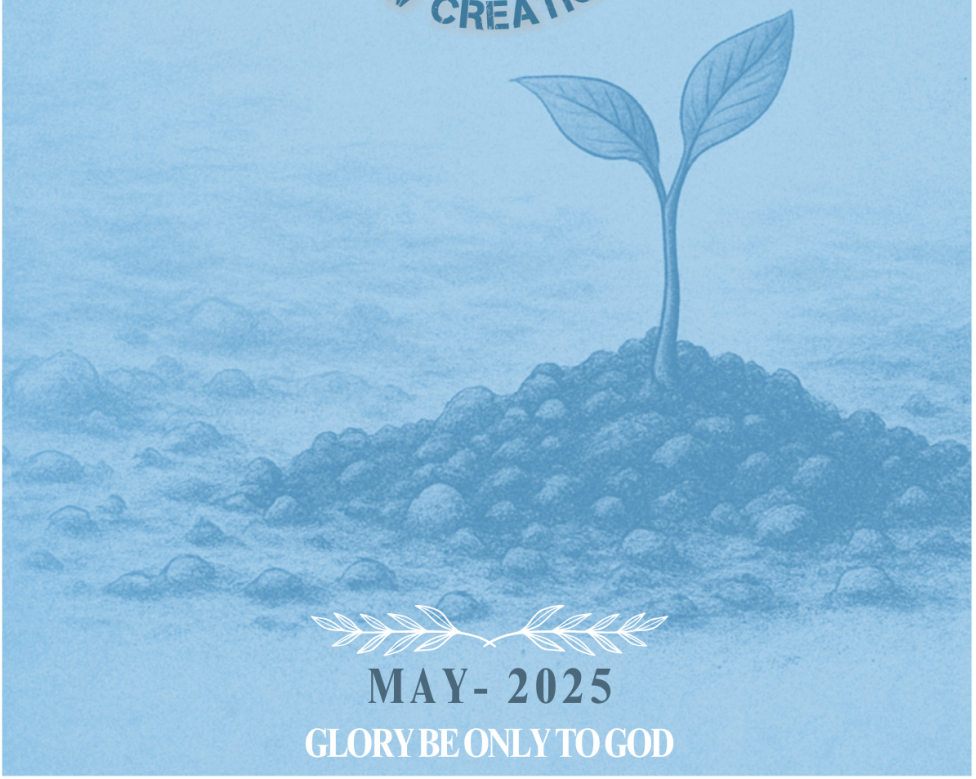
Seed & Soil

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

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

NEW CREATIONS ©



MAY- 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 it's 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. 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.

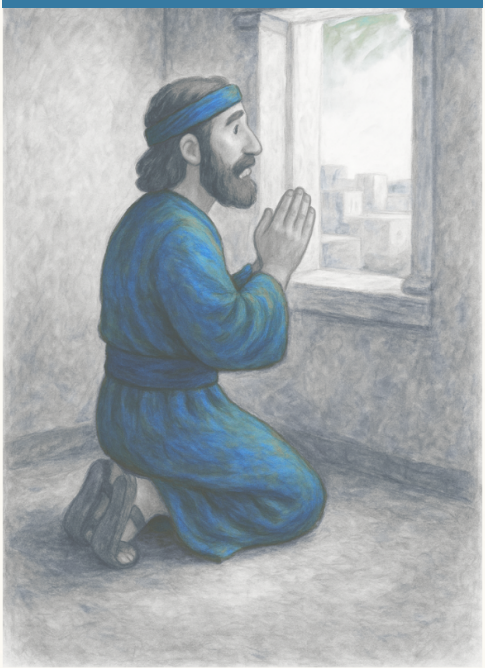
We humbly ask for your prayers as we continue this journey.

Let His Name Alone Be Glorified.!!

"The Seed of Daniel"

The Harvest of Daniel's Seed

- Healthy and good looking
- Determined not to be defiled
- Through his action he relfected who God is.
- Prayerfull man
- Humble
- Gods voice
- Shares his responsibilities with godly people



- Had Prayer full people around Him
- God-centered
- Blameless
- God Fearing
- Got Favour, Wisdom and Knowledge
- God fearing
- Interpret vision and dreams
- Precious

Daniel valued **what others might call simple,** but to him, they honored God. He was intentional in avoiding anything that could defile his relationship with God and lived in full dependence on Him.

When Daniel prayed, God responded swiftly–showing how precious he was. God protected and elevated him, all because of one decision: **"I will not do what displeases God."**

Even in the face of death, **Daniel didn't compromise**. He knew whom he served and trusted fully.

