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 & Soil



SEPTEMBER 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 both 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 desire to walk in daily transformation through His grace. Changed by Him, we long to become vessels through which others encounter His renewing power.

We are grateful to celebrate nine months of this devotional journey. By God's faithfulness, this printed edition exists. Behind every page are the dedicated hearts of individuals who made space for God despite their 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, and He will multiply it for His glory.

We humbly 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



Old life	New life
Chief tax collector	Wanted to see who Jesus
Short	Climbed a tree
Sinner	Son of Abraham
Cheater	Good Deed

Zacchaeus was a man who wanted to see who Jesus was. When he heard that Jesus was going to pass that way, **he ran ahead,** and even though he was short, **he climbed up into a sycamore tree.** Here, we see his true **thirst** to see Jesus. What began as one-way communication became two-way because God sees our hearts. He acknowledged Zacchaeus's genuine desire, looked at him, and said, ***"I want to stay in your house."*** The Bible says **Zacchaeus received Him joyfully.**

The same Jesus, if we thirst for Him, wants to stay with us. But are we joyfully accepting Him? Many people around complained, saying Jesus had become a guest of a sinner. They knew the Word but missed its full essence. However, when Zacchaeus encountered the **One who is the Word,** everything changed. He said, *"I will give half of my goods to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone, I will restore fourfold."*

Jesus didn't call us to be judges over others, ***but by knowing the truth, we should use it to set others free.*** There is a beautiful verse saying, *"Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham."* In **Galatians 3:7,** it says, ***"Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham."*** So, as Zacchaeus did, let us have the desire to see Him, accept Him as our personal Saviour, have faith in Him, not in what we have, and do what He has called us to do.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Paul and Silas were in prison, but they prayed and sang songs to God. In difficult times, prayer and praise are powerful. God stepped in to help them. Suddenly, a massive earthquake struck. The prison doors opened, and all the prisoners' chains fell off. The jailer thought everyone had escaped and wanted to harm himself, but Paul stopped him and said no one had run away **(Acts 16:25-28)**.

The jailer saw that Paul and Silas were special to God and that they cared for him. He was touched by their kindness and asked them, **"What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30).** When people see that God blesses us and that we truly love them, they will be open to hearing about Jesus.

Paul and Silas answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." (Acts 16:31)

God made us in His image and gave us the freedom to choose. Even though we didn't choose to be born, we can choose to be saved. God's way of saving people is **through faith in Jesus Christ.** Peter also remembered what Jesus said: **"John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 11:16)** The Bible says that **those who believe in Jesus will receive the Holy Spirit (John 7:39)**. If we truly believe in Jesus, we will be baptised in water and filled with the Holy Spirit.

If we want our family to be saved, the head of the house must show the way. Like Joshua said: **"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)** God told about Abraham: **"I have chosen him so he will teach his children and family to follow the Lord by doing what is right." (Genesis 18:19)** We must also teach our children and family the way of the Lord.

Can we pray and praise God even when we are suffering? Do we live in a way that shows others we are blessed and that we care about them? Are we good role models for our family and teaching them how to follow Jesus?

He Said It! He Will Do It!

Ezekiel 36:36 says, **"Then the nations… shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted that which was desolate. I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it."**

Friends, our God is a rehabilitation expert. He doesn't run from ruins. He runs to them. He doesn't avoid the desolate**. He plants life there.** Israel was broken when God spoke these words through Ezekiel. The land was barren, the people hopeless. **But God said, "I will rebuild… I will plant… I will do it!"**

Jesus carried that same heart when He walked this earth. He said in **Mark 2:17, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."** Only the sick need the doctor, and only the broken need the Builder.

Look at His family line and you will see that promise alive. **Tamar** carried the sting of injustice and the weight of disgrace, yet God restored her dignity and wrote her into the Messiah's story. **Rahab** lived under the shadow of her past in a city marked for destruction, yet one act of faith brought her into God's covenant people. **Ruth** was a foreign widow with no future, yet God rebuilt her life into a royal heritage.

Taking **Psalms 126:1** into consideration, each knew what it was to be shamed and what it was to be restored. Their humiliation became honour, their disgrace became a dream.

Friends, maybe you've been told your story is too messy, your past too stained, your hope too far gone. **But if you're sick in soul, the Doctor here. If your life's in ruins, the Builder is here.** You will be a testimony for His Glory.

The Cost Of Following Jesus

We know from Scripture that **salvation is a free gift that Jesus offers to those who trust and believe in Him.** But just because our salvation is free, it doesn't mean the rest of our lives with Jesus will cost us nothing as well.

