nothing went in vain. She almost applied to 29 medical schools in the US, but everyone closed doors for a woman.

But at last, by seeing her perseverance, one of the leading doctors in her native recommended her for Geneva medical school, the student union, which was dominated by men, miraculously approved her candidature, and a history was created that Women can also enter medical schools.

Elizabeth had perseverance, dedication, and faith in God. As children of God, we need to create histories, make and break records, but the enemy, as we read in **I Peter 5:8, The devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour.** Rather than looking upon all defeats and falls, we should focus on **God our father who cares, provides, and prepares** for our day-to-day battles. If Elizabeth Blackwell had drowned in failures and stopped, I hope no women doctors would have flooded, but one bold step of faith can create history and life, witnessing to God.

As children of God, we should live a life like Elizabeth to get out of our comfort zones and shine like God.

"Expect great things from GOD. Attempt Great things from GOD"

Be A Warrior In Christ, Not A Worrier

It was a Saturday evening, boredom hit like anything, and my project deadline was approaching; I went to the chapel and prayed. I was completely hopeless about my future, lost in waves of self-confidence and insecurity. My past struck me with a wave.

I saw a lady who might be around 50 years old, who might be a non-believer, crying and praying to God. By seeing this, it shook me. How can a **non-believer pray to God with immense faith,** but as a child of God, many times we lose our faith in God, becoming a backstabber of God for all the blessings and goodness he has done in our lives.

In our day-to-day life in our homes and workplaces, we run a rat race, and in the end, we fail as human beings, and fatigue dominates our minds; we complain about everything around us. The situation we're in is the place where we work. How are we unfaithful to a God who is so faithful? **Psalms 36:5** says, **"God's faithfulness reaches to the heavens".** We serve a true and loving God who is faithful, but not believing in Him is a way of being unfaithful to His sonship.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10, as the bible says, the thief will try to induce negative thoughts, intrusive thoughts to backslide in our ways, but we should remember the **Lord who died for our own sins and rose on the third day** and still lives in us through the holy Spirit. **Ephesians 6:11**: **"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."**

As we, the warriors of Christ, should stand against the devil, to an extent we can resist, but we should fight him back with the armor which is the word of God and Prayer.

10 July 2026

Clarity Amidst Confusion

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour,

We have all faced testing situations in our lives. Oftentimes, we seek the counsel of our peers, well-wishers, and family members. Not everyone can understand what we feel or what we are going through, and when we feel understood by one among the multitude of people, we feel comforted.

But then, my dear brothers and sisters, we stop chasing the right answers. I'd like to suggest that our search for the right answers often begins at that very moment, because a **breakthrough needs a connection with our Lord.**

Remember, a soul devoted to the Lord can **never truly be satisfied with worldly solutions.** Think of what Noah did while others mocked him, or think of what Joseph did while others slandered him. In a few other cases, it was rather silence than even any instructions, like in Job's life or Jesus' Gethsemane experience. It definitely would have felt soul-crushing for them.

One thing is common in all these experiences, and that is they **obeyed divine instructions.** None of them accomplished what they did by relying solely on human counsel. It has always been our Lord, and I'd like to urge you all to **strengthen your personal relationship with God.**

You need not have all the answers or everything figured out, as long as your strength is in God. It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, but what truly matters is **whom you confide in.**

1 Chronicles 4:10 "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain."

11 July 2026

Do You Know This God?

In the city of Athens, Paul noticed something striking: an altar with the inscription:

"TO THE UNKNOWN GOD" (Acts 17:23).

The people were very religious and worshipped many gods, yet they admitted there was one they did not know, and tragically, that was the **only true God.**

This raises a searching question for us today: **Do you know this God?**

The God Paul declared to them is not distant or unknown. **He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). He made the world and everything in it. He is the One who gives to all, life, breath, and all things (Acts 17:25)**. Yes, every heartbeat, every breath, and every moment of life comes from Him.

