NEW CREATIONS

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 AND SOIL

AUGUST 2025

GLORY BE ONLY TO GOD



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.

We are grateful to celebrate eight months of this devotional journey. By God's faithfulness, this printed edition exists. 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!

A Man Who Stood Out

N ot giving up on God

O bedient

A nchored in faith

H erald of righteousness



What made him different?

In the genealogy of Genesis, only Noah's name is explained as "**rest**." Yet he lived in a world filled with unrest, chaos, and sin. While the majority grieved God's heart and caused Him to regret creation, **Noah stood out. He found favour in God's eyes. What made him different?**

Noah chose to **walk closely with God in a generation** that had no boundaries for sin. He lived with integrity when corruption was the norm. His faith wasn't loud, **but it was deep,** and that was enough to save not only himself but his entire household. **He was able to discern good and evil and never doubted God,** even when the command to build an ark seemed irrational.

Today, we too live in a world where compromise is easier than conviction. We may fail to be blameless or struggle to hold our integrity. But Noah's story reminds us that **faithfulness matters.** Even a l**ittle faith, when anchored in obedience, can save generations.** The ark didn't symbolise Noah's good deeds. It represented **God's grace through faith.** In the last days, judgment will come again, just as it did in Noah's time. And like Noah, we will be saved not by works **but by our faith in God's Word.**

Let us be people who walk closely with God, who listen to His voice above all, and **who live in a way that brings Him joy.**

A Powerful Statement

Have you ever watched poor decisions, whether your own or someone else's, wreak havoc? Have you felt the deep sting of loss or paused long enough to notice the tension in life? This world is beautiful, yet also brutal. It is full of life, yet also marked by sorrow.

The apostle Paul once wrote to the believers in Corinth, explaining that death entered the world because of sin, falling short of God's standards. But he didn't stop there. He declared, **"But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).**

Victory over sin and death sounds like an impossible claim. But this is the very heart of Christianity, not only that Jesus died for our sins, but that **He was raised to life for our sake.** Because of Jesus, death does not get the final say. This is not the end. **Victory belongs to those who trust in Him.**

In Paul's time, some claimed there was no life after death. But Paul boldly corrected them. He reminded the believers that if Christ had not been raised, their faith would be useless and hope would be lost. But **Jesus was raised,** and hundreds witnessed His resurrected life. That changes everything.

Scripture says Jesus is the first of many who will rise again. **One day, all who believe will be raised to life, and death itself will be no more.** Every tear will be wiped away. Until then, we live from a place of victory. There is more to come.

The Key To Wisdom

James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

We live in a world full of information yet starving for wisdom. Decisions press in family, career, relationships, and faith. In those moments, where do we turn? **James 1:5** gives us a clear answer: **God is ready to give wisdom, but it begins with a seeking heart.**

1. Wisdom Is a Gift, Not a Gamble:

James doesn't say God *might* give wisdom. He says ***it will be given***. God is not silent or reluctant. He's ready to guide, but we often rely on ourselves first. What moves His heart is not our effort but our simple, humble request. ***A seeking heart opens the door to divine counsel.***

2. God Gives Without Grudging:

Unlike people who may treat us like a burden, God gives generously and without criticism. He won't say, "You should know this already." He won't bring up our past mistakes. To every honest, seeking heart, ***He responds with grace, not guilt.***

3. The Difference Between Knowing and Seeking:

Wisdom doesn't start in the head; ***it begins in the heart.*** We can know theology, yet miss God's counsel without seeking Him. A seeking heart says, ***"Lord, I want more than answers, I want You."***

What area of your life feels unclear right now? What decision weighs on you? **Don't lean on your own understanding.** Don't Google before you pray. **Seek God. His wisdom is waiting.**

A Life That Reflected Christ

In **Acts 6,** the Hellenistic Jews raised a concern that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. To address this, **seven men of good reputation and filled with the Holy Spirit were chosen**, one of whom was **Stephen**. The Bible describes him as **"a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit,"** and his life reflects a deep intimacy with God.

But let us look deeper: what made Stephen so fearless, radiant for Christ, and able to echo Jesus' words on the cross by forgiving his persecutors, surrendering his spirit, and beholding Christ in heaven?

In **Acts 7**, Stephen boldly recounts God's dealings with Israel, from Abraham to Moses, **revealing his heart full of Scripture and faith.** He carried God's Word within him, embodying the truth that "**faith comes by hearing the Word of God."** Stephen understood **God's will, walked in wisdom rooted in the fear of the Lord, and had spiritual vision that made him courageous even in the face of death.** His boldness came not from himself but from the **indwelling Holy Spirit**.