Jesus says that **following Him will cost us everything.** This doesn't mean we have to earn our salvation or work for acceptance, but it does mean that following Jesus requires everything that we have. When we become disciples of Jesus, **we follow in His footsteps.** We let Jesus teach and guide us. If we are serious about this, then our lives will become patterned after His life. This means that just as Jesus took up a cross and gave up everything He had, **we also must be ready to carry our own cross.**

So what does it mean to take up a cross and follow Jesus? It means that we should be ready to give up everything for the sake of Jesus. It means denying ourselves by surrendering our own desires and plans to God's desires and plans. Rather than focusing on ourselves, we centre our lives around God's mission in the world: loving Him and loving others as we make disciples.

Taking up one's cross isn't easy, **but there is nothing in this life that is better than following Jesus.** While immediate pleasure often feels more desirable in the moment, it quickly fades and leaves us searching for more. No possession or position can lead to true satisfaction in life that is **found only in Jesus.**

Take a moment to think about your life. Are there things that you're holding onto that you would be hesitant to surrender to Jesus? Are there relationships that serve your own desires rather than God's? Commit to following Jesus regardless of how difficult or challenging life might become. **The cross, while painful, is temporary; abundant life with Jesus is eternal.**

True Beauty

In God's infinite wisdom and creativity, He has crafted magnificent things: watercolour sunsets, awe-inspiring mountains, turquoise oceans, and beautiful people. **Proverbs 31** is a well-known chapter in the Bible about a God-fearing, hard-working, generosity-driven woman.

Interestingly, **Proverbs 31** was written by a man, specifically King Lemuel, although it's technically advice from his mother that he shared when he was king. Something that's not obvious in non-Hebrew languages is that verses 10-31 actually make up an acrostic poem, each verse beginning with one of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, successively working their way from **aleph to tau (from beginning to end).**

Toward the climax of the chapter, the author writes: **"Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." Proverbs 31:30**

Deep down, we know this to be true, don't we?

No matter how charming or beautiful someone is, we know that beauty is fleeting. We know that charm will not last. We know that the ageing process will eventually run its course. But there's barely any mention of this woman's physical beauty; instead, the focus is on her character, on this woman who fears the Lord. An earlier Proverb explains that **"the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10),** the humble realisation that anything good and wise and pure and true must have come from Him.

So if you know a woman like that one who loves and respects God, one who honours and cares for people, one who invests wisely and lives purposefully, you might take a moment to thank God for her life. You might even consider how you can be more like her … **as she aims to be more like Him.**

The Greater Light

From the gentle sun rays that break through your window in the morning to the headlights that guide you on your way home at night, light is essential to life. Yet, there is a greater Light than any physical light we know…

In **Isaiah 60:1,** the prophet speaks of this greater Light. And his words are more than poetry and prophecy; they are a call to action, an encouragement for God's people to find hope, Light, in the midst of darkness (Isaiah 59:9-10)

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." Isaiah 60:1

This Light is a beacon of hope, the picture of salvation and spiritual awakening. **This Light is the true Light, the Messiah Jesus Christ.** He is the light God's people needed then **(Isaiah 59:9-10),** and **He is the light our hearts desperately need today.**

In a world that can sometimes feel like it's drowning in darkness, disasters, wars, injustice, and suffering, Isaiah's message is an invitation to embrace God's true Light of salvation, revealed in the New Testament to be Jesus Christ. Let this light shine brightly within you, driving out the shadows of darkness and illuminating the path for those who don't yet have this Light.

Pause for a moment. Imagine a world filled with the light of God's love and truth. Can you imagine a place where the light of Christ shines from the windows of every home and lights up every street?

God wants to use you, **yes, you, to shine His light.** Share His message of hope with somebody today!

Shining The Light Of Jesus

Have you ever walked from a dark room into an extremely bright space? Light has incredible power over our senses, and sometimes it can be overwhelming. **But light is necessary for us to live.** Light tells us about reality. It illuminates things around us.

In **Matthew 5,** Jesus uses various light metaphors to describe the life of a disciple. He says that His disciples are like a city built on a hill that shines light into the valley **(Matthew 5:14)**. He also says we're like a lamp that gives light to a whole house **(Matthew 5:15).** The life of a disciple of Jesus is meant to be like that of light that shines brightly for others to see. So what is the light that we have?

First and foremost, it is the message of the Gospel. We have been given knowledge of what Jesus has done for us, and it's that knowledge that changes everything. **We now have a new life because of Him.** We've been entrusted with this message so that we can share it with others. The message and hope of Jesus is a bright light that illuminates reality.