And He is not far from any one of us.

Yet the Bible makes it clear that something stands between man and God: **sin**.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Sin separates us from a holy God, and the consequence of sin is death.

But this is where the good news begins. **God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ,** who died on the cross for our sins and rose again, **breaking the power of sin and death.**

Now **God commands all people everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30)**, because He has appointed a day of **judgment**. But He also offers salvation to all who believe in His Son.

So the question remains: **Do you know this God?** Not just know about Him… but truly know Him as **Creator, Saviour,** and **Lord.**

12 July 2026

God Qualifies The Called

1 Kings 17:4 - "You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there." Once, while listening to a sermon about Elijah, one small detail caught my attention: a **raven**. Out of all the ways God could have provided for him, He chose a **raven** to bring him food.

A **raven**? It sounds funny at first, doesn't it? It's hard enough to trust people sometimes, and yet God wanted Elijah to trust a raven with his food. Out of all the tasks, God assigned it to bring food. **That's a huge responsibility for a bird!**

Yet Elijah trusted God's word, and God provided exactly as **He promised.** What amazes me most is God's choice of the raven. **It's not a bird people admire,** yet God chose it for something important.

Sometimes we feel like that raven. We look at others and think they are more talented, confident, or gifted than us. Self-doubt and insecurity make us feel ordinary or unworthy to be used by God. **But God sees differently.** He sees even the parts we try to hide, and **He still loves us.** Isn't that the greatest kind of love!?

You are not useless.

You are not unworthy.

You are not a disappointment.

You are deeply loved and valuable to God!!

As the saying goes, **"God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called."** When we surrender ourselves to Him, He can use us in ways we never imagined. You may seem unqualified from the world's perspective, but in God's eyes, **you are precious, chosen,** and **deeply loved!**

So the next time you feel insignificant, think about the raven. God used it to feed a prophet. If God can use a raven, then why not you and me?

13 July 2026

His Will, His Way, My Faith

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” - Isaiah 55:8-9

Dear friends, have you ever felt so overwhelmed with the things that you don’t know why they happened that way or why they didn’t turn out the way you wanted?

You might have thought something else in your mind or have expected it to happen in your way, but it took a different turn. Be it in your career, work or in your family, where you planned so many great things for your life, and you thought it would work the way you wanted it to be.

If I ask you this, as we’re in the middle of the year 2026, are things going your way, as you’ve planned in the month of January, or is it leading to disappointment sometimes because it’s not working out our way?

In the middle of all this, have you ever paused and **realised how God is working it in His way for our good,** even when it’s not aligning with ours?

Dear friends, I would like to remind you today that **our God is a God who knows it from the beginning.** His thoughts no one can fathom. His ways none can understand. **His thoughts are always higher than ours, and how marvellous are His works.**

So, let’s always learn to commit our ways and remind ourselves that even if it’s not working our way, God is doing it even greater for our lives. Let’s always keep this as a reminder to ourselves: **His will, His way, my faith.**

A Personal Saviour

You've likely heard the parable of the lost son in **Luke 15.** We often focus on the son's arrogance, rebellion, and selfishness. But when we look deeper, **we see the Father's heart.** The son demanded his inheritance, and the father loved him enough to let him go. He didn't force him to stay but allowed him to make his own choices, even knowing the pain they would bring. After wasting all his wealth, the Bible says: **About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. -Luke 15:14.**

Was it just a coincidence that a famine came after he lost everything? Perhaps not. God allowed that season to reveal his deepest need. Without the famine, he might have continued trusting his own resources or others. But in the wilderness, every other option faded until the only way forward was to return to his father. **His hunger awakened him to what he had lost.** Have you experienced a season where God showed you that no person, achievement, or earthly comfort could truly satisfy you, only Him? The father in **Luke 15 reveals God's heart.** He is **compassionate**, **patient**, and **always** waiting for His children to return. While the son was still far away, the father saw him, ran to him, embraced him, and welcomed him home.