The **Spirit empowered Stephen to love his enemies and forgive without bitterness** while granting him a **heavenly vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God.** His example reminds us that even for what seems like a simple service, distributing food, the early church sought **men full of the Spirit.** This challenges us to examine our own lives: **Do we reflect Christ as Stephen did? Are we able to love and forgive those who hurt us? Is the fruit of the Spirit evident in us?**

If not, Stephen's life calls us to go deeper. We are invited to meditate on **God's Word until it transforms us, to seek God's presence, and to ask the Holy Spirit to fill and empower us.** When we are full of faith and the Spirit, like Stephen, we become fearless, radiant witnesses who serve Christ boldly and love without measure, even in the face of persecution.

Speaking Boldly About

Picture this: Jesus had lived, died, and risen again. **Peter and John,** two of His closest disciples, were boldly sharing this miracle with everyone. They even performed powerful signs in Jesus' name, including healing a man who had been crippled from birth.

Thousands believed their message about Jesus. But many religious leaders saw their preaching and miracles as a threat. They had Peter and John arrested, hoping to silence them.

After their release, Peter and John returned to the community of believers and did what came naturally: they prayed. **Acts 4:31** says, **"...when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness."**

They made a **habit of gathering, praying, and boldly sharing God's Word.** As they did, the **Holy Spirit empowered them with supernatural strength and courage.**

Just like Peter and John, we may face opposition or resistance to our faith. But **we are called to keep trusting God, keep gathering with other believers, keep praying bold prayers, and keep speaking about the hope we have in Jesus.**

When we live this way, God promises to **fill us with His Spirit and lead us forward with boldness and purpose.** Whatever challenges we face, we are not alone. His Spirit is with us, strengthening, guiding, and equipping us for every step.

His Pain, Our Gain

Isaiah 53 is a powerful chapter from the Old Testament, written around 700 years before Jesus walked the earth. In it, the prophet Isaiah spoke of a suffering servant, one who would endure great pain and yet be exalted. **This servant would bring life through His death.**

Isaiah 53:5 says, **"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."**

Who was this man, pierced and crushed not for His wrongs but for others'? Who would suffer so that others might live?

Jesus Christ perfectly fits this description. He was the suffering servant who took on the punishment we deserved, offering redemption and freedom. He also fulfilled many other prophecies about the coming Messiah.

The Messiah was foretold to come from David's lineage **(Isaiah 9:7)**, be born of a virgin **(Isaiah 7:14)**, and arrive in Bethlehem **(Micah 5:2)**. He would perform miracles **(Isaiah 35:5–6)**, be betrayed by a close friend **(Psalm 41:9)**, beaten and spat on **(Isaiah 50:6),** pierced in His hands and feet **(Psalm 22:16)**, and ultimately killed **(Daniel 9:26)**. Though innocent **(Isaiah 53:8)**, He would intercede for sinners **(Isaiah 53:12)**, and through Him, many would be made righteous **(Isaiah 53:11)**.

Like a soldier laying down his life, Jesus gave His life for all. **Today, pause and reflect on what that means for you.** Because of His sacrifice, you have access to true, abundant life.

Between Two Kingdoms

Did you know we are living between two kingdoms?

The kingdom of God is wherever God reigns over His people. Before knowing Jesus, we all lived in darkness, what **Colossians 1:13** calls **"the dominion of darkness."** We were captive to a life marked by sin and separation from God.

But Jesus brought a new kingdom and a new way of living. Instead of remaining in darkness, **we can now walk in the light.** Through faith in Jesus and the forgiveness of our sins, we are made new. Because of His death and resurrection, **Jesus has made a way for us to be part of God's kingdom.**

Colossians 1:13 reminds us that **we have been rescued and transferred into this new kingdom.** Yet, we still live in a broken world, awaiting Jesus' return when He will make all things new. So, we live between redemption by Jesus, but still navigate an imperfect world.

In this in-between, we have a mission. **Jesus calls His followers to expand His kingdom by sharing the good news with others, as seen in Matthew 28:18-20.** When we tell people about Jesus and His love, we help lead them **from darkness into His light.**

As members of God's kingdom, **we are called to reflect His light and be bold in our witness.** Have you thought about your part in God's plan? You have a meaningful role in sharing His hope. **Ask God to show you how to live it out today.**

Feel Your Praises

Have you ever wondered why some kids **hesitate** to say thank you when they receive gifts from adults? Is it shyness, or do they go away in happiness of receiving a gift? Predominantly, it has always been **shyness** that stops them from thanking others. What about us? **Are we free from the hesitation** of thanking and praising our Lord? **"Feeling praises"** to God is the right way rather than saying praises to God.

Our God has always planned something greater for us, even though we feel we don't deserve the love he has for us. Think of David, out of all the sons that Jesse had, David was tending the sheep. Do you ever think that David thought low of him, saying God made him tend sheep rather than his brothers? Nope. He was **singing praises** to God with a lyre. There are a few Hebrew words that teach us how to **"feel"** praises rather than saying them:

- ***Toda:*** Which means ***expressions of praising God***, that is, a sacrifice of thanksgiving and praising even in pain.
- ***Yada: Extending your hands*** in adoration to God by praising with a sign of surrender and trust.
- ***Halal:*** Praising God abundantly ***irrespective of what others might think.***
- ***Shabach:*** Shouts of ***triumph***.
- ***Zamar:*** Singing along with ***music***
- ***Barak:*** Praising by ***being on your knees*** with reverence
- ***Tehillah:*** A ***spirit-led*** worship.

