

## **Thought for the Day 2010**

### **Followers of Jesus (Facebook)**

#### **1 May**

##### **Draw near to God**

*James 4:8 'Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.'*

This is a promise.

How much we experience the presence of God depends upon how close we draw near to Him.  
We do not need to plead with God to help us in difficult times,  
...we need to come close to Him and He will come close to us.

#### **2 May**

##### **Grace of God working**

*2 Corinthians 12:9 'And he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.'*

The grace of God is the power of Christ working in our life.

His power will be seen in us when we learn to trust in Him and not in ourselves.  
Whenever the Holy Spirit leads, He also strengthens and empowers.

#### **3 May**

##### **Faith and Love**

*Ephesians 1:15 '...I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints'.*

Paul always desired to see two things in the churches, faith and love.  
Faith rests in the Lord Jesus and everything He has done for us, and  
...love responds to this in our actions to others.

#### **4 May**

##### **Christ dwelling in our hearts**

*Ephesians 3:17 'That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith'.*

Christ is to dwell continuously in our hearts, which is the innermost part of our being.  
Our heart is the place where we worship the Lord; it is the Lord's temple.  
The desires of our heart are expressions of worship to the Lord in His temple.

#### **5 May**

##### **Humility**

*1 Peter 5:5 '...be clothed with humility: for God resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble.'*

The roots of humility are planted in greatness not weakness.  
Humility means to have a low opinion of ourselves.  
It is to be the clothing or outward adorning of the Christian.  
We can take the lowest place because our boast is in Christ, and not in ourselves.

#### **6 May**

##### **Do all things heartily**

*Colossians 3:23 'And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;'*

The smallest thing is important when it is done for the Lord, and  
...we should do it with all our heart.

The world will only see that Christ dwells in us through our actions, and  
...how we do things is the outward expression of our love for the Lord.

## **7 May**

### **Life of Christ in us**

*John 15:5 'I am the vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing.'*

It is the life of the vine that produces fruit, and  
...it is the life of Christ in us that produces the fruit of the Spirit.  
Love, joy, peace will appear as we learn to let His life flow through us.

## **8 May**

### **Run for the prize**

*Philippians 3:14 'I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.'*

The disciple of Christ is like an athlete who runs to win the prize.  
His or her eyes are fixed on the goal regardless of difficulties and trials.  
The prize to be won is more than gold; it is the reward of bringing glory to Christ Jesus.

## **9 May**

### **Supernatural love**

*1 John 3:16 'By this we know the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.'*

This is love that goes beyond having reasonable care and consideration for others.  
It is supernatural love; the love of Christ.  
We are known as the disciples of Christ by this love.

## **10 May**

### **Be gentle**

*2 Timothy 2:24 'And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all, able to teach, patient'.*

We can be wrong even when we are right.  
The bad taste of a quarrel or fight can last a lifetime.  
It does not honour the Lord.  
Servants of the Lord Jesus Christ must be gentle at all times so that His character is seen in us.

## **11 May**

### **Word of Christ**

*Colossians 3:16 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;'*

In this verse the scriptures are called the word of Christ.  
If we love Christ, we will love His word.  
If we desire Christ, we will desire His word.  
If we walk in close relationship with Christ then our hearts will be filled with His word.

## **May 12**

### **Be tender hearted**

*Ephesians 4:32 'And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.'*

The desire for revenge will make our hearts hard.  
We must keep our hearts tender; always ready to show mercy.  
How much we forgive others shows how much we love the One who has forgiven us.

## **May 13 (Ascension Day)**

### **Jesus will return**

*Acts 1:11 'This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven.'*

The same Jesus who ascended shall return.  
This is the reason we can have joy in all circumstances.  
One day we shall see the King in His glory, and we shall be with Him forever.

## **May 14**

### **Justified by faith**

*Romans 5:1 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ'.*

A guilty person can never be justified.  
Yet the scripture says we are justified in Christ.  
The miracle of the gospel is that in Christ we have been made a completely new creation.  
The old is gone, crucified with Christ. New life has come.

## **May 15**

### **Approved of God**

*2 Timothy 2:15 'Be diligent to show yourself approved unto God, a workman who needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.'*

The Lord seeks workers who will faithfully serve Him;  
...those who desire His approval more than the praise and recognition of others; and  
...those who will truly love and obey His word.

## **May 16**

### **Love for countrymen**

*Romans 9:3 'For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:'*

Paul overflowed with the love of Christ for his own countrymen.  
He loved them as Christ loved them.  
Christ alone was worthy to be accursed for us.  
Paul's love expresses the heart of an intercessor.