What a loving and personal Father we serve! He knows exactly what we need. At times, He allows us to walk through seasons that reveal our need for Him. He gives us freedom, and in His love, He gently draws us back when we wander. As the Lord says: **"I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself."- Jeremiah 31:3.**

If you are in a season where you feel alone, with no one to comfort or understand you, **take heart. God may be drawing you closer to Himself.** He is waiting with open arms. Bring Him your pain, questions, disappointments, and fears. He sees every tear, hears every prayer, and understands every unspoken burden.

The same Father who welcomed the prodigal son home is **waiting for you today,** not with condemnation, **but with love, grace, and compassion.** Sometimes what feels like a wilderness is actually God's invitation to come home.

Small Beginnings

I have always carried a deep desire for God to do great things through my life for His glory. My prayers often sounded like, **"Lord, here I am. Use me** to do mighty things and do it now." As I began my work, I wanted to transform everything around me, bring hope to every situation, and perhaps, if I am honest, receive recognition from others.

But God, in His kindness, chose a different path. Instead of calling me to greatness overnight, **He patiently began working on my heart.** He taught me humility. As **James** reminds us, **"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up" (James 4:10).** Before God could work powerfully through my hands, **He desired to shape my heart.**

He invited me to start small. Small beginnings. Small steps of faith. Small, humble prayers that quietened my restless heart enough to take the next faithful step. Small changes that brought order to my life. Small victories over daily habits that He is still shaping. Small acts of love that slowly sow peace within the community. Small moments of waiting in silence, trusting Him to answer in His perfect time.

And in those seemingly insignificant moments, I began to see God more clearly. I saw His divine hand gently at work. I experienced His tender care, His unfailing love, and His patient character. I realised that God is not only interested in the outcome **but also in the person** He is forming along the way.

He is the Author of our story. As we trust Him, He faithfully writes each chapter, restoring our hearts and drawing us back into a deeper relationship with Himself.

Never despise small beginnings. Often, they are where God does His greatest work.

Agape ???

We all have friends who reach out to us, primarily when they need support or guidance. Yet, when the tables turn, and we can no longer assist them, it often feels as though their affection fades, and the relationship dwindles. Conversely, there are those rare gems among our friendships, true friends who love us unconditionally and stand by our side, regardless of our circumstances or usefulness.

In **Habakkuk 3:17-18**, we find a profound message: **"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will be joyful in God my Saviour. The Sovereign Lord is my strength."** This raises an important question for us: How many of us can genuinely embrace this verse? Do we seek God out of love for Him, or do we turn to Him only when our earthly needs beckon?

Even in the face of adversity, God's children demonstrated unwavering faith, proclaiming, **"Even if not, He's still good" (Daniel 3:18)**. How many of us can truly praise God amid our storms? Or do we find ourselves murmuring in moments of doubt and unfaithfulness?

If our pursuit of God is solely based on our needs, can we truly call that '**love**'? Our Lord assures us, **"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness" (Jeremiah 31:3).** He calls us to **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37).** This is the first and greatest commandment, followed closely by the second: **"Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).**

As beloved children of God, let us take a moment to reflect: **Do we truly love God with all our heart, soul, and mind?** Are we living in obedience to His greatest commandments? Are we extending that same love to our neighbours? Let’s strive to deepen our relationship with Him and with one another, embracing love that transcends circumstance

Great Mercy

Psalm 136 says, **"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever."**

Many times in our lives, we try to draw close to God, but we experience setbacks. We know that the flesh is weak. We make mistakes and later regret them. The feeling of guilt gets stuck in our hearts, becoming like a huge rock in our path that prevents us from seeing our goal. Guilt blinds us, making us feel that we can no longer come close to God.

However, Scripture reminds us in ***Romans 8*** that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. We also see this in the parable of the prodigal son. The younger son lived according to his own desires and ended up with nothing but guilt and worry, comparing himself even to the servants in his father's house. He reached a point where ***"he longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating."*** See how guilt held him back from repentance.

