



THE
KINGDOM
AT HEART

40 Days Lenten
Meditation & Prayer

Uncompromising start

“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua 24:14-15

At the point when the Israelites crossed over the River Jordan into the Promise Land under the leadership of Joshua, Joshua made the declaration in the Bible passage today. To Israel, it was a new start to a whole new life in entirely new land. The future was before them. But the choice was also theirs to make. If they choose other gods from the start, according to the Covenant they have with God, disaster will come upon them.

You see, God was not “threatening” His people. He merely spelled out the terms of the Covenant, together with the consequences of rebelling against Him and serving Him for them to choose. This coming year of 2019, I sense that God is bringing us to a new start for new things. I sense that He desires to give us “a land on which we did not toil and cities we did not build; and we live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that we did not plant.” (Joshua 24:13).

Therefore, make a conscious choice today – to serve Him only and reject all other gods or things that we have used to substitute God in our lives. Let us determine to get rid of the “idols” we relied on in our lives. For ourselves and our own household, and the household of God’s family, say as Joshua did, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!”

Determine to make an uncompromising start for this year of 2019!

PRAYER

Rejoice! Speak to every godly thing which seems to be “dead” in your life and in this nation, that the power of the Resurrected Christ will come upon them and raise them to life!

Inseparable Love

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:37-39

The major distinction between death and love is that: death separates, but love binds. Death, we know, is the absence of life. The source of life is God, and Jesus is that life from God. When Jesus went to the Cross, it was because of His obedient and submission to the Father’s will. But it was love that kept Him on that Cross!

Death is very powerful. It ends life, and separate man from the source of life. When Jesus was resurrected from the dead, He emphatically defeated death. His resurrection makes it possible for all those who receive Him, who share in His death, to also share in His resurrection – eternal life. If Christ’s Resurrection is so powerful, that it is able to reverse all that death would do to man, the source of His Resurrection must be also so overwhelmingly powerful. The Resurrection of Jesus must be more than the fact He was sinless or that He was obedient to the Father. It was, I believe, His death on the Cross was motivated by love. The Bible passage in Romans tells us that the love of God is in Jesus, and this love is so powerful that nothing can separate us from it.

When we carry out God’s will or command, not merely out of obedience, but also out of love for God, we see supernatural fruitfulness. If the source is powerful, the result also will be powerful. When we do things out of love, we effectively enter into the “love domain”, that makes us “more than conquerors”.

On this coming Resurrection Day, let us commemorate this amazing demonstration of God’s love towards us through the Cross of Jesus. Let us determine to appropriate this Resurrection Power. Let us choose to love Jesus, serve Him and His purposes out of love, not out of obligation.

Happy and blessed Resurrection Day!

PRAYER

List down 3 things which you want to do differently this year. Commit them to the Lord and ask Him to help you to have an uncompromising start.

Promise Land Mentality

“And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.”

Joshua 5:11-12

The children of Israel wondered in the desert for 40 years before entering into Canaan, God’s Promise Land for them. They have been miraculously provided for in the desert when the Lord sent manna, the bread from heaven daily to feed them, except the Sabbath. They had provision of food from God every day without fail.

However, when Israel first crossed over Jordan into Canaan, the day after they have eaten the produce of the land, this miraculous provision of manna ceased. They had to learn how to continue to be fed with the produce in the Promise Land. They were not to rely on manna, handed to them by the grace of God, without having to work for it. They had to cultivate the land, rear livestock on the land, so that they and their children, and their children’s children will continue to have food. They are to rely on God for favourable circumstances for planting and trust Him for harvest.

Manna while it is great, straight from God’s hand, free and easy was but the demonstration of God’s mercy in the midst of judgment – wondering in the desert. Manna is for desert, not for Promise Land. Manna is for the people themselves, could not be stored, could not be preserved for the next day (except collected the day before Sabbath), could not be passed on to others. Not capable of becoming a legacy for future generations.

Crops and livestock, produce of the land is for Promise Land, not for desert. Produce of the land can be multiplied, preserved, passed on to the future generations (land). Its fruitfulness of harvest can be used to bless others, even foreigners. Though it requires hard work on man’s part, it is God who gives the harvest, increase and fruitfulness. An entire ball game, so to speak.

Are you desiring “manna” in your life? Unless you are still wondering in the “desert”, manna is not for you. While in Promise Land, think Promise Land! If you find that manna has stopped in your life, praise the Lord! For He deems you ready and worthy to enter into your Promise Land. Cultivate your Promise Land with the wisdom and gifts He has given you. Trust in the Lord and lean on Him alone. For He will surely prosper the works of your hands and grant you good success. Cheers!