In **Acts 16:25 " –About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them."** They didn't hesitate to praise God even though they were in prison, and those ***praises shattered the chains they were in.***

Prayer: Dear God, guide me through my time for you so that **I might shout, sing, and extend my arm in praise of you without any hesitation**. Let me be a child of God like David, who never cared about what others might think and praise you abundantly. Amen.

Jehovah Jireh

Jehovah Jireh, The Lord Will Provide (Genesis 22:14)

I do not share this just from reading the Bible, but from my own experience. It has been over a year since we received a salary. After my mom retires and I am still a student, we assume her retirement benefits will come within a month and that we can manage until I get a job. But things do not go as we plan.

Yet, throughout the year so far, **God has provided more than we need**. Each month, when we wonder how we will get through, **God meets our needs before the day ends.** Not just once or twice, but every single month.

When we stepped into printing ***Seed and Soil***, I gave it to a printer, but the quality was poor. So we went to another printing house and got it done the same day. On my way home, I pray, "**Lord, please send the money that should come to Mum.**" In that moment, God reminds me, **"All these months, I have been your provider. The book in your hand is the testimony."** That moment changes my sorrow into joy.

The Bible says in **Isaiah 58:11:** ***The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones. You shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.***

So whatever your need is, whether it is financial, physical, emotional, or anything else, **trust Him.** Just as He provided for the Israelites and me, He will do it for you. **Have faith in Him because our help comes from the Lord.**

Walking In Your Own Calling

In **1 Samuel 17**, Jesse asked David to take food to his brothers at the battlefield. What seemed like an ordinary task led to an extraordinary purpose. As **verse 50** says, ***"So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him."***

Many times, we wonder, ***"Why am I here? I don't fit in. No one understands me."*** Even David's brother Eliab mocked him (v.28), accusing him of pride. But David didn't let those words discourage him. **He knew his purpose, even if others didn't understand it.**

When David offered to fight Goliath, Saul doubted him (v.33), but David confidently testified how God helped him defeat the lion and the bear (v.34–37). **He trusted that the same God would deliver him from Goliath.** Though Saul gave him his armour, David chose not to wear it. He knew **he wasn't called to fight like others,** but to **use what God had trained him with.**

Sometimes, we try to fit into someone else's calling, but **David reminds us to walk in our own.** When facing Goliath, David declared, ***"You come against me with sword and spear, but I come against you in the name of the Lord"*** (v.45).

So when you feel out of place, go back to God. Ask Him why He placed you where you are, and surrender to His plan. As God used David, **He will surely use you.**

God Of The Silent Seasons

Maybe today… You're waiting.

For a sign. For confirmation. For a shift. It feels like your whole life has been one **long line of waiting.**

Waiting for healing, for answers, for peace. And in that waiting,

The rejections started piling up,

The failures whispered louder,

The hopes you once clung to… **slowly started fading.** That work you once loved? It doesn't spark the same joy. Your heart feels numb. Your knees are tired from kneeling, and your lips tremble when you try to pray. Your eyes overflow, your chest grows heavier each day.

And all you can whisper is:

"God… how long?" Maybe your waiting season feels endless. So silent **that you wonder if God has gone quiet.** But hear this, right now, even in the chaos, **He is with you.** Even in silence, **He is at work.** Even in the waiting, **He has not changed His mind about you.**

"The Lord your God will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6). And He still says: **"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)**

Don't doubt the promise just because of the delay. **God's silence is not His absence.** He is faithful to complete what He started. **He hasn't forgotten you.**

Count Your Blessings

Psalms 103:2, the Psalmist says, **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

We humans generally focus only on the problems and the storms; meanwhile, **we forget how blessed we are.** How often have we grumbled and complained like the Israelites in the wilderness? How often do we not realise that we are being fed with manna from heaven?

Friend, **does your heart ache thinking He is not faithful?** Are you thinking how long this trouble will last? Are you tired of trying so many times? Are you worried about His Timing? **Pause! Sit and count your blessings!!** You cannot finish counting them in a day or two!!!

When people out there are starving for food and dying of hunger, you have food served on your table! When they are struggling to breathe, you are here, healthy! Also, when people out there are enjoying the worldly pleasures**, you and I are Chosen, so we are spending time even now, to sit, pray and read this daily devotion!** When you are praying for costly sneakers, remember there are people out there who lost their legs! When you don't like your bike and want a car, remember, people can't even afford to take a bus ticket! There is always something to be thankful for every day! Too tired of your job? Talk to someone who has been trying to get a job for years! We will never know the value of something until it's gone. So cherish even the little moments of your life because **every good and perfect gift comes from above (James 1:17).**

So today, God reminds us to count our Blessings, not our worries and troubles. **Psalms 106:1**, David, the man after God's own heart, says, **Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.** Let us give thanks to our loving Father for all the innumerable good things in our lives. Amen.