## **May 17**

### **Not in word only**

*1 Corinthians 4:20 'For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.'*

Knowledge of the scriptures is not enough.  
The Holy Spirit must bring the word alive in our hearts and minds.  
The power of the Holy Spirit will be seen working in the lives of those who have received Christ.  
This is the evidence of the kingdom of God.

## **May 18**

### **Victorious Christian**

*2 Corinthians 2:14 'Now thanks be unto God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ'.*

A victorious Christian regards  
...the will of the Lord as more important than personal comforts;  
...is filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit that is not changed by circumstances; and  
...has no desire for self glory but only seeks to glorify Jesus.

## **May 19**

### **New Creation**

*2 Corinthians 5:17 'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.'*

Jesus came to set us free from the bondage of trying to live a better life.  
In Christ we have received new life that develops and grows.  
Discipleship is learning how to walk in it.

## **May 20**

### **Glory in Tribulation**

*Romans 5:3 'And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation works patience;'*

It is in times of difficulty that we learn to rely upon Christ and His strength.  
The word tribulation refers to 'being under pressure'.  
We are able to remain steadfast under pressure because Christ lives in us.

## **May 21**

### **Be not slothful**

*Hebrews 6:12 'That you be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.'*

In this verse the word slothful refers to acting like one who does not have the right of inheritance.  
Don't grow weary.  
In Christ we have been brought into the family of God and His riches are our inheritance.

## **May 22**

### **Unity**

*Acts 2:1 'And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.'*

When the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost the disciples were in unity with one another.  
They loved Christ and were united in their love for Him.  
If we desire to be witnesses to Christ we must also love one another.

## **May 23**

## **Pentecost**

*Acts 2:11 '...we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.'*

The believers on the day of Pentecost were worshipping, but the Holy Spirit led them in worship.  
The Holy Spirit glorified Jesus through them;  
...gave them a new tongue to praise Him; and  
...filled them with boldness to be witnesses declaring Jesus is alive.

## **May 24**

### **Prayer**

*James 5:16 'The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.'*

Prayer is the way God unites His work with us.  
We can pray with confidence knowing Christ lives in us, and  
...we stand not in our own righteousness but in the righteousness of Christ.  
Effective prayer is when the Holy Spirit leads and empowers our prayer.

## **May 25**

### **Grace**

*Titus 3:7 'That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.'*

Grace is something that is freely given, undeserved and brings joy.  
We can never earn grace, and we can never be worthy of grace.  
Our joy is in Jesus Christ who saved us not because we are worthy but because He loved us.

## **May 26**

### **Put on the New Man**

*Ephesians 4:24 'And that you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.'*

New life in Christ is a gift we receive freely, but it is our responsibility to put on the new life every day.  
It is like putting on clothing.  
In Christ we have power over sin, but we must choose daily to live a victorious life.

## **May 27**

### **Cast your anxieties on Him**

*1 Peter 5:7 'Casting all your care upon him; for he cares for you.'*

The same word is used in Luke 19:35 when garments were cast upon a colt that Jesus sat upon.  
We are to cast our anxieties upon the Lord in the same way as this.  
When we cast our anxieties on the Lord, He gives us His wisdom, peace, assurance and joy in return.

## **May 28**

### **The down payment of the Holy Spirit**

*2 Corinthians 1:22 'Who has also sealed us, and given the down payment of the Spirit in our hearts.'*

The life of Christ in us is the seal that sets us apart from the world.  
The Holy Spirit is given to us as the down payment of our full inheritance in Christ.  
He is our guarantee right now that what God has promised He will fulfil.

## **May 29**

### **The Armour of God**

*Ephesians 6:11 'Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the deceitful schemes of the devil.'*

The Christian life is a spiritual warfare.

The enemy seeks to find areas of weakness; we must be protected at all times.

Our armour is Christ, and it is by His word, His strength and His power that we stand.

### **May 30**

#### **Freedom in Christ**

*Galatians 5:1 'Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.'*

We are born free in Christ, and we must stand firm in this freedom.

Holiness can never be achieved by keeping the law.

Holiness is the life of Christ working in us.

Freedom is walking in new life.

### **May 31**

#### **Power to overcome**

*2 Timothy 1:7 'For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.'*

When Christ dwells in us

...we have power to overcome cowardice, timidity and fear;

...we have the love of Christ that overcomes destructive emotions; and

...we have the mind of Christ that overcomes all selfish desires.