If we want to be like Daniel, we must live with the same conviction–**refusing to be defiled and allowing God to use us.**

"Stand Firm"

"Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?" – Psalm 15:1

As we know, Jesus is going to return to take us to heaven. **Let's reflect on this psalm in that light**. What should we do to be **saved and accepted** at His second coming, and what should we do to **live with Him forever and ever?**

To live with Him, the first things He expects of us are being:

- **blameless,**
- **righteous,**
- **truthful in speech,**
- **loving our neighbor,**
- **refraining from gossip,**
- **acknowledging the faithful,**
- **keeping our promises,**
- **helping for others without expectation, and**
- **standing for the truth.**

The Bible says in **Psalm 15:5, "Such people will stand firm forever."** And in **Matthew 24:13, "But the one who stands firm to the end will be saved."** In these end times, it is very hard to stand in faith. We often take things lightly–gossiping and thinking it's normal–but the Bible warns that doing so costs us our standing in Christ.

So, let us take this moment to compare ourselves against every item listed in **Psalm 15,** examine where we fall short, and pray for God to change us, that we may **stand firm until the end and be saved.**

2 May 2025 - Friday

"Peace in the Midst of Turmoil"

John 14:27. "Peace I (Jesus) leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."**

There is **no true peace without Jesus**. Many today search for **"inner peace"** through various means, but without faith in Jesus Christ, their efforts are in vain. God made us to **depend on Him**, so when we try to handle our problems on our own, it leads to stress and unrest instead of peace. People seek peace through money, power, and relationships; there is nothing wrong with having money, friends, and such, but they will not bring that **true abiding peace** that is ours only through Jesus Christ alone.

When we place our faith in Jesus and His blood for the forgiveness of our sins, we are not only saved from hell, but we are also given the **"peace that passes understanding"** while living our day-to-day lives. This peace is not dependent on circumstances but **on the unchanging nature of God**. True peace comes from **knowing that Jesus is always with us**, carrying our burdens and guiding our steps.

Prayer: Dear Father, I trust that as I cling to Jesus and speak openly with You about my life and Your grace, I believe You will bless me with Your peace and protect my heart and mind from destruction.

"Our Struggles are not Meaningless"

Romans 5:3-5 says, *"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces **perseverance**; perseverance, **character**; and character, **hope**. And hope does **not put us to shame,** because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."*

This passage is a powerful reminder that **our struggles are not meaningless**. In a world where pain often feels pointless and suffering can seem overwhelming, Paul shifts our perspective. He challenges us not just to endure trials—**but to glory in them**. Why? Because **God is working in the midst of it all.**

Suffering, Paul says, produces perseverance—that is, it builds our spiritual endurance. As we walk through hard seasons and choose to trust God, we grow **stronger**. That perseverance, in turn, shapes our character. It refines us, purges pride, and teaches us to lean on God more deeply. And from that character flows hope—not wishful thinking, but a confident, **Spirit-filled assurance rooted in God's love.**

This hope does not disappoint. It is not empty. It is backed by the **cross**, sealed by the **Spirit**, and anchored in the **love** of God that has been poured into our hearts. That love is not just a concept—it is a lived reality for those who are in Christ.

So if you're suffering today, take heart. God is working. **Your pain has a purpose**. And the hope He gives will **never fail or put you to shame**. Keep holding on

"Holy for Him"

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your ***bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,*** which is your **spiritual worship**."– **Romans 12:1**

The word "**holy**" often feels unreachable–an ideal we set aside, thinking we can never attain it in this broken world. It's hard to live set apart for God, to resist temptations, and not follow worldly desires. We sometimes ***fall–again and again–into the same struggles.*** Often, it's because we ***prioritize others or even ourselves over God,*** choosing momentary satisfaction over obedience.

When we fall, we tend to feel unworthy and give up. But even when we let go of God, **He never lets go of us**. His desire is not for perfection, **but for a willing heart**. He calls us to be holy–not flawless, but set apart, surrendered, and transformed by His mercy.

God doesn't ask us to do it alone. **He gives strength to those who ask.** So we pray:

Lord,
H - Help me to
O - Love
L - Only
Y - You.

You alone can make me holy. Empower me to live for You, to say no to what pulls me away, and to remember that **I am set apart for a greater purpose.** Thank You for never giving up on me.-**AMEN**

"Jesus Amazed"

We read in the Gospels that many people surrounding Jesus were amazed, marveled, and astonished by His miracles and teachings. But Jesus Himself was astounded by a centurion. In **Matthew 8:10**, it says, *"When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, 'Truly I tell you, **I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.**'"*

Jesus was astounded to observe the **centurion's incredible faith**. The centurion spoke with simple words yet had a deep understanding of Jesus. As a Roman centurion, he knew he had authority and power over others. Yet he believed that Jesus had even greater authority and that **His word alone was enough**. That's why the centurion said, ***"Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.*** *But just say the **word**, and my servant will be **healed**."*

Wow! The centurion had strong faith in Jesus.