Rodfei Sholom

Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount, found in the Gospel of **Mathew Chapter 5 onwards,** begins with what we refer to as Beatitudes. These are more than just comforting words. They are divine portals into the character He is shaping within us. He invites us into the transformative, often demanding, vocation of peacemaking: **"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9).**

The Hebrew Phrase for this is Rodfei Sholom, which, quite interestingly, means **'Pursuers of Peace'**. Hold on. This means that Jesus isn't calling us merely to a passive wish for calm, but an **active participation in God's reconciling work.** To be a peacemaker is to bravely step into the fractures of our world, broken relationships, societal divisions, and inner turmoil, bringing not just temporary truces **but the hope of Christ's healing.** It requires moving beyond avoidance. It confronts discord, not with force or manipulation, but by carrying the very presence of Jesus into spaces where division seeks dominion. It means laying down the weapons of accusation and picking up the tools of restoration.

As Jesus reshapes our hearts, a profound shift occurs. We stop seeing entrenched "**sides**" and begin to see **precious souls,** each bearing God's image, each in need of his abundant grace. Our posture changes. We are more committed to reflecting the heart of the Prince of Peace. This reflection isn't achieved through human cleverness or diplomacy, but through surrendered lives becoming vessels of His reconciling love in a deeply wounded world. There is a quiet, potent strength in this of heaven's peace confronting earth's chaos.

What if we embraced this sacred identity today? What if we asked Jesus, the ultimate Peacemaker, **to make us true bridge builders,** giving us humility to listen, grace to forgive, and courage to sow His peace through kind words, patient actions, and unwavering love wherever we are? In doing so, we do not just make peace but reveal our kinship to the God of Peace, **living as His true children.**

Rachamim

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”-Matthew 5:7

Spoken on a Galilean hillside, this beatitude was both familiar and revolutionary. In Jesus’ world, mercy or in Hebrew chesed, which meant **steadfast covenant love,** was a divine attribute, celebrated in Psalms and Temple liturgy. Yet the surrounding Greco-Roman culture valued justice as strict reciprocity, and even religious attitudes could slip into self-righteous scorekeeping. Into this setting, Jesus declares **mercy as the mark of His Kingdom.**

True mercy isn’t instinctive; it’s the overflow of recognising the staggering mercy we’ve received. Like the servant forgiven an impossible debt in **Matthew 18:21 to 35,** our capacity to show mercy is born from **experiencing God’s unearned grace.** It’s a theological truth made personal: **we love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).**

Being merciful does not mean excusing wrong or ignoring justice. It means seeing the irritating neighbour, the failing friend and the difficult stranger with **eyes softened by grace.** Mercy leans toward **forgiveness** instead of condemnation, **kindness** instead of coldness and **understanding** instead of judgment. As Christ reshapes our hearts, we put away the ledger of wrongs, listen deeply and allow the pain of others to touch us, sharing their burdens as fellow image bearers in a broken world.

Friend, are you weary in the storm? Lift your eyes to the One who walks on water. **Trust His promise.** He gives His peace and keeps you in perfect peace as you rest in Him. His mercy is your strength, and His peace your shelter.

Friend, are you caught in the storm? Turn your gaze to the One who walks on water. Cling to His promise: **He gives His peace.** He keeps you in perfect peace as you trust Him. His peace is your shelter.

Perseverance After Failure

Have we questioned ourselves about the perseverance we have in our lives? Before that, do we have perseverance? Life is full of challenges, disappointments and setbacks where giving up seems easier than moving forward. **Yet God calls us to persevere not in our strength but through faith in God.**

The first person who comes to our mind when we hear the word perseverance is "**Job**". He lost everything in his life, yet he proclaimed, **"Though he slay me yet will I hope in him " (Job 13:15).**

Perseverance thrives when we are anchored in God's sovereignty, not in the circumstances. Through suffering, we learn endurance, which results in character development and builds Christ-like resilience.

All the struggles and trials that we face **test our faith.** Like gold refined by fire, so perseverance proves faith's worth. And we are not alone in doing that, **Proverbs 24:16** says, **"The righteous may fall seven times but they rise again".**

We don't have to focus on the storm; we have to **focus on the one who calms it** because we have a God who never leaves us nor forsakes us. He'll help us through the storm.

Do we have a hope like that, or are we scared just as those who were in the boat? As verse says in **Hebrews 12:1-2: “Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of Faith”.** Amen.