Jesus also says that **people recognise our light through our good deeds.** When we go out of our way to love others, **we are showing them the light and love of Jesus.** Actions that help others open up opportunities for us to share the hope of Jesus.

There are many ways that you have been equipped in life to share the message of Jesus with others. It might be at work, with your neighbours, with someone in your community, or with your own family. It might be through an act of love, a financial gift, an encouraging word, or a random act of kindness, but everything you do should be accompanied by the message of the gospel.

Without **love**, our actions are meaningless. The most illuminating act of all is **loving people like Jesus,** so that they might know Him. Today, **consider how you can be a light to those around you in how you love.**

A Reminder Of God's Goodness

Nahum's letter to the people of Judah, in the southern part of Israel, is both a **call for repentance and a letter of judgment.** The northern tribes had already been exiled to Assyria, and the unfaithfulness of Judah was also leading them into exile.

A lot is happening in Judah at this time. It's an era of national turmoil. The people have been unfaithful. But rather than focusing on the surrounding dangers or the cultural pressures, Nahum points the people back to the character of God, which never changes.

Nahum reminds us that **God is good.** Even though the world around Israel was changing rapidly, their God remained the same. He is always good. In the midst of every circumstance, **we can trust that God will never change but will always desire what is good for us.**

Nahum continues to **remind us that God is a refuge in the midst of difficult times.** Because God is all-powerful, He can protect you from the dangers of this world. But even when you face hard things, He will be there to help you get through them.

Lastly, Nahum tells us that **God cares for those who trust in Him.** As you put your trust in God, He cares for and watches over your soul. While it can be difficult to trust God in uncertain times, Scripture tells us that it is the only way to true security.

Take some time today to consider your own life and the circumstances you're in. Whether your situation is a good one or a bad one, remember these three truths: **God is good. God is your refuge. God cares for you when you trust in Him.**

Created To Love Others

When we believe in Jesus and live our lives following after Him, we get to experience His grace and mercy every day! We get to walk in new life and new ways of thinking about God's creation and our place in it. Not to mention, **we can rest knowing we are God's own children!**

But it can be just as easy to live life thinking only of ourselves and the good things we have received. **Jesus spent most of His ministry helping and assisting others,** but if we're being honest, and Jesus was always honest, too, most of us tend to be **selfish with God's gifts, or ignore opportunities to serve the weak or needy in our everyday lives.**

As Paul was speaking to the leaders at the church in Ephesus in **Acts 20:35,** he made sure to remind them that his life had not been about himself, **but about helping others.** Paul says that everything he has done has been about helping those who are weak and in need. Paul didn't say these things to boast about himself; he said them to point back to Jesus as the truest example of love.

While the Christian faith is certainly about loving God, **it is also about loving others.** It is about using our new life in Christ to bring positive change to the lives of others, the same positive change Christ brought about in us. Jesus said that when we use our lives to help others, we end up even more blessed. **It is always more blessed to give to others than to receive for ourselves.**

Take some time to consider the way your own life has been blessed by others. Then, write down a few ways that you can begin to help others who are in need. What practical ways can you bless those in your neighbourhood, work, or school? **Begin to build a habit of being a blessing to others.**

Holy Is His Name

Have you ever found yourself feeling uncertain in life or weighed down by your circumstances? In times like these, it can feel almost impossible to praise the Lord for all He has done.

Life's trials can often cloud our vision, making it difficult to see past our present struggles. Mary's declaration in Luke isn't solely about her blessings; **it's a testament to the unchanging character of God.** Despite her uncertainties and forthcoming challenges, she found the strength to proclaim the greatness of God and the holiness of His name:

"For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name." Luke 1:49

Even when we don't have all the answers, we can declare, **"Holy is his name."** Even when we're faced with hardships threatening to steal our praise, we can declare, **"Holy is his name."** Even when the weight of fear presses down on us, we can declare, **"Holy is his name."**

Our declaration, like Mary's, is rooted in the belief that **God's faithfulness remains unwavering.** The belief in God's faithfulness strengthens our resolve to glorify Him, especially in the midst of uncertainty.

So, take a moment today to recall the "great things" the Mighty One has done for you. As you do, pray that your heart may be stirred to praise His holy name, remembering that He has done great things not just for others but for you, too.

Living Beyond Worry

“Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”- Matthew 6:34. Many struggle with this command from Jesus: Do not worry. Though not among the Ten Commandments, it remains clear. God isn’t asking us to ignore reality. He is asking us to trust Him fully. He assures us in His Word: **“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.** This means nothing in our lives happens outside His will. Our role is to stay still, trust His promises, and rest in His faithfulness.