But all it took was one decision to return to his father. As **Luke 15:17** says, **"I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."** Sometimes, it is only one step from **guilt → repentance → confession → forgiveness**.

Many of us get stuck in the guilt stage and find it difficult to move forward and experience God's unconditional love and mercy. This is a reminder that nothing can separate us from God's mercy. **Romans 8:34** tells us that **Jesus Christ is at the right hand of God the Father, interceding for us and pleading on our behalf.**

No matter how far we have fallen, God's mercy is always greater. His arms remain open to every heart that chooses to return to Him.

God Opened Her Heart

While **Apostle Paul** was on a missionary journey to Macedonia, he went to a riverside on the Sabbath, where women had customarily gathered for prayer. Among them was a woman named **Lydia**, a seller of purple cloth from the city of Thyatira.

Historically, **Lydia** was a dealer in purple cloth, indicating that she was a successful entrepreneur. When we read that God opened Lydia's heart, it was not a random act. There was something about her posture toward God that prepared her to receive what He had for her.

Let's look at **Acts 16:14: "A certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul."**

The **first thing Lydia** did was **make herself available.** As a businesswoman, it could not have been easy to set aside time to gather for prayer. Yet despite her busy schedule, she chose to be in a place where she could seek God. Scripture reminds us that God does not merely look at outward appearances; **He looks at the heart.**

The **second thing** she did was **listen attentively.** She could have been physically present but mentally absent. Instead, she chose to be **fully engaged,** silencing the distractions and noise within her heart so that she could hear the Word of God.

Because of these intentional choices to be in God's presence and to listen to His Word, **Lydia was found faithful.** The Lord opened her heart, enabling her to receive and respond to the message spoken by Paul.

Dear readers, if we desire certain doors to be opened in our lives, **we must be willing to make sacrifices. We cannot serve two masters.** Like Lydia, we must intentionally create space for God, seek Him wholeheartedly, and listen attentively when He speaks.

May God enable us to do our part in faithfulness, so that He may accomplish His purpose in us.

19 July 2026

Finish The Race!

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? - Galatians 5:7

Many worldly things are vying for our attention and trying to distract us from the course that God has planned. It could be **people**, **possessions**, **addictions**, etc.

Some start well and slow down. Some began well, and **backslid**. Some try to copy others, **end up feeling discontented with the Lord,** and start dictating their own will for their life.

No matter how the beginning is, **it's the end that matters.** The prize is for those who cross the finish line, following the rules that have been laid out.

These are a few points that we should keep in mind to run and finish this race well:

- **Know your goal and be focused:** Keep running, looking always to the Author and Perfector of our faith, **Jesus.** Do not look to the right or left. You are in the world, but not of it.
- **Run according to the rules:** Stay in the course that God has prepared for you lovingly
- **Support system:** It's important to be surrounded by people who encourage us to keep going on the right path.

Person To Presence

In **1 Kings 19,** we see Elijah running for his life after hearing Jezebel's threat **(1 Kings 19:3)**. This is surprising because in the previous chapter, Elijah had boldly faced 450 prophets of Baal and called down fire from heaven. Yet, after hearing Jezebel's words, fear entered his heart.

The Bible says: **"But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, 'It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!'" (1 Kings 19:4)**

Many of us can relate to Elijah. We know that God is loving, powerful, and faithful. Yet when situations seem beyond our control, fear can grow, and our faith can weaken.

There are three things we can learn from Elijah.

First, he ran toward God's presence. Elijah left his servant in Beersheba and continued his journey alone. Often, our first response is to run to people for answers. While seeking godly counsel is good, ***Elijah teaches us the importance of seeking God first.***

Second, he prayed. Elijah poured out his heart to God, even in his weakness and discouragement. ***God did not reject him.*** Instead, He responded with compassion and sent an angel to strengthen him. In the same way, when we pray, God strengthens us through His Word and gives us grace for each day.