PRAYER

Lift up thanksgivings to the Lord for the healings you or your loved ones have received. Trust Him for the healings that you are seeking. Declare that by the stripes of Jesus, healings are released into every sickness- in spirit, soul and body.

By His stripes

“who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”

I Peter 2:24

Scars are leftovers from wounds. They are evidence of pain and suffering in the past. Some scars though appear to be healed from the outside, still ache on the inside. Scars are also evidence of something has been removed. Recently, I heard of a testimony where a young man prayed for the healing of a woman from tumors in her body. The woman felt a sharp pain in her body when the prayer was going on. She felt something was removed. She discovered after the prayer that a scar appeared on her body that was not there previously. The scar was right over where the tumors were! When she returned to the doctor for a scan, the tumors were completely gone!

During this Holy Week, we remember the extent Jesus had to go through to set us free from the damning consequences of sins. He died in our place, that we might receive forgiveness of sins, no longer condemned to eternal separation from the God who gives us life. He took upon Himself every consequence of sin, including suffering, physical and emotional pain, spiritual bondages, sickness and infirmity. Every stripe He received on His body, He received it in our place. Because of His stripes, healing for us is made possible. Think about it: the Son of God suffered every conceivable pain and suffering that man could possibly experience – physical and emotional abuse, rejection, shame, betrayal, infirmity, etc.

His suffering was real. Those stripes were real. Therefore, the healings which Jesus brings to us are also real. We can experience them. He wants us to have them, so that we know how much He loves us. So that we can, live out our God-given identity and walk in God-given destiny - a life more abundantly!

Jesus died a death that He did not deserve, so that we can live a life that we are not entitled to! That’s amazing grace! That’s love!

PRAYER

What legacy do you want to leave to the next generation? Ask the Lord to help you to sow the right seeds, cultivate them to fruitfulness.

New beginnings, come forth!

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.

Isaiah 46:9-10

Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit- it is better than the proud in spirit.

Ecclesiastes 7:8

The beginning of something new, sometimes also mean the ending of something old. When we declare God’s new beginnings, we must expect and be ready to end the old.

“The Bible speaks of many kinds of beginnings. There’s the beginning of kingdoms, the beginning of strength, the beginning of months and the beginning of the year; the beginning of revenge, the beginning of the watch, the beginning of natural harvests as well as many spiritual harvests; the beginning of places to dwell, beginning of reigns, beginning of wisdom, beginning of knowledge, beginning of ways, and the beginning of strife; there’s the beginning of words, beginning of supplications, and the beginning of the word of the Lord; the beginning of sorrows, the beginning of the sin of sons, and the beginning of the sins of daughters; the beginning of confidence, beginning of days, beginning of the world and beginning of the creation of God; the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the beginning of miracles.

Heaven’s assignments begin despite the unpredictable nature at the genesis of anything. God sets in motion, He joins people to actions and designs honed from His wisdom, with a specific conclusion (goal) in mind. From His divine perspective, the end result is very predictable: God distinguishes “the end from the beginning” and “the time of sacrifice from the time of glory.”

(Adopted from Shirley Weaver’s daily devotional titled, “At the beginning”)

PRAYER

Raise up a Prayer Shield over marriages, spiritual leaders, families, finances, and the government institutions of the nation. Pray for protection against the attack of the evil one.

Are you under cover?

Now the city shall be doomed by the Lord to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent....And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Joshua 6:17,25

Rahab of Jericho, having heard how powerful and awesome the God of Israel, pleaded with the spies whom Joshua sent out to spy out Jericho, for mercy. She made them promised in exchange of their lives, for the safety and protection of all her household. Between established a covenant with the exchange of promises and obligation – the spies go free, Rahab is to tie a scarlet cord outside her window, and all those who are within that window, will be spared from destruction and death.

Jesus came and shed His blood on the Cross for us. So that we who come under the covering of His Precious Blood will be spared from eternal death and destruction, both in this present life and the life to come. Jesus is our all-powerful Savior. He is able to save us from destruction, more so from hell! Through His Blood, He established a timeless, unbreakable Covenant between man and God. All those who come under the Covering of that Covenant is safe, regardless of the ultimate judgment on this world.