Jesus was amazed not only by the centurion's great faith (**Matthew 8:10**) but also by the unbelief of the people around Him (**Mark 6:6**): *"He was amazed at their lack of faith."* The people mocked Him and lacked the faith needed to receive any miracle. As a result, Jesus could not perform many miracles among them and withdrew.

If we have great faith, we will receive **great miracles from Jesus.** Let me ask you: **Should Jesus be amazed by our great faith—or amazed by our lack of faith?**

"We're in the Matrix!"

Have you ever pondered the **massive role the Holy Spirit** plays in truly helping us understand the gospel and our need to be saved? We may know that by grace we have been granted God's forgiveness and an all-inclusive pass into eternity, but do we truly grasp the depth of what we believe?

Like in ***The Matrix***, most people accept the world as it is, unaware of its illusions. Some feel something is off but don't question it. Only a few, like Mr. Anderson (the One), seek the truth–and only those who are "unplugged" can see the grim reality hidden beneath the surface.

Similarly, we are also **in a kind of "matrix,"** believing we're living in a fine and dandy world, thinking that conforming to its norms and being a Christian can coexist. But it's only through the Holy Spirit that we truly see how the world's ways are completely contradictory to our faith. It's only when we are **"unplugged"**–through the grace of the Holy Spirit–that we find the peace and assurance Christ brings. Then we desire to obey His will, saying no to conformity and choosing to go against the flow rather than with it.

Without the **Holy Spirit,** we are just ***another deceived soul***, enticed by a cursed world, doomed for eternal destruction. **Ephesians 1:13–14** "When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the **promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance..."**

"Love Covers All Sins"

"Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins."– Proverbs 10:12 *Strife is, unfortunately, very common–even among those of us who truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

In **Colossians 3:12-14**: "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; b**earing with one another, and forgiving one another,** if anyone has a complaint against another; even as **Christ forgave you, so you also must do.** But above all these things put on **love**, which is the bond of perfection."

God knows very well that in our human nature, we struggle with feelings like anger, bitterness, and even hatred. Yet, once we are **born again**, our Heavenly Father–through Jesus Christ–calls us to live differently. He calls us to **"put on" five powerful qualities: tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, and longsuffering**. These virtues help us bear with one another and forgive as Christ forgave us.

However, above all these qualities, we are commanded to *put on **love***–because love is the true bond of perfection. Love does not deny the reality of wrongs committed but chooses to forgive, to cover, and to heal. Where hatred divides, **love unites**. Where strife grows, love sows peace.

If we truly walk in Christ's love, we will find that love truly covers all sins—both our own and those committed against us.Let us then choose love, the greatest mark of being His children.

"Broken by Trials, Built by Grace"

"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope." – **Romans 5:3-4**

Wholeheartedly living for Christ often means **walking through trials**. As His ambassadors, we face both external opposition and the internal struggle between our **old nature and new life** in Christ (**Galatians 5:17**). Yet God, in His wisdom, uses these hardships to shape us.

Our trials aren't wasted—they turn ***our eyes to God's sovereignty and promises*** (**Mark 13:35-36; Philippians 3:13-14**), replacing pride with Christlike humility and endurance (**Romans 5:3-4**). They also equip us to comfort others with the comfort we've received (**2 Corinthians 1:3-5**).

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's faith led them into the **fire**, where they encountered God's presence (**Daniel 3:25**). The flames didn't consume them—they revealed His power. Likewise, our trials testify to **His nearness and strength**.

In hardship, ask: "What eternal purpose might God be fulfilling?" Embrace the Spirit's refining work, recall past victories, and extend grace to others. When the fire rages, trust God's nearness. Depend on Him, press forward, and become who He made you to be.

"Fear Not, for I Am with You"

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." – **Isaiah 41:10**

This powerful verse offers deep comfort, assuring God's people of His constant presence and strength **in times of fear and discouragement**. **"Fear not, for I am with you."** This divine command calls believers to courage, rooted in the unchanging truth of God's presence. It reminds us that we never face trials alone–the Almighty walks with us through every storm.

"Do not be dismayed, for I am your God." God addresses our anxieties, affirming that He is not distant but a caring, sovereign Lord who actively **intervenes for His people.**

"I will strengthen you, I will help you." These are not mere words of encouragement, but **firm promises**. God assures us of the strength and support needed to endure and overcome life's challenges.