As humans, we often respond to problems with anxiety. Our flesh is weak, but God’s Spirit strengthens, comforts, and reminds us of His presence. The Apostle Paul tells us: “**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”- Philippians 4:6**. Worry changes nothing; it only magnifies problems. Prayer changes everything, placing our burdens in God’s hands. Trials have a purpose, like Job, who lost everything yet worshipped God and was later blessed even more.

The Christian life is not promised to be an easy road. Jesus Himself said: “**But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”- Matthew 7:14.** This means our path differs from the world’s. We are called to endure trials, carry our cross daily, and live by faith, not sight. So when worry arises, remember Jesus’ words: **“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”- Matthew 6:26**

If God cares for the birds, how much more for His children? Don’t let tomorrow’s worries steal today’s peace. Every trial is part of His plan. Trust Him, praise Him, and rest in His promise. **He is in control.**

Called To Be Different

Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." We keep running behind everything that the world puts us in, and this verse makes us rethink something. Do we rely on the spirit for our guidance, or are we getting carried away by the whims and fancies of the world? Let's think about it ourselves.

The thing that everyone lacks is a **spirit-led guidance** to achieve those successes. Children of God intend to follow a kind of set pattern of the world to achieve what they desire, yet they fail to achieve it. We fail to take on the path that God shows, thinking that it might be harder compared to the ones others take. God sets us on a path different from others to test us for a better result that we are about to receive. The path might be different, but the result will be mightier than what others receive.

This modern world sees human beings running behind the desires of the world, and there are even people who boast about their caste in this society. God did not see us differently; it's the people. As in **1 Timothy 6.11 - "But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness"**, let us stand as "The Difference" in this world. Let us uphold boldly what it means to be the man or woman of God in this world that needs a difference.

Let us pray. Dear father, we have been seeing how this world has changed. People are going behind the desires of the world, Lord. Help us to stand and **make a difference in showing what it means to be a Man or Woman of God.**

Seeking God In Every Chaos

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You.” – Isaiah 26:3

The news can feel overwhelming these days. Around the globe, people are facing devastating floods, raging war, landslides, conflicts, and persecution. Nations groan, families mourn, and hearts are weighed down by grief and fear. **In times like these, it’s natural to wonder: Where is God?**

Scripture reminds us that He is not absent. **He is “near to the brokenhearted” and attentive to the cries of the desperate (Psalm 34:18).** Even when the world shakes around us, **God’s presence remains unshaken. His promises still stand.**

Isaiah 26:3 speaks of a perfect peace, a deep inner calm that doesn’t depend on circumstances but on God Himself. This peace is not a denial of hardship, but confidence in God’s sovereignty. It comes when our minds are steadfastly anchored not in headlines or fears, but in the unchanging character of the One who holds the world in His hands.

In the middle of chaos, God’s invitation is clear: **Seek Me.** When we shift our gaze from our circumstances to our Saviour, we find that His peace guards our hearts. His nearness strengthens us to endure, to comfort others, and to hope beyond what we see.

May we choose today to trust Him. For though nations shake, **His kingdom is unshakable.**

The Gulf Of The World & His Word

The Gulf of Alaska is where two vast waterbodies meet, the largest Pacific Ocean and the smallest Arctic Ocean. Although they meet there, they don't mix due to their differences in density, salinity, purity, etc. The Arctic Ocean emerges from the melting of pure glaciers and supports a rich ecosystem, and increases its productivity. Despite being exposed to variable climatic conditions and multiple other factors in the **Gulf of Alaska, it doesn't get mixed up with the Pacific Ocean.**

Similarly, Jesus descended from His throne above to redeem us all and bless us. **Matthew 9:13 says, "For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."** Although He came to call us (sinners) and lived in the midst of sinners, he never mixed up with them and sinned. **Till the end, he was sinless and blameless.**

As children of God, though we face trials, we must remain blameless like our Father and avoid sin, which separates us from Him. Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life, connects us to God while serving sinners with love. Adam and Eve faced one apple, but **today there are countless temptations, including modern distractions, testing our faith.**

But He says, in the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world **(John 16:33).** Only if we endure these tribulations till the end, we shall be saved **(Matthew 24:13).** So it will be at the end of the age, the angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just **(Matthew 13:49).**

Let us watch and pray so that we will not fall into temptation **(Matthew 26:41)** and hold on to our God and His words, and bind them to our hearts **(Proverbs 6:21)** and let us not run out of oil in our lamps even unto the end of the world, until our bridegroom arrives **(Matthew 25)** for heaven and earth will pass away and even the seas will be no more **(Revelation 21:1)** but His words will remain! Amen.