Upheld By His Hand

"The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand." – Psalm 37:23-24

These verses remind us that when we choose to follow God and delight in His ways, **He guides our path.** Life isn't always smooth; there will be struggles, failures, and moments when we feel like giving up. But God promises that even when we stumble, **we will not be completely defeated.** Why? Because **He holds us with His strong hand.**

Imagine a parent holding a child's hand as they learn to walk. The child may trip, but the parent's grip keeps them from falling hard. In the same way, **God's hand is steady and sure in our lives.**

When challenges come, whether it's fear, failure, or feeling lost, remember that you are not walking alone. **God is watching your every step, ready to lift you when you stumble.** In each day, commit your ways to Him. **Trust His guidance.** Rest in the truth that His hand is strong enough to carry you through every weakness, and **His grace is always sufficient.**

So, as we celebrate Independence Day today, let us take a moment to reflect on **how free we are from this world and how dependent we are on God.** As the Bible says, when we depend on Him and take delight in Him, He will uphold us with His hand. As He upholds us, **we begin to walk in His ways and live the life He desires for us.** Gradually, we will begin to share the truth with others so that they, too, will be set free and experience true and holistic independence.

Positioned For A Purpose

Sometimes, life brings us to unexpected places. What seems like a coincidence is often **God's divine orchestration**. In Esther's story, we see a young woman, an orphan raised by her cousin, elevated to the royal palace not for luxury or comfort, but for **God's greater plan**. Esther was hesitant to speak up for her people when faced with danger. But Mordecai's words in **Esther 4:14** remind her and us that **God places us in specific roles, relationships, and seasons for a reason.**

"If you remain silent at this time..."

There are seasons when **silence is costly**. God gives us opportunities to act in alignment with His will. To stay silent in moments that require boldness is to possibly miss a **divine appointment**. Like Esther, we may feel the weight of fear, but courage is not the absence of fear; it is the willingness to act despite it.

"Relief and deliverance... will arise from another place."

God is never without a plan. His purposes are unstoppable. If we choose not to participate in His work, He will still accomplish His mission, but **we may lose the chance to be part of something eternal**. What a privilege it is to be used by Him!

"You and your father's family will perish..."

Sometimes, avoiding risk may seem safer, but in God's kingdom, **obedience is the safest place to be**. Disobedience or passivity may not only hinder our impact but also our legacy.

"You have come to your royal position for such a time as this."

These are words that echo through time. Each of us is where we are not by accident, but by **God's design**. Our family, workplace, church, and community are all platforms to shine for Christ. This verse challenges us to **see our current position through the lens of purpose**.

Don't wait for perfect conditions. Like Esther, **your "yes" may unlock deliverance for many**

The Subtle Danger Of Pride

Proverbs 16:18- "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

This verse warns that **pride and arrogance** often lead to a **person's downfall.** When people become overly confident in themselves and dismiss humility or wisdom, they make poor choices that can result in failure or ruin.

King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4): He became proud of his power and kingdom, claiming glory for himself rather than acknowledging God. As a result, he was humbled, losing his mind and kingdom until he recognised God's sovereignty.

We often think of **pride** as a harmless confidence boost or healthy self-esteem. But the Bible warns that unchecked pride is far from innocent. It creates a false sense of security and independence, **distancing us from God and others.**

Pride whispers, "You did this on your own," while humility says, **"Thank you, Lord, for Your grace."**

Pride closes ears to wise counsel. **Humility invites correction and grows from it.** Pride builds walls. **Humility builds bridges.**

When we elevate ourselves above others or forget our dependence on God, we become vulnerable to a fall. God doesn't humble us to shame us, but to restore our perspective and draw us closer to Him. **"Stay low before God, and He will lift you in due time."**

God's Grace In Our Weakness

My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness."- 2 Corinthians 12:9

This verse reminds us that **God's power** in our lives does not depend upon **our strength or abilities.** Instead, He meets us in our weakness, where we feel inadequate or overwhelmed. It's okay to acknowledge our limitations and vulnerabilities, for it's in these moments that **God's grace shines the brightest.**

This means we do not have to pretend to be strong or self-sufficient. We can come to God just as we are, with all our flaws. He never ignores anyone. He is not judgmental; He is loving. **He left the ninety-nine in search of you and me.** As the Bible says, **He loved us first.** When we come to Him as we are, **we create space for His grace to work in us and through us.**

As we **surrender our weakness to Him**, we can experience the **sufficiency of His grace**, which is more than enough to carry us through life's challenges.

By embracing our weakness, **we discover the perfecting power of God's grace,** which makes us more than conquerors in this world. His grace brings redemption from our sinful life and gives us the strength to overcome sin. In turn, **this leads us to live the life He desires for us.**

So, let us surrender ourselves to Him and confess our weakness, so that He will give us His strength.