His **"righteous right hand"** symbolizes divine power, authority, and justice. It offers profound security, reminding us that we are **upheld** by the hand that rules the universe.

Though originally spoken to the Israelites in exile, the promise of **Isaiah 41:10 transcends time**. It offers lasting hope to believers in every generation—a call to trust God's promises, rest in His presence, and find strength and peace even in the face of uncertainty.

10 May 2025 - Saturday

"No Tragedy, Only Redemption"

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." – *Genesis 50:20.* Do you feel overwhelmed by chaos, past mistakes, or situations beyond your control? **It's easy to think our struggles disqualify us from God's plan**–but **God is never intimidated by our mess.**

In Jewish tradition, tragedy is seen not as a final defeat, but as redemption in progress. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks noted, **"God is not detached from human drama.** He is intimately, even passionately, involved in it." Consider Joseph: betrayed by family, enslaved, falsely accused, and imprisoned. His life appeared shattered–yet Scripture emphasizes that **God was with him.**

What seemed like misfortune was actually divine preparation. Each trial **refined Joseph** for the very destiny God had placed in his heart. In time, he was elevated to power, and the very pain he endured became the means to save many–his own family included.

The same **God who was with Joseph is with you**. Whether you're navigating uncertainty in your 20s, 40s, or beyond, know this: **your pain is not wasted**. Every setback is a setup for what **God is building through you.**

Don't dwell on the chaos. **Trust in God's love** and sovereign purpose. If your story hasn't been redeemed yet, it simply means He's not done. One day, you'll look back and see how every broken piece fit into His perfect plan.

11 May 2025 - Sunday

"The Second in line"

Have you ever thought that you weren't good enough for something? That there was someone better at that than you? Well, then you've got company.

A guardian-redeemer was a close, influential relative to whom members of the extended family could turn to for help, usually when the family line or possessions were in danger of being lost.

Boaz was not the immediate guardian redeemer for Naomi's family. **He was second in line.** There was someone more eligible than him yet not eligible enough to have his name mentioned in the Bible. When Ruth approached Boaz he gently reminded her about this - there is a much closer family member to redeem her.

When this guardian redeemer was asked to do so in **Ruth 4:4** He actually says yes! But guess what happened next? When he was told that he must also marry Ruth, he refused to redeem them. Just imagine! He could have been the great grandfather of King David himself! But he says to Boaz in **Ruth 4:6 "You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it".** And we know the rest of the story.

So remember this: If the Lord has decided to bless you, no matter how generous you are to give away the blessing to the rightful person, **He will make sure you receive it in less than 2 verses' time**

12 May 2025 - Monday

"Suffering's Temporary, Glory's Eternal"

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

—Romans 8:18

Is it worth it trying to **live for Jesus in a hostile world?** Oh yes! It's more than worth it. We can't begin to imagine God's glory reserved for us with him in heaven. No matter how hard, hurtful, and painful our trip through this world may be, our future with God holds something incomparably better.

Does that mean my difficulties are meaningless or insignificant? Absolutely not! Our future glory with God does mean that it is more than worth our efforts to hang in, **be faithful, and honor Him**, for we will receive His glorious reward!

Prayer:
Father, I confess that I don't like suffering, pain, disappointment, persecution, ridicule, or sorrow. I do, however, believe that your promises are true. Strengthen me for the days ahead and use me to bring your glory no matter my current situation. In Jesus' name, I endure, persevere, and hope.

"God's Unseen Hand"

Jesus replied, "**You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will.**" **John 13:7**

Sometimes, it feels like whatever we do isn't moving **as we expected or desired.** We long for **acknowledgment**, and **disappointment follows.**

But when we look at the book of Esther, the only book where God is not mentioned, we see His incredible, incomprehensible work.

Esther found **favor with the king**. Even though she had every right to make decisions on her own to solve the issue, **she trusted that only God could truly move things for her.**

Rather than relying on her power and authority, **she was a woman of prayer and faith.** She believed in God, even when she couldn't see or feel His work–yet **He was working all along!**

Whenever we feel disappointed, let's remember that **God is working behind the scenes.** No matter how hard the situation is, He is our God who carries us. Let's rest in His hands, trusting His perfect plan, and find peace in Him.

“Donna Mirai ni mo Ai wa Aru”

"The Lord’s steadfast love never ceases; His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning–great is Your faithfulness." – ***Lamentations 3:22-23***

A few days ago, while scrolling through Instagram, I came across the Japanese phrase "未来がある限り、愛がある" (*"Whatever future there is, there is love."*) It resonated deeply, echoing a biblical truth: God’s love is the constant thread weaving through every season of life.