Just like Rahab and her household enjoyed the covering of the covenant she made with the 2 spies, we have a more superior and powerful Covenant with God in Christ Jesus. But Rahab's household was spared when she brought them "under covering". The Bible tells us that not only her household was spared, but "all that she had".

Are you living under the Covering of the Blood of Jesus? Is there anyone in your household which appears to be exposed to the assault of the enemy? Bring them into that Covering of the Blood of Jesus in prayers. Are there areas in your life that are still exposed to the attack of the enemy? Your marriage? Finances? Career? Studies? Relationships? Ministry?... etc. Have you consciously brought them under the Covering of this Covenant you have with God? Bring them "under cover" today. Pray and ask the Lord to show you what you must do to keep these under His Covering. Because that is the only safe place where all these can be preserved and protected!

PRAYER

Prayerfully offer your life to the Lord. Declare agreement with His plan: Lord, I consecrate my life today, a new beginning with purpose and according to divine vision; mercy for mercy, integrity for integrity, and purity for purity; I declare beginning to some things and the end of others, beginning to end . . . building.”

Face the Giant

Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said.”

Joshua 14:12

I received through WhatsApp last week, some photos of the skull and skeleton of Goliath, the giant whom King David slew. It was purportedly a result of an archeological find in Israel. The photos showed Goliath to be a giant of at least 20 feet tall, and a head as big as an armchair! I learnt later that those photos were photoshopped and exaggerated.

Whatever it was, the fact remains that David did kill an intimidating giant. Caleb in Joshua 14 asked for a mountain occupied by giants of the day. He recognized 2 very important facts: God will do what He has promised, and the giants are real!

Caleb remembered the time when God promised him his Promise Land. Due to the unbelief of others, the hostility they showed towards him, Joshua, Moses and Aaron, to the point of wanting to kill them, he missed God’s promised blessings for the subsequent 40 years. For him to enter into his Promise Land at this point, he needed God’s presence more than anything. He needed to stay above and come out from the entanglement of strife, bitterness, disappointment and discouragement. He needed to forgive and show grace, in order he may enter into God’s grace.

This year we shall see God bringing us into new beginnings, new flourishing, advancing into our Promise Land. In order to enter into what God has promised, sometimes we need to first “take” the mountain in front of us. What is the mountain with giants in your life? It could be some new challenges ahead. It could be having to face our fears, past failures and defeats. The giants could be in us, our unbelief, lukewarmness, discouragement, disappointment, bitterness, offence, etc. All these can hinder us from entering into God’s promises for us.

Get out from the entanglement with your past. Forgive and show grace. So that you might enter into God’s amazing grace this year!

PRAYER

Open your heart to the Lord, and ask Him to show you how you can bring a sacrifice of value (something valuable to you) to Him during this Holy Week.

Ability to Sacrifice

‘These you shall present to the Lord at your appointed feasts (besides your vowed offerings and your freewill offerings) as your burnt offerings and your grain offerings, as your drink offerings and your peace offerings.’

Numbers 29:39

Numbers 29:39 sums up all the feasts, sacrifices and offerings that God has commanded Moses to tell His people Israel. These commandments were given not to a people who has no relationship with God. God has established an eternal, timeless Covenant with Israel, that “they shall be His people and He shall be their God”. It is within the context of this Covenantal relationship that God commanded sacrifice and worship.

The Lord still relates to us in like manner today. He does not demand those who do not yet know Him to make sacrifices or worship Him. He is more interested to draw people to first know Him. First, to experience His goodness and grace, to know His love. He wants to draw man’s attention on His grace, mercy, power, love, and all that He is. He wants us to be in an everlasting Covenant with Him, established through the Blood of Jesus. So that, when we bring our sacrifices of praise, our worship and our offerings to Him, it is done out of gratitude for what He has done and out of our love for Him. These sacrifices and offerings have nothing to do with obtaining our salvation or gaining favour from Him.

When God commanded to make a sacrifice of praise, bring an offering to Him, rest assured that at least these 2 things are true: First, He consider us His own! For He will not command sacrifice and offerings given to Him from those outside His Covenant. Second, He will not ask us to sacrifice something that we do not have. When the Lord ask you to make an offering or sacrifice, it must mean that you already have it with you. When He asks you to give, He would have first given you. It must be that you can (having the ability to do so). The question is whether you will (the choice to let go, and trust in Him and in His faithfulness). Sacrifice and offerings must be made willingly, not under compulsion.

Thank and praise the Lord, when He commanded us to bring a sacrifice of praise to Him, He has also given us the ability to sacrifice!