Christ Alone: Our Way Back Home

In **John 14:1-14,** Jesus speaks tenderly yet firmly to His disciples, who are shaken by the news of His coming departure. His call to them is not just to simply "be happy," but rather **"be brave."** Faith in Christ does not shield us from hardship, but it steadies us through it. Jesus assures them that His leaving is not abandonment, it is preparation. He goes to prepare a place for us, and at the same me He prepares us for that place. Heaven is not heaven because of pearly gates, or golden streets or even the angelic choirs. **It is because Jesus is there.** Our eternal hope is not a location, but a Person. When Thomas struggled to understand, Jesus responded with one of His most profound I AM statements: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." The path to God is not found in a map, a ritual, or a philosophy, but in a relationship with Christ Himself.

Are you lost? Jesus is the way.

Are you confused? Jesus is the truth.

You feel empty? Jesus is the life.

There is no other way to God. To see Christ is to see the Father. His words, His works, reveal the very heart of God to humanity. The beauty of the gospel is that it is for all people. Slave or free, rich or poor, man or woman, every culture and tongue is welcomed, yet all must come on the common ground of Christ. To step away from Him is to step away from life itself. **Are we following Him daily,** or wandering after our own paths? **Are we submitting to His Word,** or shaping truth to fit our desires? **Are we living in His Spirit,** or merely existing in our own strength? Jesus is not an option among many. He is everything. The question is, do we live as though that is true?

Praise Like A Sustained Note

“I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!” (Ps 34:1-3).

David’s vow is not a mood but a discipline, a sustained note that refuses to waver when circumstances bend the soul. Praise at all means doesn’t deny pain. It refuses to let pain have the final word. It is the noble expression of faith in every season, good or bad.

Concurrent praise requires focus. Distractions dilute worship like noise signals in the output of a sound mixer. David’s invitation to **“magnify the LORD with me”** is a call to turn the dial of our hearts un l God is in clear focus and everything else finds its smaller place.

This kind of praise is persevering. It stretches, like a held tone that grows more beautiful as breath steadies and muscles learn endurance. Praise teaches us to keep our eyes on the Conductor when storms shake the stage. We are not pretending. We are practising reality: God is worthy now. He has not changed. He remains holy, wise, and near. To bless Him “at all mes” is to stake our iden ty on His constancy, not our conditions.

What breaks your sustained note? Busyness, complaint, scrolling, fear? If your praise has become a whisper, ask the Spirit to strengthen your breath. Will you let praise be your first habit, not your last resort?

When Fear Knocks, Keep Knocking on Heaven's Door

"I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears" (Ps 34:4). The word for "**sought**" carries the meaning of persistence, like someone who keeps knocking. David didn't send a casual text to heaven; he kept at it. And God did not leave him **"on read."** He answered promptly, personally, powerfully. Fear often dresses as wisdom. It says, "Be realistic," when it really means, "Expect abandonment."

But David's testimony contradicts Fear's prophecy. **God's deliverance is not always the removal of danger;** it is the presence of God within it. **He straightens our inner life away from panic and back toward trust.**

Seeking like this is not performance; it is an achievement. To cry out like a child who knows a parent will come running. The Father is not irritated by your need. He is moved by it. **He wraps us up in his arms and makes his peace to dwell in us.** Name your fear specifically. Don't baptise it with respectable language. Where is it steering your decisions, silencing your praise, or shrinking your obedience?

Turn to a persevering prayer, seek the Lord in all honesty and rawness. Keep knocking. Refuse resignation. **Are you ready to treat prayer as persistence, not a polite ping?**

Radiant and Unashamed: Looking Upward, Not

“Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed” (Ps 34:5).

Radiance is not a reflection from the application of cosmetics. It is communion. When the gaze of the soul rests on the Lord, something of His light rests on our face. Shame drains colour; God’s presence restores it.

Shame says, “Hide.” The very first response of Adam and Eve when they sinned was to hide. But God’s word says, **“Lift up your face.”** To look to Him is to trade self-inspection for **God-attention.** Just as Moses’ face shone after meeting with God, our confidence and outlook light up when we behold Christ. Humility doesn’t mean averting the eyes; **it means fixing them on the only worthy One.**

This radiance is resilient. It does not flicker with every comment or failure because its source does not flicker. God’s nearness does not diminish; His aura of faithfulness surrounds those who seek Him. What keeps your eyes glued to yourself, comparison, regret, secret sin, constant mirrors of social approval? What feeds your shame, a certain account, a nightly mental replay, a defensive phrase?