Just as cherry blossoms bloom trustingly each spring despite winter’s uncertainty, we can rest in the assurance that God’s love is the foundation of every tomorrow. **Jeremiah 29:11** affirms His plans are good, and **Romans 8:38-39** assures us that nothing can separate us from His love. The future may be uncertain, but His love remains our unshakable anchor **(Hebrews 6:19)**.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reminds us that life’s seasons–planting and uprooting, weeping and laughing–are ordained by God. His love is the constant in this rhythm. Like the **sakura**, which blooms and falls in its season, we are called to trust His timing.

As we reflect on Passion Week, remember: God’s love is not bound by time. It is the **sakura** in your spring, the **kintsugi** in your scars, and the **mirai** (*future*) in your unknowns. Carry this truth like a folded **origami** crane —God holds every tomorrow in His hands

"Embrace the Forge"

David was anointed king by Samuel but returned to tending sheep. With calloused hands, he faced lions, bears, and his brothers' scorn. He later defeated Goliath and humbly served Saul, despite the king's jealousy.

Years passed. David's heart was tested in obscurity, moulded in the crucible of waiting. When he stepped into his calling, **he was no longer just a shepherd boy–he was a warrior, poet, and leader, forged by unseen faithfulness.** God used every small battle, every lonely night under the stars, to prepare him to shepherd a nation.

God prepares us in hidden places–through mundane tasks, obedience, and waiting. Joseph's journey from pit to palace wasn't a detour but the path. Betrayal and imprisonment shaped his wisdom (**Isaiah 48:10**), **making him ready to steward nations (Genesis 41:39-41).**

- **Embrace the small:** Today's tasks–diapers changed, emails sent–are rehearsals for greater things.
- **Trust the process:** Joseph's prison became his promotion ground.
- **Kneel to rise:** Fight anxiety with prayer, doubt with Scripture.

In delays, God refines our hearts, teaching dependence on Him (Romans 8:28).

16 May 2025 - Friday

"Eyes on the Lighthouse"

Setbacks often leave us feeling like a ship battered by waves. Disappointment, despair, and weariness threaten to capsize our hope. We pour out our hearts, work tirelessly, and still wonder, "Was it all for nothing?" In these moments, God does not dismiss our pain. He meets us in our struggles. **Jesus says**, "**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest**" (**Matthew 11:28**). **The Lord sees your tears** (**Psalm 56:8**), **hears your cries** (**Psalm 34:17**), and **holds your broken heart** (**Psalm 147:3**). Even when the path is unclear, His sovereignty is not shaken.

An old fisherman told his grandson, "When you feel lost at sea, fix your eyes on the lighthouse. Its keeper never sleeps."

Paul reminds us, "***We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).*** Feelings of failure or anxiety are real, but they're **not the end.** God uses wilderness seasons to refine us (**Hosea 2:14**) and redirect our steps (**Proverbs 16:9**). Like a faithful lighthouse keeper, He is always on vigil.

When doubt whispers, declare His truth: "He who began a good work in you will carry it to completion" **(Philippians 1:6).** Be still (**Psalm 46:10**). You are not adrift. "The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me" (**Psalm 138:8**). Walk in hope—**He is making a way.**

"Treasures in Heaven"

When you read the word "**treasure**," what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Is it gold, land, or a valuable property? **What is your most prized possession?** Perhaps it's a pair of diamond earrings that once belonged to your grandmother, or maybe it's the most expensive mobile phone you bought with your own hard-earned money.

No matter how great these things are, they will **not last forever**. Diamonds can be stolen. Mobile phones become obsolete. Land can lose its value. As the Bible says in **Matthew 6:19**, *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal."*

That's why it is important to value the things you **cannot see**–such as **love, faith, and obedience to God**–because these are the things that **last forever**. In **Matthew 6:20**, the Bible continues, *"But store up for **yourselves treasures in heaven**, where moths and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."*

Instead of investing all your time, money, and energy into possessions that will eventually fade away, **invest in your relationship with God** and in acts of love and kindness.

These are the true treasures that will never be taken away from you. When you prioritize heavenly treasures, you are building something eternal and unshakable—something far greater than anything this world can offer.