PRAYER

Ask the Lord to reveal the “giants” in you and around you, which stand in your way into God’s promises. Pray to the Lord for a strategy to overcome them.

He misses you

“I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine. He feeds his flock among the lilies.”

Song of Songs 6:3

There is significant difference between a prayer meeting and a prayer altar. We present our requests to the Lord in a prayer meeting. But we ask from the Lord the revelation of His will on a prayer altar. A prayer meeting can be cancelled, but a prayer altar is a covenant time with the Lord, an appointment with the Lord, just like a “date” between lovers!

We have all we need in the Lord. He is the unfailing source of our life. The guarantee to our continued state of victorious and purposeful life is the Presence of God in our lives. A covenant time with the Lord gives opportunity to us to draw from the Presence of God His ever flowing fountain of Life. In the Presence of God He feeds us with His word and by His Spirit. But it is more than just a time of reading the Bible and praying. It is also a time to develop intimacy with God.

When we have a covenant time the Lord, rest assured that He is very eager to show up at our appointment. So, when we fail to show up, or casually cancel the appointment, He will miss our presence. Not that He does not know where we are, but simply finding us absent from those covenant times will make Him miss us. The Lord honors covenants. More so covenant time with Him. When we honor our covenants with God, He is greatly pleased and will certainly pour out His presence upon us.

How can God “miss” us? He misses because He allows Himself to be vulnerable to us. It means He allows Himself to be “affected” by our absence from our covenant time with Him. A covenant time could be our daily personal altar of prayer and communion with God. It could also be our weekly corporate worship time. That’s what love does to us. When we love, we render ourselves emotionally vulnerable to our beloved. We long to be in the presence of our beloved. If our beloved misses our appointment, we would miss that time of sharing and communion greatly.

God longs to have fellowship with us. He longs to download His resources into our lives. The way He can do that is when we have covenant time with Him. Therefore, keep daily covenant time with Him. Honor weekly covenant time of worship. That is where we draw God’s strength and power.

PRAYER

Set your eyes on the nations and the multitude, ask the Lord to work out the miracle of multitudes being saved through the miracles-working church. Lord, revive us once again!

Nothing short of a miracle

Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.

Acts 3:6-8

Have you ever been confronted with a challenge or in a situation which is beyond yourself? Nothing in your experience or imagination that could possibly solve it for you? In that kind of circumstance, it is very easy for us to try to fix the problem ourselves. Sometimes we may even say a little prayer, hoping that it will all work out fine, and go on to devise our own plan to overcome the matter.

Don’t get me wrong. We need to take responsibility and be proactive in addressing challenges. But there are times we find ourselves facing “giants” in our lives. It is so easy to be intimidated by these giants and succumb to their pressure, becoming conformed to their ways. Just like this lame man in today’s Bible passage. He was lame “from his mother’s womb”. It was impossible for him to overcome this giant of paralysis, that he was forced to succumb to it. He lived a life as a handicapped man – begging for a living.

The possibility or hope for him to ever walk, therefore being able to earn a living for himself from gainful labour was so remote. Until he encountered the power of Jesus of Nazareth. It was nothing short of a miracle that pluck him out from his infirmity and hopelessness. The result of that miraculous healing, not only had the lame man been given a new life, 5,000 were added to the Church! (Acts 4:1-4)

Today, you may be faced with a challenge so impossible to overcome (at least in man’s eyes), and nothing less than a miracle will do! Take courage that the same Jesus of Nazareth who did it for this lame (used to be!) man, will do it for you. This is the time and season to ask for this revival fire of Pentecost to come to us once again. Because Jesus has His eyes on the multitude and the nations. Only He can enable the Church to reach the multitude and turn the nations to Him. The Lord will do it in and through the Church by reviving us once again.

Nothing short of a miracle from God can accomplish this!

PRAYER

Spend extended time in prayer today. Tell Him how much you love Him, thank Him for all that He has done for you, listen to what He wants to speak to you.

The Voice of God

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.”

Hebrews 1:1-2

When you receive an email (or a handwritten letter) from someone you know well, and read through the content of it, do you somehow mentally imagine the person speaking to you? Whose voice will come up in your mind? For me, I would tend to “hear” the words of the email or letter in the writer’s voice. That is only possible because I have talked with the person face to face in meaning conversation, or have heard from the person memorable words.