A Call to Believe

In **John 20:19,** after Jesus' prophesied death and resurrection, we see that all of Jesus' disciples have gathered, and Jesus went to see them. That is to say, almost all of them, **Thomas wasn't there.** And when those who were present told Thomas that they had seen the Lord, Thomas did not believe it. **"Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." (John 20:2)**

A week later, when the disciples were gathered together again, Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, **"Peace be with you!".** Then He said to Thomas, **"Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:27)**

Thomas immediately acknowledged that Jesus had risen from the dead and was with them again. It's here that Jesus says, "**Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).**

Thomas believes, but Jesus is focused on even more than that. Jesus is addressing the rest of us, generations of believers to come, who would believe without being able to see Him.

Jesus didn't just die for us; **He rose for us.** And He didn't deny Thomas what he asked for, but He also made it clear that there is a blessing for those **who believe without seeing.** The truth of His resurrection doesn't rest on whether or not we've seen it. **"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).** For us believers, what a gift to be among those whom **Jesus calls blessed!**

Think About What You Think About

What you tell yourself daily shapes your life. Believing lies about your identity makes it hard to trust what God says. When you root your identity in Him and let **His Spirit shape you,** you begin to see yourself as He does, influencing how you respond to people and situations around you.

So here are **three ways you can guard your thoughts and declare God's truth over your life:**

1. Identify the lies you tell yourself:
Your words and actions reflect the stories you believe. To spot a false narrative, ask: Is this thought driven by fear, pride, or insecurity? Does it lead to cynicism or self-serving behaviour? **If yes, it likely needs to change.** Identifying when you began believing the lie makes it easier to renew your thinking.

2. Shift your perspective:
For every lie, there is a truth that can replace it, and those truths can be **found in the Bible.** Look over your list of lies, and ask God to show you in His Word what His truth is. **Create mental space for the Holy Spirit to clearly show you how He sees you.**

3. Declare what's true:
Turn the truths from Scripture into specific, intentional statements you can declare over your life each day. Here are some declarations to get you started:

- I am enough because I am a child of God.
- I rejoice in suffering because Christ suffered for me.
- I am not ashamed of Jesus because His sacrifice changes lives.
- I am greatly loved, and so I love others like I have been loved.
- Nothing can separate me from God's love.

As you practice these steps, keep in mind that if God, whose Word is truth, says something about you, **then it must be true.** So allow His Holy Spirit to transform the way you think. **Let His thoughts about you become your thoughts about you.**

Your Response Matters

When we're in difficult situations, it isn't always easy to stay calm or hold our tongues for very long. But in **James 1:19**, we hear how we should respond…

-Be quick to listen.
-Be slow to speak.
-Be slow to anger.

The world is the opposite:

Be slow to hear what others have to say. **Be quick to voice** your own opinions. **Be quick to accuse, argue, and fight.**

Why is it so important to James that Christ's followers do not behave this way? Because "**human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." (James 1:20)**

So, what does produce the right kind of living that God desires? **The Word of God.** James told his friends to "**get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you." (James 1:21)**

He said that if they have the **Word of God in them and if they are obeying it, they will be blessed. (James 1:25)**

James is clear that if we are to be followers of God, **we must know God's word and obey it.** That means we need to take **time to listen to others, pace ourselves when we speak, and keep our anger at bay.**

So next time you're faced with something that makes you angry, take **James' words to heart.** Take time to temper your emotions, think through your feelings and arguments, and **humbly pray for God to help you respond with kindness and grace.**

Reordering Our Priorities

The northern tribes of Israel in Amos's time seemed like they were doing all the right things. They offered sacrifices to God and were exact in their religious observations. And yet, **the book of Amos is written to them as a warning,** a warning that destruction would befall them if they refused to change.

Why?

Because they had **neglected the true heart of loving and worshipping God.**

While they were doing many of the "**right**" things, it's what they weren't doing that **God wanted to address.** They failed to take care of the poor and needy. They turned their eyes away from injustice. Many had turned to idols for help and prayer.

Through Amos, God told the people of Israel that it is just as **important to be righteous inwardly as it is outwardly.** We cannot say we love God and others when we fail to help people who are within our power to help.

Just as **James 1:27** tells us, **true religion includes helping orphans, widows, and those who are in distress.** James goes on to write that **faith without works is a dead faith (James 2:26)**. In short, faith is both believing in the Lord and doing the things He has told us to do.

Take some time to think about your own life: how much time do you prioritise on your spirituality versus serving others? In what ways can you **begin to take steps toward serving in your church, your neighbourhood, or your school to help those in need?** All of these are ways that our faith becomes complete in Christ as we follow after Him.

The Simple Gospel

When it comes to understanding the gospel message of Jesus, **Romans 10:13 is one of the most important verses…**

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10:13)

The gospel of Jesus is the message that Jesus lived a perfect life and died for our sins on the cross, and through His death and resurrection, we can experience true and everlasting life. We are allowed to believe **in Jesus, and through faith experience Jesus' undeserved gift of forgiveness and love.**

The most controversial part of this message is that we don't have to work for it or earn it. **Salvation is given to us freely as a gift of God through faith in Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-9).**

Paul, the author of Romans, makes it very clear that **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.** Salvation is not reserved for the rich, famous, or popular. It is given to anyone **who recognises their insufficiency and their need for Jesus.**

This means that we do not need to overcomplicate trusting in Jesus. Paul's statement is a promise to us all: **if we believe in Jesus, then we will be saved.**

If you've ever questioned whether or not you're saved, then this promise can encourage you. The way to Jesus is simple. **If you trust in Jesus, then you are truly saved** and don't need to question it. All that is left is to continue to believe in and follow Jesus every day.