"Search and Rescue"

Have you ever noticed people who tend their sheep in the streets put their heart and soul in keeping every sheep in check? Has anyone thought, "Why do the sheep often wander off when they are safe under the protection of their master?" The sheep clearly reflects our life as we often **move away from the protection of God.**

Jeremiah 53:6 speaks about how people **wander off choosing their own path** rather **than being with God in his chosen one.** People get fascinated by the worldly doings in their life that rips them apart from God. But our God is the one who **searches for us.** He took all the iniquities on him where it should have been us: like a Good Shepherd who intends to take on a beast that tries to attack its sheep.

Not only does He search for us but He also **rescues us. Psalm 40:1-3** reinstates that God lifts us from our struggles at the right time. Most of us try to move in their direction that we think is the best suited, **but we end up getting stuck in a pit**. God doesn't even leave us at that situation as he hears our cry for return and **brings us back to his destined path.**

Prayer: Dear God, I know I have chosen to go in the way I desire many times. Yet I failed and you were there for the rescue. Guide me in your desired way that I don't lose myself and help me rejoice and be glad that you are with me.

19 May 2025 - Monday

“True Happiness: Rooted in God”

"Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!" (Psalm 144:15)

In a world chasing happiness through success, wealth, and fame, it's easy to feel like joy is always just out of reach. But God's Word reminds us that true happiness isn't found in what we have – **it's found in who we belong to.**

"Happy are the people **whose God is the Lord!"** When we surrender our lives to God, we discover a deep, lasting happiness that no circumstance can steal. When we begin to truly understand and know who God really is, regardless of the situations we go through, those **situations will not determine** the joy and happiness we have.

It’s the **quiet confidence of knowing** we are loved, chosen, and never alone. It’s the peace that anchors us even when storms come. As we know, **Jesus is always with us**, and it was not we who loved Him first, but **Jesus who loved us** and bought us at a price. We are saved, and no one can snatch us from His hand.

Today, remember: happiness rooted in God is not fragile. It’s steady, secure, and eternal. Let your joy flow from Him, and you’ll find that happiness is not something you chase — it’s something you carry.

"Hardened Hearts"

Hebrews 4:7, Today, when you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts. All the worries, disappointments, pressure of work, and the monotony of long daily routines can cause us to miss out on many important things. We forget to **smile at each other, to greet each other, or even to help someone** because we are so comfortably caught up in our own world. We become overly concerned about others' opinions of us, giving them so much value that it sometimes feels like God is distant.

Mary Magdalene, a devoted follower of Jesus – **the Chosen One – followed Him even until His crucifixion**. She loved Him deeply. Yet, when she stood near the tomb, she could not recognize that Jesus was right there with her. **Her heart was filled with worry, doubts, and burdens.**

Similarly, we sometimes fail to **see how unconditionally God loves us** and that **He never gives up on us.** We forget His goodness, and over time, our hearts become hardened.

When we pray, have faith in Him, and stay receptive to His words, **we will begin to see God's hand in all our works**. He is the only one who truly understands us and meets us wherever we are.

Let us ask for a receptive and tender heart — to see and praise His goodness.

"Discerning our acts"

We live in a world where virtue for secular society is **guided by moral laws and principles.** These moral laws help maintain us to live in harmony.

Although these moral laws have its impact in a good manner for the society, we as Christians must be discerning of what we **presume to be good and bad.**

1 Corinthians 10:23 tells us that **though all things are lawful, all things are not helpful.**

This implies that we as Christians engage in acts deemed normal and right by the society. For example these acts include the **good movies and TV shows you bing watch** or the times you chose to go to a **night party with friends.** We often look at others and try to follow the crowd. Sometimes, we even compare ourselves with others and think we are better than them. But we must understand that **we will be judged by God according to His Word,** not by comparing ourselves with others.

So, the question we need to ask ourselves is that **Do the things we do help us grow and draw closer to God in faith?** or Is it just a act we rationalise based on worldly standards to be good and fulfilling to our flesh??

22 May 2025 - Thursday

"YOU Are the Theme of My Praise!"

The psalmist in **Psalm 147** joyfully exclaims, **"How good it is to sing praises to our God. How pleasant and fitting to praise Him."**

Praise is a vital part of our Christian life, and the book of Psalms reminds us to make it a core part of our walk with God. The psalmist **encourages us to praise God in all circumstances,** not just when things are going well.

Praise is not dependent on our circumstances, and it's a declaration of our trust in God's goodness and faithfulness.

When we praise God, **we're not only acknowledging His greatness, but we're also inviting His presence into our lives.** Praise refocuses our hearts from **problems** to **God's greatness,** reminding us that His goodness is constant and His presence is always near.

So, by choosing to praise God, we're expressing our faith in His ability to handle all that we face, and we're opening ourselves up to His presence and work in our hearts and circumstances.

Praise the Lord!!!