To read words from a person whose voice we have never heard, would somewhat put in certain distance between us. Impersonal. Academic or even legalistic. There is a heaven and earth difference between the word of God and the Voice of God. Jesus whom we celebrate His Resurrection on Easter, is the Word of God becoming flesh. He came to us bringing the mind and voice of God, expressing to us the heart of the Father. The Bible is a collection of what God SAID, and not merely what God WROTE!

God wants to establish intimate relationship with us. He wants us to hear His voice, which comes out from His mouth. The words that are carried by His voice have life and creative power. What a privilege it is to us! When He speaks to us, He wants us to know Him and His character. Just like when we read an email or letter from someone we know, sometimes we would say, “This is so him!”. Likewise, when we are accustomed to hearing God’s voice, when we read the Bible, we will be able to discern the will of God, and say, “This is so Him!”.

So determine in your heart, that you will always hear God’s voice, and not just know His words. There is a heaven and earth difference!

PRAYER

Pray for all disciples of Jesus, in the marketplace, homes, schools, or wherever God has positioned us, that we be empowered by His Holy Spirit to bear authentic witness for Jesus.

More than a power surge

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

One morning, I was awakened by a sudden blackout in the house. Normally, when that happens in the early hours of the morning, the electricity supply would be re-stored quite quickly. However, I soon realized that it was going to last for a while so I went to check on the fuse box. I discovered the problem was not with the main supply, when I saw some of the switches in the fuse box have tripped. In my attempt to reconnect the current supply, I concluded that we had experienced a power surge.

When power comes upon any recipient, it creates some sort of response, it manifests its presence. Jesus said when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we will receive power. I am sure Jesus told the disciples this partly due to the needs of His disciples, which could only be met when the Holy Spirit empowers them. The other reason I can think of is because He wanted them to be prepared to experience a “power surge” when the Holy Spirit comes upon them.

Many today in the Church, enjoy this power surge when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Many also pursue this experience for various reasons. Jesus has made it clear that the power that comes from the Holy Spirit empowers His disciples to be witnesses, a testimony to the Name and ministry of Jesus, at where they were, to where they would be sent later. This promised Holy Spirit is more than just a power surge. He is given to us so that He could stay with us. This power of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Name of Jesus in our lives. This work of the Holy Spirit in us and through us is to push back the Kingdom of Darkness in our lives, our families, the Church, the cities and the nations. The purpose of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to establish the Kingdom of God on earth.

We all need this power of the Holy Spirit in us. Without Him, all our works and effort are our own. With Him in us, He bear fruits in all areas of our lives to point others to Jesus.

May our lives glorify the Name of Jesus!

PRAYER

Read Psalms 33 today. Pray and expect God to speak to you, concerning your life and about who He is. Respond accordingly.

The heart has it

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit with-in you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.”

Ezekiel 36:26-28

In the human body, when the heart stops functioning, even for a short time, the body is threatened with death. The heart holds the life line of a human being. The condition of the heart often affects more that the physical part of a person, but also affects the soul and the spirit. The heart controls the supply one very basic ingredi-ent to sustain life to the whole body – oxygen.

The Bible uses the imagery of a heart to describe the center of a person. Whatever happens to the heart affects directly our spiritual and emotional health, relation-ships, and even the circumstances surrounding us! Today’s Bible passage tells us in no uncertain terms, that when the heart is right (healthy and teachable, open to the Lord), it leads to obedience and worship, and it in turn bring us right into fulfil-ment of God’s promises and our ‘Promise Land’.

How is the condition of your heart? Is it closed to the Word of God? Is it hard and unable to feel the Father’s love? Are there thorns that prick it? Or is it free from all bitterness, anger and sorrow? I am not saying that we will never feel sad, angry or upset with others, but are these emotion dominating your whole heart, or part of it?

Focus on the heart this year. Allow the Lord to give you a new heart. Yes, a brand new heart, not holding on and keeping the old heart. Only the Lord can perform this. When the heart is right, all the rest will fall into the right places, where the Lord wants them to be. Of all the parts of our life, the most important part has to be the heart.

The heart has it!

PRAYER

Lift up every hopelessness and the hopeless to the Lord. Ask the Lord to revive hope wherever hope is needed.

Hope for the hopeless

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.... “As for you also, because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to the stronghold, you prisoners of hope. Even today I declare that I will restore double to you.”

Zechariah 9:9, 11-12

The words in this Prophecy of Zechariah was fulfilled when Jesus entered into Jerusalem on a day we commemorate as the Triumphal Entry. Jesus was welcomed with palm branches, while riding on a donkey’s colt. The significance of this event remains with us till this day. The King of Glory, the King of the Kingdom of God, the Messiah, the Saviour of the world has come to us!