Replace it with a beholding habit: a psalm aloud, a simple breath prayer, “**Jesus, I look to You.**” Will you live face-up today, or keep borrowing darkness?

The Cry That Moves Heaven

“This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles” (Ps 34:6).

Babies don’t make eloquent requests; they cry. And the mother runs. **God never relents to wrap us up by hands** in that kind of undressed dependence. The prayer He hears is not the most poetic but the most surrendered. Poverty of spirit is not self-contempt. It is truthfulness: I do not have what I need in myself. **When we stop posturing, rescue accelerates.** God does not despise our desperation; He dignifies it. Bartimaeus cried out louder when he heard that Jesus was passing by. And he won’t be silenced by the scoldings of the people who tried to shut him down by breaking his confidence. And Jesus stopped to his cries.

He stops to our raw, heartfelt prayers also. His knowledge of our anguish is not clinical. He is present, attentive, and kind. While we scramble for control, He is already at work. **Salvation** may come by changing circumstances, but it always begins by **changing the heart from fear to trust, despair to hope.**

Where are you too proud to cry out? What pain have you renamed as “manageable”? Drop the script. Take me today to pray out loud, simply and honestly, as a child in need. No polish, no performance. Will you keep pretending, or will you be poor enough to be heard?

Grace: God's Encampment Around Us

"The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them" (Ps 34:7).

Protection in God's kingdom is not an occasional visit; it is a stationed presence. The camp is already set, the perimeter drawn, the banner raised with God's own signature.

Before you woke up today, heaven had posted sentries. We are quick to build our own fortresses, reputation, control, savings, and sarcasm. But God's encampment is better.

Think of **Elijah** under God's shade in the wilderness or **Jonah** learning the lesson under a plant: the Lord knows how to shelter the exposed.

To fear God is to trust His authority more than our improvisations. It is to step inside His camp and stop pacing the fence. Which self-protections are you clinging to? What are things in which you say, "I've got me": withholding generosity, over-planning, and relational distance. Lay it down before Jesus and replace it with obedience.

Pray, "Lord, teach me to live inside Your camp." Will you stay in your flimsy bunker, or rest within His encircling guard?

Discovering The Goodness Of God

“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him” (Ps 34:8).

Faith is not only an abstract concept for weak people to get a sense of feeling strong. **It is an absolute experience.**

Tasting means discerning, distinguishing, like someone who can describe the texture, flavour, not just its name.

God is not sampled by theory but **by trust.** He is **graciously good.** The generous favour that lifted Esther before a king, Xerxes, now welcomes the humble before the King of kings. Refuge is not passive hiding; it is decisive movement toward God.

Those who seek Him **“lack no good thing,”** even when outward resources feel thin.

Young lions, symbols of self-sufficiency, sometimes go hungry. Those who belong to the Lord learn a different appetite and a different supply.

What lesser tastes have dulled your discernment of the late, constant novelty, complaints, sugary sins that spike and crash? It’s me to Will you keep nibbling at emptiness, or truly taste, and see?

Peace Prevailed

“Come, children, listen to me… Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it” (Ps 34:11-14).

The God who delivers also disciples. Rescue leads to responsibility. Worship must shape words. Speech can bruise the body of Christ or bind up its wounds. Deceit may be outright lies or subtle edits that make us look better.

Peace is not passive; it must be pursued, chased down like something precious that tends to run.

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous; He bends toward those who fear Him. Our mouths either join His purposes or resist them. Audit your words. Where did sarcasm replace truth? Where did silence avoid peace-making? What’s that one relationship needing repair?

Initiate today: confess without excuses, tell the truth without spin, and do one concrete good. **“Seek peace, pursue it.”** Will you let your tongue steer your life toward ruin, or submit it to the Lord who listens?

Close To The Broken-Hearted

“The LORD is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit…..The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.” (Psalm 34:18–22)

God’s nearness is not deterred by our fractures. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, **but the Lord delivers him out of them all.** He keeps all his bones; not one is broken. In Christ, this promise reaches its fullest meaning; in our lives, it becomes steady courage.

Suffering is not proof of God’s absence; it is an arena for His faithful presence. He redeems His servants. None who takes refuge in Him will be condemned. The verdict over your life is already rendered in mercy. **Nearness does not remove all pain, but it removes forsakenness.** We are held while we heal.

David doesn’t sugarcoat it: righteous people suffer. Faith does not exempt us from pain; **it often exposes us to more.** Yet woven into the admission is an unshakable promise: **God’s deliverance is certain. His keeping is real.** Brokenness becomes the soil of redemption, not the end of the story. God redeems His servants from despair, darkness, and even death. We often pray for fewer afflictions. But perhaps the greater prayer is for deeper trust.