“Pray”

You were made to need God. What does that mean?

You were created by **God, for Him**. He has not made you complete in yourself. You were made for Him–t**o live in His strength, not apart from it.**

If God made you and tells you that **He is glorified in your weakness,** what does that enable you to do? It enables you to go to our God, the One who lets you call Him **Father or Abba**, and say, "**Help.**" Then, you can live within His sufficient mercy.

He wants **all** your prayers–even the **tired ones**, the **difficult ones**, the **inarticulate ones.** Not just the prayers you offer when you are strong, but even more so when you are weak.

Speak. Say your deepest fears, your greatest resentments–even those against God. He will carry you as His child. **You are His child. You need your Father.**

Send prayers. Talk. Converse with the God who listens. He will supply mercy. Now, cling to **our merciful God, for He is good.**

"The beauty of Waiting on the Lord"

Isaiah 40:31 -"But they that **wait upon the Lord** shall **renew their strength;** they shall mount **up with wings as eagles**; they shall run, and **not be weary**; and **they shall walk**, and not faint."

Life often feels like a race – a constant rush of responsibilities, challenges, and unexpected hardships. We strive, we work, and at times, we grow exhausted. In these moments of weakness, **Isaiah 40:31 offers a promise:** strength is not something we must make on our own – it is **renewed when we wait on the Lord.**

Waiting isn't passive–**it's active** trust, a choice to lean on God's timing instead of forcing our own. It's sitting quietly in His presence, worshiping even without answers. In waiting, **God trades our weakness for His strength**. Like an eagle soaring on wind currents, not by flapping but by resting, **we are called to rest in the Spirit's power.**

God cares not only about our great "**leaps**" of faith but about our steady, daily walk with Him. Have you been relying on your own strength rather than God's? Take time today to **"wait on the Lord"** — through prayer, worship, and meditation on His promises. Every moment spent in **God's presence is not wasted** — it is preparation for renewal and strength. Let us ask God to teach us to wait on Him with patience and renew our spirit.

25 May 2025 - Sunday

"Putting Faith Into Practice"

Faith is trust, a crucial element of following Jesus. **Hebrews 11:6** states, "**Without faith, it is impossible to please God.**" **Ephesians 2:8** reminds us, "**It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.**"

Our faith should not be in our own ability to believe, **but in God**, who alone can **create, save,** and **sustain**. We may not know everything, but we can trust the one who knows all things.

Putting faith into practice can be difficult. Hebrews teaches that **faith begins with confidence in what we hope for** and assurance in what we cannot see. Faith requires believing in something beyond our understanding. Jesus promises eternal life to those who believe in Him, **a promise that is yet to be fulfilled, requiring faith in His word.**

Faith is the assurance that **God's promises will come to pass.** It is the confidence that Jesus' words are true. People in Scripture **waited** in faith for God's promises, even if they never saw them fulfilled in their lifetimes.

Reflect on your own faith. Is it filled with confident hope? Pray for assurance in God's promises and learn from the examples in **Hebrews 11** of how to live out faith

"God's Voice After Separation"

In Genesis, a pivotal moment in Abraham's journey occurs when God's promises and further instructions come **after** he parts ways with Lot. **Genesis 13:14** says, *"After Lot had separated from him, the Lord said to Abram..."* It was only then that God spoke.

Lot represents more than a companion–**he symbolizes attachments that can delay God's full revelation**. Although Abraham obeyed God's call to leave his country and family, he brought Lot along–**something God never instructed.** Like Abraham, we often delay our progress by clinging to familiar people, habits, or mindsets that don't belong in our next season.

Lot chose the fertile plains near Sodom, drawn by what looked good but led to destruction. **Abraham remained in the land God assigned**, and there **God expanded His promise**, saying Abraham's descendants would be as numerous as the dust of the earth.

The lesson is clear: **some promises and revelations** come only after **we release what holds us back.** God's process includes pruning and positioning. There are "**Lots**" in all our lives–relationships, patterns, or fears–that must be let go before we can receive the next word from Him.

Ask yourself today: ***What am I still holding onto that God has asked me to release?*** Often, the next step in our journey with God depends on our willingness to obey and let go.

27 May 2025 - Tuesday

"UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE"

But God shows His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. - Romans 5:8

Unconditional acceptance means loving someone for who they are, even when they don't deserve it. **Romans 5:8** shows the ultimate example–**Christ died for us despite our unworthiness.** His love is selfless, sacrificial, and beyond explanation. As a song says, "**the love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell.**"

Though we are undeserving, **God's grace abounds.** His grace is a beautiful gift that lifts us even when we feel low, judged, depressed, or distant from Him. In those moments, remember– **He still loves you**. It's a love that reaches out even when you have nothing to give in return.