Rest for the Weary

Are you carrying an impossibly heavy burden? Are you trying to manage a massive load all by yourself? Are there wounds and worries that are weighing down your soul? **It doesn't have to be this way …**

"Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Jesus wasn't saying to come to Him and do nothing. He's not saying to quit your job and abandon your life, and move to a deserted island. This isn't a call to be idle, **but an invitation to rest and to work from rest.**

A yoke is a device used for joining two animals together for a purpose like farm work, for ploughing a field or pulling a heavy load. As always, two are stronger than one.

Jesus' mention of the yoke implies there is still work to be done, **but we don't have to do it alone.**

You have a ***Saviour who is humble and gentle***, whose compassion is deep and whose love is wide. He is so wild about you that He left the glories of heaven and became human to suffer and die so that you might live.

We must draw near to the **One who carried the biggest burden of all the sin and rebellion of the world.** The One who conquered death and defeated the grave will eventually redeem all things … once and for all.

God longs for us to come close, to fall in step beside Him, and to lean into His grace. Why? Because we thrive when we live and work from a place of genuine rest. **He's inviting you to come.** Will you? If you're not sure where to start, **simply ask Him for help.**

The LORD is ABLE

Jeremiah 32:27 "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too difficult for Me?"

Yes, there is nothing too hard for Him. But who has the privilege of experiencing the miraculous and mighty hand of God? **Jeremiah 17:7-8** provides the answer, stating, **"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord."** When you put your complete trust in Jesus, what happens? The Word says, **"He shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river."** It becomes a fertile place, green, thriving and beautiful. It is so sweet to see such a land, isn't it? And in the same way, our lives will also be abundantly blessed by the Lord.

Look at the life of David. He declares, **"The Lord is my shepherd."** Morning and evening, day and night, he sought the Lord with all his heart. Because he put his complete trust in God, his life became like a **fertile tree, yielding fruit in due season**. You, too, can be blessed when you cling to God.

David was just a humble shepherd boy, but because **he sought the Lord diligently, God lifted him to be a king. Hallelujah!** The same God is here today. Look to Him. Cling to Him tightly. Trust in Him with all your heart, and you shall also be blessed.

PRAYER: Loving Heavenly Father, I come to You with a heart full of trust, knowing You are the Lord, the God of all flesh. There is nothing too hard for You. I place my life in Your hands, believing that You will make it fruitful and strong like a tree planted by the waters. **Teach me to seek You daily, to walk in Your ways, and to cling to You in every season.** Be my Rock, my Fortress, and my Deliverer. Let my life shine with the beauty of Your blessings. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen

The Story of Corrie ten

Corrie ten Boom was a Dutch Christian who, along with her family, helped hide Jews during World War II. Eventually, they were caught, and Corrie was sent to a **brutal concentration camp.** Her sister Betsie, who was with her, never gave up faith and would say, **“There is no pit so deep that God’s love is not deeper still.”** Even surrounded by death and suffering, they prayed, **shared their faith, and comforted others.**

After Betsie died in the camp, **Corrie was miraculously released** due to a clerical error, just days before all the women in her age group were sent to the gas chambers.

Years later, Corrie stood on stages around the world sharing **how Jesus walked with her through unimaginable darkness,** giving her strength to forgive even the prison guards who had beaten her sister.

She once said:

"When I try, I fail. When I trust, He succeeds."

Why it matters:

Corrie’s life is proof that even in the worst of human suffering, God walks with us, not always changing the situation immediately, **but giving strength, peace, and even the power to forgive.**

As **Isaiah 41:10** reminds us:

“Do not fear, for I am with you… I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

When we walk with Jesus, we may still go through storms, but we never go through them alone. He walks every painful step with us.