Where do you find the moment of “Am I letting this suffering define me, or am I trusting God to redeem me through it?” Where has pain become your interpreter of God? Pray Psalm 34 back to Him slowly and ask for one act of obedience you’ve postponed because of pain. Don’t let affliction define you. **Let the Near One lead you through it.**

Nothing Goes Unnoticed

“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

Have you ever felt invisible, like no one really notices the effort you put in, the sacrifices you make, or the struggles you carry silently? Sometimes we long for someone to see and understand. **Proverbs 15:3** reminds us that **God does. His eyes are everywhere,** watching, not in a harsh or condemning way, **but with loving attention.**

This truth can feel sobering because it means **He also sees the things we’d rather hide, our mistakes, selfish thoughts, or careless words.** Yet, it’s not meant to crush us with guilt. Instead, it’s an invitation to **live honestly before Him.** We don’t need to wear masks with God. He knows us completely and loves us still.

And what a comfort that is. When you choose kindness but no one thanks you, **God sees.** When you resist a temptation but no one knows the battle you fought, **God sees.** When tears fall silently on your pillow, **He sees and cares.**

Nothing about your life goes unnoticed.

So let this verse encourage you today: **you are never unseen, never forgotten, never alone.** God’s eyes are on you in love, guiding you back when you wander, and cheering you on when you choose His way.

God Makes A Way

Does God always make a way?

The Bible tells us that **God will make a way** where there seems to be no other way. The people of Israel weren't always obedient to God, and sometimes they forgot their love for Him. There were times when they even forgot all the miracles that God performed for them on their behalf!

But **God always made a way** for Israel when it seemed there was no other way for them to be saved as a nation from their enemies. But God…….. **I love those two words, 'But God'!**

God stepped into impossible situations for many people that we read about throughout the Bible, and He made a way for them. And just as God made a way for Israel, **He will make a way** for each of us in our situations.

God is a way maker

God is our way maker. **God is working behind the scenes** in our lives, and He has a good plan and a purpose for each of us.

You might not see Him at work yet, but just trust that God is making a way through the wilderness, and He promises to make rivers in your desert to **refresh you and sustain you.** God promises to make a way through the storms of your life and to pave a pathway through the mighty waters that threaten to overwhelm you.

Way maker, miracle worker

Promise keeper, light in the darkness

My God, that is who You are!!!

Godly Sorrow vs. Worldly Sorrow

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."-(2 Corinthians - 7: 10)

So my reflection for this verse is to first understand and differentiate the difference between the Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow.

Paul distinguishes two forms of sorrow: Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow. It's crucial to understand the distinctions between these two. Paul highlights their respective outcomes. Godly sorrow produces **repentance**, **leading to salvation without regret.** Conversely, worldly sorrow results in spiritual death, eternal separation from God.

When David commits adultery with Bathsheba and he is grieving over his sin. He's crying out for God's mercy because he knows he has sinned, not just against this woman and her husband, but against God. "**Against you, you only, have I sinned," he says in (Psalm 51).** So he acknowledges his sin, he grieves over his sin, and it produces a repentance that leads to salvation. He turns from his sin because he knows he needs salvation.

But worldly grief makes you idle and stagnant. You don't change. You don't grow. You don't fight against the deeds of the flesh. Instead, you ruminate on your mistakes and obsess about what people opinions. If the only reason we are sorry for what we have done is because we were caught or because we do not like the consequences that we must experience, then our regret and guilt are going to lead to death. This sorrow is not going to bring us to God. You are going to remain separated from God in your sins.

Being A Witness

I think it was Thursday, July 17, 2025. I wrote about how God led us even when we didn't have the money. This testimony was published in the Seed and Soil August edition on August 8, 2025.

That same evening, when I reached home, mummy showed me a message saying that the money had come. That's the God whom we serve! What's big in this might be a question in your mind?

On my birthday, I prayed to God to give me a word for this year, and He gave me **Acts 22:15: "For you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard."** And now, I am truly being that witness of how God can lead us even when we have nothing, and how He can use us even though we are just dust and not as talented as others.

In the same way, I want you all to take a moment and think back on how God has been leading you, from the smallest things to the biggest challenges. **The waves that rose against you did not crush you; the winds that blew against you did not toss you away.** That itself is a testimony of how much God loves you, values you, and protects you.

So, I would like to encourage you all: don't focus on what you don't have; instead, think about what you do have, and you have **Jesus Himself.** What more could you ever need than that? Have faith in Him, surrender yourself to Him, and run your race for Him. He will make everything happen at the right time.