As **Psalm 34:8** says, **"Taste and see that the Lord is good."** His love was fully revealed on Mount Calvary, where Jesus died for us. **This act is the highest expression of unconditional love.**

Prayer: Dear Lord, Thank You for loving us even when we don't deserve it. Thank You for Your kindness and patience. Help us to love others as You have loved us. Thank You for hearing our prayer.– Amen

"EVEN IF HE DOES NOT"

Daniel 3:18 "But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that **we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."**

It's always moving to reflect on the **unwavering faith** of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Facing a blazing furnace, they boldly declared their trust in God: ***"Our God is able to save us—but even if He does not, we will not worship your idols."***

Their **hope** rested not in the king, nor in their own reasoning, but **solely in God**. That kind of faith challenges us, especially when we encounter trials that feel just as consuming—difficult relationships, illness, loss, or discouragement.

As believers, we're not immune to expecting understanding or kindness from others. But we must remember: **only God is our constant and unchanging source of hope, comfort, and strength.**

Like those three men, may we be refined by the Holy Spirit to say with confidence: ***Even if He does not, we will still trust and serve Him.***

Let this be our prayer: that our faith would not depend on outcomes, but **on the One who walks with us in the fire.**

"A Woman in the Bible"

Matthew 15:21-28. A *petition* of a woman who pleads with Jesus for the deliverance of her daughter, who was possessed by a demon. Though she faced obstacles of place, religion, race, rejection, and gender, **she still desired Jesus to hear her petition and heal her daughter.**

In John 6:35, Jesus said, **"I am the bread of life.** Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me **will never be thirsty."** She believed that only Jesus could **quench her thirst and waited patiently for God's mercy.**

Persistence

The woman persistently cried out, humbling herself by falling at the feet of Jesus, even though the disciples tried to chase her away.

Prize

Jesus saw her amazing faith and responded to her!
She was rewarded with the healing of her daughter and returned home with the faith she had placed in Him.

Without Christ, there is a **hopeless end**.
With Christ, there is **endless hope.**

30 May 2025 - Friday

"Renewed Mind, Transformed Life"

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a **new person** by **changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you–what is good, pleasing, and perfect." – **Romans 12:2**

We often **mimic others and follow worldly patterns to fit in,** seeking approval and expecting rewards–even when we know some choices are sinful. We excuse ourselves, saying, **"The world has changed."** Yet **God's Word never changes, and Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**

To discern God's will, begin **by renewing your mind**. You have been **set apart**–not to indulge temptation, but to overcome it. When we stop fixating on worldly things and start focusing on what is above, we become a **new creation.** As our thoughts **shift**, so does our **transformation**–and with it comes clarity about **His will.**

How do you change your thinking? Start by **reading and embracing Scripture**, turning away from the **world's noise.** Meditate on ***God's truth:*** the more you ***dwell on Him***, the more you ***love Him;*** the more you love Him, the ***more you obey***. That obedience reshapes you and leads you into His perfect plan.

Today, commit to spend more time in His presence–read the Bible at least twice daily and resist distractions of this world. As your **mind is renewed**, you will be transformed into a **new creation** and **begin to lead others to Christ.**

"Joy In Affliction"

We often see people **unjustly oppressed**, with no respite from their sorrow and no apparent meaning in their tears. The poor are cheated, innocents condemned, and babies die. **Life itself can feel oppressive.** Sometimes, we are even oppressed by our own inner demons, making everything under the sun seem pointless–vanity, as **Ecclesiastes 4:1-3** says.

John Piper beautifully reminds us: "Not only is all your affliction momentary, not only is it light compared to eternity and the glory there, but it is totally meaningful. Every millisecond of your pain, from fallen nature or fallen man, is **producing a peculiar glory**. It's not meaningless! Of course, you can't always see it. When your mom dies, when your child dies, when you have cancer at forty, when tragedy strikes, don't say, 'That's meaningless!' **It's working for you an eternal weight of glory.** Therefore, do not lose heart. Preach these truths to yourself daily until your heart sings with confidence."

Jesus says in **John 16:33**: *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have **peace**. In this world **you will have trouble**. But take heart! **I have overcome the world.**"*

Though life may seem senseless at times, take heart–for **He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world.** He will complete the good work He began in us. As Job says (Job 2:10 NIV): ***"Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"*** **In all this, Job did not sin.**

Spreading His Word Together With

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- Ms. Adeline Sylvia
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- Ms. Benita Grace
- Ms. Benita Rachel
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