Book name: The Hiding Place: The Triumphant True Story of Corrie Ten Boom

Overcoming Temptation

In our everyday lives, we often find ourselves being tempted in various situations we encounter. **We often fall during this time** due to our **attraction towards sin,** and **as a result, we fail to honour Jesus.**

The temptations that we encounter are very subtle and seem good to us, **so we fail to take note of our minds, causing us to gradually sink into them.**

In **Luke 4,** we see Jesus being the Son of God, being tempted by the devil. By temptation, it means that Jesus' ideas and His thoughts were being challenged and put to the test. **Satan, in his cunning, even used verses from the scriptures themselves to test him.**

But **Jesus, being thoroughly grounded in the Scriptures,** was able to overcome the temptations. This shows us that **He overcame every trial through the Word of God.** In the same way, when we are tempted by our desires, we can overcome by **fixing our eyes on Him and His Word.**

As we get more rooted in His Word, we are also rooted in Him, because the Bible says that **Jesus Himself is the Word**. And His Word is **"a lamp to our feet and a light to our path"** that guides us every day **(Psalm 119:105).**

Therefore, we, as children of God, need to be vigilant, spend more time in His Word and in His presence, and ask God to guide us as we face these trials day after day

A New Creation In Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

In Christ, you become a completely new person. You are not just a little bit better than you used to be, but **you are transformed.** Your old life with all its mistakes and weaknesses is gone. A new life has begun.

Yet, we often fail to fully embrace this truth. **When we come to Jesus, confess our sins, and accept Him as our personal Saviour, He sets us free.** Still, we sometimes stumble because of our own fleshly desires.

That is why we must **continually remind ourselves of our identity in Christ.** We are not of this world; we belong to Him. As the Bible declares, ***"the truth will set you free."*** Knowing that sin has lost its hold on us through the precious blood of Jesus empowers us to walk boldly in that freedom.

This change doesn't happen because of anything you do. It happens because of what Christ has done for you.

So, every day, remind yourself of this amazing truth: you are not the same person you used to be. **You are new, and this new life is a gift from God.** This means you don't have to be held back by your past mistakes. You can live a new life, free from guilt and shame and filled with God's love and forgiveness.

Worry

Worry-deep unease about the future and how things will turn out is one of the devil's two main weapons for trying **to choke God's life within us,** Jesus said in **Matthew 13:22.** And there are certainly many things to worry about if we choose to: health, family, studies, work, relationships, money, the future ...

But not only is worry profitless **(Matthew 6:27),** it harms us, making our hearts heavy **(Proverbs 12:25),** our spirits dull **(Luke 21:34),** and our bodies and minds exhausted **(1 Kings 19:3-5)** as we needlessly think,

"What if ...?"

But Jesus says his followers need not worry, for we have a loving heavenly Father who is committed to caring for us. **If he feeds birds and makes grass grow (Matthew 6:26-30),** can we not see that He will care for us? That is why Paul said,

Don't worry about anything; **instead, pray about everything.** Tell God what you need, and **thank him for all he has done,** assuring us that as we do so, **we will experience God's peace,** which exceeds anything we can understand. **His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7).**

Jesus promised that if we seek God's Kingdom above all else, **then God will always provide for us (Matthew 6:33).** This is not a promise we will be rich-but it is a promise that we will be okay!

More than a miracle

Matthew 6:33, But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Are you waiting for a miracle? Often, our prayers are filled with urgent requests pleading for a breakthrough, healing, provision, or direction. And while God delights in hearing our needs, **He longs even more for our hearts.**

Sometimes, we become so focused on the miracle we're hoping for that **we forget to seek the Miracle Giver Himself.** Our waiting can become impatient. Our faith can feel tired. But God isn't slow in keeping His promises. Everything **He does is purposeful.** He created us for a relationship with Him, and He has already given us the greatest miracle: **the gift of His Son, Jesus,** who died and rose again to restore us to the Father.

When Jesus fed the 5,000, it wasn't just about meeting a physical need. It was a display of **His power, compassion, and desire to build faith in the hearts of those around Him.** He moved in the middle of insufficiency, uncertainty, and even disbelief.

What if your current waiting season isn't a delay, but an invitation? **An invitation to grow deeper in your walk with Jesus.** To focus your eyes on Him. To surrender. Because when we seek Him first, truly and wholeheartedly, every need, every miracle, will follow in His perfect time and way.

Rooted Before You Rise

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." - Colossians 2:6,7

Everyone wants to rise - to be noticed, used, and to make an impact. But the **strength of what rises depends on what's hidden- the roots.** A tree with shallow roots may grow fast, but it will be destroyed by the storms. In the same way, if your outer life grows faster than your prayer life, **it won't hold you up for long.** The world says: Be loud, Be known, Go viral, but **God says: Be still, Be faithful, Be rooted.**

Because roots grow in the unseen. In prayer, when no one is watching, in quiet obedience when no one applauds, and in reading the Word, even when you don't feel it. Think of the bamboo trees. For years, you see nothing but a small shoot. But beneath the surface, its roots are spreading deep and wide. Then, suddenly, it shoots up nearly 90 feet in weeks. It didn't grow overnight; **it was being prepared underground.**

Before David faced Goliath publicly, **he worshipped in the fields privately.** Before Jesus preached to thousands, **He fasted in the wilderness.**

"Hidden seasons aren't wasted; they are where strength is formed."

So, don't be discouraged if you are in a season of hiddenness; **God is growing your roots.** Stay planted. **Let Him deepen you in His word**, shape your character and strengthen your faith. Because **when the roots are real, the rise will last!**

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