The Lord whom we serve is greater than any situation we face.

Easy To love?

It is easy to love someone good on the inside-out, who loves God and stands up for Him, who serves others as Jesus did while He was still here on earth.

But it takes a lot to love the husband who cheated on his wife, it takes a lot to forgive that friend who spread filthy rumours about you, it takes a lot to have mercy on that criminal who abducts children, never to come back home. It takes a lot to love back Jesus when you know that you've put Him down and rejected His calling.

Thank God, that's not the end of who we all can be!. **Romans 5:8** says, **"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."** If He didn't think twice to give His life for me and you, how can we not show love, mercy and forgiveness to others, which we ourselves have received????.

In **I John 4:19, "We love Him because He first loved us".** That's why we can choose to love Jesus. And choose to ..." **I John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."**

Therefore, as children of God, let us reflect His love by showing it to others, just as we have received it through Christ, for **God is love.**

The Greatest Expression Of Love

The story of Abraham and Isaac in **Genesis 22** is a powerful illustration of God's love and sacrifice. When God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, Abraham obeyed, **trusting that God would provide a way out.** And indeed, God did.

A ram caught in the bushes became the substitute for Isaac, and Abraham was able to spare his son.

This foreshadows the ultimate sacrifice that God made centuries later. Just as the ram became a substitute for Isaac, **Jesus became our substitute on the cross.**

He took upon Himself the punishment for our sins, dying in our place so that we might have eternal life.

But here's the best part- **God stopped Abraham from sacrificing his own son, yet He did not hold back from sacrificing His beloved Son Jesus, for the sins of humanity.** This reveals the depth of God's love for us.

He was willing to give up His own Son to save us from our sins. **Do we realise the depth of God's love,** and are we thankful for the salvation He has given us?

Set Free

How often do we try to do good or do what God wills, and yet end up failing? **I find myself in a loop, deciding to follow Jesus, but falling again and again.** Instead of living in freedom, I get stuck in fear: fear of making mistakes, fear of not getting things right. I long to live a holy life, but when I fail, I don't want to face it.

During those times, my prayers were: 'Lord, I want to follow You, but why isn't it happening? Why do I keep falling back instead of moving forward?' I was trapped in fear, striving in my own strength, yet ending up exhausted and discouraged. Similarly, each of us has some bondage or loop we are caught in, something we want freedom from, yet we keep repeating it. Can we be set free? If yes, how can we be set free?

Most people define freedom as the choice to do whatever we want. **But that is not true freedom**; it actually makes us slaves to sin, and sin leads to death. On the other hand, the **Bible teaches that true freedom is the ability to live for God (Romans 6).**

But here's the truth: in our own strength in our flesh, we cannot achieve this freedom. I have tried, and I failed. It is only through Jesus Christ that we find true freedom. In Christ, our Lord and Saviour, we are empowered to say no to sin. And when we stumble, **His all-sufficient grace is present** when we confess, **He forgives us** and lovingly reminds us that **He still has a plan and purpose for our lives.**

On the cross, Jesus died for all our sins to deliver us from:

- ***The punishment of sin (past)***
- ***The power of sin (present)***
- ***The presence of sin (future)***

Therefore, in Christ, we are set free to serve God and to love others. If you desire to go deeper into what this freedom in Christ means, I encourage you to take **time to read and meditate on Romans 6, 7, and 8, allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to you.**

Finding Peace in Giving

Exams are often a season of anxiety, those moments when your mind races with unspoken fears, regrets about what you could have done differently, and the nagging voices that whisper, **"You're never going to finish this." It can feel draining, lonely, and even isolating.** Sometimes, in that heaviness, you don't want to do anything for anyone else; you just want someone to notice your struggle, comfort you, and give you hope.

I've been there. I've expected others to lift me, only to be disappointed when they didn't. But in one of those low moments, I stumbled upon **Matthew 7:12:**

"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you."

That verse caught me off guard. Instead of waiting for others to meet my needs, **God was calling me to step out and be what I was longing for. If I wanted encouragement, I should encourage. If I needed kindness, I should show kindness. If I longed for care, I should extend care.**

It wasn't easy because giving when you feel empty seems impossible. But I discovered something beautiful: when I obeyed, **He gave me strength I didn't have on my own.** He filled my cup with His peace. And in giving, **I found myself receiving something deeper: His presence and joy.**

This verse reminded me that God never asks me to pour from my own emptiness; **He pours into me first so I can overflow into others.** And in the process, my own heart is refreshed.

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