Third, he waited for God's voice. At Mount Horeb, Elijah waited in the presence of God. The Lord spoke to him, reassured him, and reminded him of his purpose. God instructed Elijah to anoint the kings of Syria and Israel, as well as Elisha. ***God's presence removed*** Elijah's fear and renewed his calling.

So, children of God, it is okay to feel discouraged at times. Even Elijah experienced fear and weakness. But when those moments come, pray, read God's Word, and run into His presence. God will strengthen you, reassure you of His calling, and use your life to encourage and bless others.

21 July 2026

God Works All Things For Good

Romans 8:28

”And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”

This verse reminds believers that **God is always at work** in their lives, even during difficult seasons.

It does not mean that everything that happens is good, but that **God can use every situation, joys**, **struggles**, **successes**, and **failures**, to bring about His good purpose.

For those who love God and trust Him, **challenges are not wasted.** God can transform **pain into growth**, **trials into strength**, and **setbacks into opportunities for His glory**.

His plan is greater than what we can see in the present moment. Difficult circumstances can be used for a greater purpose.

God’s purpose for His children is ultimately for their growth and His glory.

God’s plan is always greater than my understanding. Trust His timing, His purpose, and His promises.

22 July 2026

Ready To Receive

Life often feels uncertain. We make plans, set goals, and hope things will work out, **yet unexpected challenges arise.** A health concern appears, finances become tight, relationships become strained, or doors we expected to open suddenly remain closed. In those moments, it is easy to wonder, **"God, where are You?"**

This simple phrase reminds us of who God is, even when we cannot clearly see what He is doing.

God is a Way Maker. He creates paths where none seem to exist. Think of a parent worried about paying school fees or a person searching for a job for months. Sometimes the solution comes from an unexpected source, reminding us that **God can open doors we never imagined.**

God is a Miracle Worker. Not every miracle is dramatic. Sometimes the miracle is the strength to keep going, the peace that replaces anxiety, or the restoration of a broken relationship. God's work is often seen in the ordinary moments of daily life.

God is a Promise Keeper. People may fail us, and circumstances may change, but God's character never changes. When He promises His presence, guidance, and love, He remains faithful even when our faith feels weak.

God is the Light in the Darkness. Darkness does not always mean tragedy; it can also be confusion, loneliness, disappointment, or uncertainty about the future. Just as a small lamp can guide us through a dark room, God's Word and presence can guide us one step at a time.

Perhaps today you are facing a situation that feels impossible. Remember that **God's work is not dependent on what you can see.** Even when the path is unclear, **He is still making a way.** Even when answers seem delayed, **He is still keeping His promises.** Even when life feels dark, **His light has not gone out.**

The God Who Calls You Back

And when the Ammonites made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah from the land of Tob. - Judges 11:5

Have you ever felt forgotten, overlooked, or rejected? Perhaps there are wounds from people who should have loved you, supported you, or stood beside you. **Jephthah** knew that pain well. Rejected by his own family because of circumstances that were beyond his control. He was driven away from his home and forced to live in exile. Yet what seemed like the **end of his story was only the beginning of God's preparation.**

The remarkable thing about Jephthah's life is that God used the **very season of rejection to prepare him for leadership.** While others saw a castaway, **God saw a deliverer.** While people pushed him away, God was drawing him toward his destiny. The same people who once despised him eventually came searching for him because they needed the gift God had placed inside him.

Sometimes we wonder why God allows seasons of loneliness, disappointment, or exclusion. Yet those hidden seasons often become God's training ground. He develops strength in places where no one is watching. **He teaches us dependence on Him** when human support disappears.

Today, perhaps you are carrying the sting of rejection. Remember that people's opinions do not determine your future. **The Lord can restore opportunities that seemed lost forever.** He can soften hearts, open doors, and call you back into places you thought you would never enter again.

Your rejection is not your identity. Your calling is.

Trust God in the waiting. Trust Him in the wilderness. Trust Him when the story makes no sense. The God who remembered Jephthah **has not forgotten you.** What feels like a setback may be God's setup for something greater than you can imagine.

At The Foot Of The Cross

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ - Ephesians 3:8

One of the clearest signs of spiritual maturity is **humility**. **Apostle Paul,** despite his tremendous accomplishments, described himself as the least among God's people. This was not false modesty. It was the natural response of someone **who had truly encountered the grace of Christ.**

The closer we come to Jesus, the **less impressed we become with ourselves** and the **more amazed we become with Him.** Pride focuses on personal achievements, **but humility marvels at God's mercy.** Paul understood that everything he had become was because of **grace**. His education, influence, and zeal could not save him. **Only Jesus could.**

Sometimes we subtly build our identity around our accomplishments, talents, career, ministry, or reputation. Yet these things can never be the foundation of our worth. The gospel reminds us that our value comes from being loved by God and not from proving ourselves to others.

Humility is not thinking less of yourself. **It is thinking more of Christ.** It is recognising that every gift, opportunity, and victory comes from His hand. When we walk in that posture, grace flows freely. God strengthens the humble because they know where true strength originates.

Take a moment to reflect on God's grace in your life. Think about where you would be without His mercy. Let gratitude replace pride. Let worship replace self-promotion. As you do, you will discover that humility is not weakness. It is the pathway to spiritual power.

God is not looking for perfect people. **He is looking for surrendered hearts.** Let us thank the Lord for his amazing grace.

25 July 2026

Our Hearts For Him To Dwell

And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.
- Exodus 25:8

From the beginning, God's desire has always been a **relationship.** The sanctuary in the wilderness was never merely about architecture, measurements, or furniture. It was about **God's longing to dwell among and with His people.**

Today, God no longer lives in tabernacles made by human hands. Through Christ, **He chooses to dwell within us.** Our hearts have become His sanctuary.

This invites us to a very important question: **What kind of home are we offering Him?**

We often become concerned with external appearances while neglecting the **condition of our inner lives.** Yet, God looks beyond outward performance and **examines the heart.** He desires a place where His presence is welcomed, honoured, and cherished.

A sanctuary is intentionally prepared. It is not cluttered with distractions or filled with competing priorities. Likewise, **our hearts require regular surrender.** Resentment, pride, unforgiveness, and compromise can crowd the space that God desires to occupy.

The good news is that God does not ask us to cleanse ourselves before coming to Him. He is the One who purifies us. As we invite His Spirit to work within us, He removes what hinders His presence and transforms us from the inside out.

Can we pause for a moment and make room for Him? Turn down the noise. Lay aside the burdens. Open every hidden corner of your heart. Allow Him to **search, heal, and restore.**

There is no greater privilege than becoming a **dwelling place for the presence of God.** When He fills our hearts, everything else finds its proper place.

26 July 2026

Praying Beyond Oneself

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. - Galatians 6:2

Prayer often begins with our own needs. But a **greater prayer grows beyond ourselves.** God calls us not only to pray for our personal struggles but also for the people He has placed in our lives.

There are moments when the enemy realises he cannot easily shake our faith, so he targets those we love. The attacks may come through family difficulties, broken relationships, discouragement, illness, or unexpected hardships. When one member of the circle suffers, everyone feels the weight.

That is why intercession matters.

To pray for someone is one of the **greatest expressions of love.** Often, we cannot solve another person's problem, remove their pain, or change their circumstances. Yet we can bring them before God, who can do what we cannot.

Think about the people in your life today. Who is carrying a burden? Who feels weary? Who needs strength, wisdom, healing, or hope? God has entrusted these people to your prayers.

Intercession also reminds us that we were never meant to walk alone. Just as others pray for us during difficult seasons, **we are called to stand in the gap for them.** Together we form a spiritual family, supporting one another through faith.

Never underestimate what happens when believers pray. **God hears every whispered request.** He sees every tear shed on behalf of another. He works in ways that often remain unseen until much later.

So, expand your prayer list beyond your own concerns. Lift your family, friends, coworkers, church leaders, and those who are struggling. Your prayers may become the encouragement that carries them through their darkest season.

27 July 2026

Water From Empty Places

And God split open the hollow place that is at Lehi, and water came out from it. And when he drank, his spirit returned, and he revived. Judges 15:19

There are seasons when life feels hollow. Dreams seem distant. Relationships feel strained. Strength is low. We look around and see emptiness where we hoped for abundance.

Samson experienced such a moment. After a great victory, he found himself exhausted and desperate for water. Surprisingly, God met his need by bringing water from a hollow place.

What a picture of God's provision. We often assume God needs ideal circumstances to perform miracles. Yet Scripture repeatedly shows the opposite. **God delights in bringing life** from **barren places**, **hope** from **hopeless situations**, and **strength** from **weakness**.

Perhaps there is a hollow place in your life right now. Maybe it is a prayer that seems unanswered or a burden you have carried for far too long. The Lord sees it. He is not intimidated by emptiness.

Sometimes the very place that appears lifeless becomes the place where God's power is revealed most clearly. What seems barren to us becomes fertile ground for His miracles.

Instead of focusing on what is missing, **focus on the God who supplies.** His resources are not limited by your circumstances. His provision does not depend on what you can see.

Bring your hollow places before Him. Trust Him with the disappointments, uncertainties, and unmet expectations. The God who brought water from a hollow rock can bring refreshment to your weary soul.

He is still the God who creates abundance from emptiness.

28 July 2026

Bring Him Into The Boat

Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. - John 6:21

There are seasons in life when we feel as though we are rowing against the wind. We are exhausted, frustrated, and wondering why progress seems so slow. We pray, we work, we persevere, yet the storm continues to rage around us.

The disciples knew exactly what that felt like. They were experienced fishermen, accustomed to difficult waters, but this storm was beyond their control. In the darkness, fear clouded their vision so completely that when **Jesus came walking toward them,** they failed to recognise Him.

How often do we do the same? We pray for God's help, yet when He comes in unexpected ways, we struggle to see Him. We become so focused on the storm that **we miss the Saviour. Fear convinces us that we are alone when, in reality, Jesus is drawing near.**

The turning point came when the disciples welcomed Him into their boat. Scripture says that immediately, they reached their destination. The storm may not have changed instantly, but everything changed when **Jesus became the centre of the journey.**

Perhaps today you are trying to navigate life through your own strength. Maybe you are carrying burdens that were never meant to be yours alone. Jesus is not asking you to manage the storm by yourself. **He is asking you to trust Him enough to let Him into the boat.**

When Christ is welcomed into our fears, decisions, relationships, and struggles, **His presence brings peace.** He provides direction when we are confused and strength when we are weary. You do not have to fight every battle alone. The One who walks on waves is greater than the waves that threaten you.

Surrender control. Trust His leadership. He knows how to bring you safely to the shore, which He has prepared for you.

29 July 2026

The Courage To Speak The Truth

Thus says the king, "Put this fellow in prison and feed him meager rations of bread and water, until I come in peace - 1 Kings 22:27

Truth is rarely popular when it confronts comfortable lies. **The prophet Micaiah** understood this reality. Surrounded by hundreds of prophets who told King Ahab exactly what he wanted to hear, Micaiah stood alone and delivered God's message. He knew the consequences. He knew his words would bring rejection, ridicule, and imprisonment. **Yet he chose obedience over approval.** What gave him such courage? **Micaiah feared God more than he feared people.**

Many of us face similar moments, though perhaps in less dramatic ways. We know what is right, but **we remain silent because we fear criticism.** We hesitate to stand for truth because we do not want to offend others. We compromise convictions to gain acceptance. Yet every time we choose comfort over truth, we diminish our witness.

Speaking the truth does not mean being harsh or argumentative. **It means being faithful.** It means refusing to distort God's Word for the sake of popularity. It means living with integrity even when it costs us something.

The world rewards those who tell people what they want to hear. God honours those who faithfully declare what He wants them to hear. The remarkable part of Micaiah's story is that although he suffered temporarily, **God's truth ultimately prevailed.** The king who rejected the warning could not escape its fulfilment. **God's Word stood firm.**

Perhaps God is asking you to take a stand in an area where fear has kept you silent. It may involve a difficult conversation, a moral conviction, or simply living differently from the culture around you.

Remember, courage is not the absence of fear. **It is obedience despite fear.** May we be people who speak truth with love, humility, and unwavering faithfulness to God.

When You Need Someone To Hold Up Your Hands

But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. - Exodus 17:12

Even the strongest leaders become weary. **Moses** had witnessed miracles, confronted Pharaoh, and led Israel through impossible situations. Yet during the battle against Amalek, his strength began to fail. As long as his hands remained raised in prayer, Israel prevailed. But when exhaustion set in, the tide of battle shifted.

The beautiful part of this story is that Moses was not left alone. **Aaron and Hur noticed his weakness and stepped in to help.** They held up his hands until the victory was won.

What a powerful picture of Christian community! We often feel pressured to appear strong all the time. We hide our struggles, conceal our exhaustion, and convince ourselves that asking for help is a sign of weakness. Yet Scripture teaches the opposite. **God never intended us to fight alone.**

There are seasons when we are the ones holding up another person's hands through **prayer, encouragement,** and **support.** There are other seasons when **we desperately need someone to hold us up.**

Both roles are sacred. Perhaps today you are weary in prayer. Maybe your faith feels tired, your burdens feel heavy, and your strength is running low. Remember that **God has placed people around you for a reason.** Allow others to pray with you, encourage you, and stand beside you.

Likewise, be attentive to those around you. Someone may be silently struggling while carrying burdens they were never meant to bear alone. **Your encouragement may become the strength they need to keep going.**

Victory is often won not by isolated individuals **but by believers standing together.** When we support one another, we reflect the heart of Christ, who continually carries us through every battle.

Speak Victory Before You See It

God is with us; he is our leader. His priests with their trumpets will sound the battle cry against you. People of Israel, do not fight against the Lord, the God of your ancestors, for you will not succeed."
- 2 Chronicles 13:12

The words we speak reveal the condition of our hearts. Before King Abijah entered battle, he made a bold declaration: **"God is with us."** He did not wait until victory arrived to acknowledge God's presence. **He proclaimed his confidence in God before the outcome was visible.**

Faith often speaks before it sees. Many of us allow our circumstances to dictate our words. When challenges arise, we speak of fear. When uncertainty appears, we speak of defeat. When obstacles grow larger, we magnify the problem instead of the God who stands above it.

Yet Scripture repeatedly teaches that **faith-filled words have power.** They align our hearts with God's promises and remind us of His faithfulness.

This does not mean pretending difficulties do not exist. **Faith is not denial. Faith acknowledges reality while choosing to trust God's greater reality.**

Consider the conversations happening within your own mind. What are you repeatedly telling yourself? Are your words rooted in fear or faith? Are you rehearsing your problems or God's promises?

The enemy loves to fill our minds with discouragement, doubt, and hopelessness. **But God calls us to renew our minds through His truth.** When we declare His goodness, faith begins to rise.

Perhaps your battle concerns your family, health, ministry, finances, or future. Instead of speaking defeat, begin speaking God's promises over your situation. **Declare that He is faithful. Declare that He is present. Declare that He is working even when you cannot see it.**

Victory begins in the heart before it becomes visible in circumstances. May your words today reflect confidence in the God who never loses a battle.

SPREADING HIS WORD TOGETHER WITH

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