Jesus came to the world to bring to mankind something from God. Something which man desperately needs which we cannot accomplish ourselves. The effects of His coming are irreversible. The hopeless prisoners from the waterless pit, from a place of outer dryness, weakness and filled with the threat of death, shall be rescued. They were “prisoners without hope”, now they become “prisoners of hope”. Still prisoners, but before the coming of the Messiah, hopeless. When the Messiah has come, the hopeless prisoners are filled with hope. The hope of restoration, restored double, is here.

How can these “prisoners of hopelessness” be released from prison? By welcoming the King of Glory into their lives. The Messiah has come. He has brought hope to all who are dry and hopeless. But His salvation for us is not bestowed upon us passively. It requires us to exercise our will to choose Jesus, His ways and His words. It requires us to open our hearts to Jesus.

On this Palm Sunday, let all “prisoners without hope” open their hearts to the Messiah. Only you can choose to open your hearts. When you welcome this King of Glory into the dry and arid place in your life, He will restore double to you what the enemy has stolen from you!

The choice is yours.

PRAYER

What is the condition of your heart? Ask the Lord to reveal to you any part of your heart that needs a “surgery”. Open your heart to the Lord and invite the Holy Spirit to come into your heart and allow Him to do His work.

Heart problem

“for your hearts are too fat and your ears don’t listen and you have closed your eyes against understanding, for you don’t want to see and hear and understand and turn to me to heal you.”

Acts 28:27

A heart patient has no control over his heart problem when the heart is covered by fat or blocked by fat. It is not a crime that a person has such a problem. The patient is never penalized because of his heart problem.

Just as a physical heart problem does not occur overnight, neither does the spiritual heart problem spring out of nowhere. Careless and reckless living often leads to health problem. Persistently refuse or reluctant to hear God’s voice and see God’s truth will eventually lead to the dullness of heart, finally in a state of destruction and damage.

During a recent Power Station (prayer meeting), the Lord showed me picture of a heart insulated with fat. As a result, the heart is incapable to feeling God’s love. That heart was cut off from the resources of God – His truth, wisdom, power and understanding. The Living Bible paraphrased “a hardened heart” or a “dull heart” as heart with fat. Many because of the fatness of their hearts, live in constant discouragement and defeat. They seek healing and breakthrough but found none. But to address the problem of a fat heart requires us to address the acts, decisions of stubbornness and rebelliousness that led to this heart problem. Once we repent from these past acts and decisions, accumulated over time, we then open our lives to the restoring and healing grace of God in every area of our lives.

A heart patient needs to watch his diet and be discipline about staying away from foods that would harm his health in order to be healed. So we must also watch what we feed our spirits and shun evils, if we want to receive healing and breakthrough. If we want to restore our lives to the perfect will of God, we must choose to see God’s truth, hear God’s voice and understand His revelation of Himself and His will.

Remove the fat from your heart, you will have a healthy heart!

PRAYER

Ask for a renewing of your love, zeal and commitment to the Lord. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit anew, and ask Him to fill you afresh for His work and ministry.

The Hungry shall be satisfied

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

Psalm 81:10

Pentecost marked God’s timing for the Church to enter into her destiny. It was God’s timing of pouring out His resources into the Church, because He knows that the Church needed (and still does!) this supernatural outworking of the Holy Spirit in order to succeed in the Great Commission!

From the Greek word for “fifty,” Pentecost was so named because it fell on the fiftieth day after the Sabbath of the Passover. Pentecost was also known as “the Feast of Weeks,” “the Firstfruits of the Wheat Harvest,” and “the Day of Firstfruits.” During this harvest celebration, the Jews brought to God the firstfruits of their harvest in thanksgiving, expecting that God would give the rest of the harvest as His blessing. This particular Day of Pentecost was the day of firstfruits of Christ’s church, the beginning of the great harvest of souls who would come to know Christ and be joined together through the work of the Holy Spirit. (extracted from the NKJV Study Notes)

Though it is entirely God’s work, it largely depends on how hungry we are for this outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Lord desires us to experience Revival. But how open we are, how desperate we are for this new cycle of “50”, for the coming harvest? The Lord has brought us out of darkness (Egypt) into His marvelous Kingdom (Promise Land), for such a moment of empowering. If we open our mouth, He will surely fill it. The degree of infilling, depends on our degree of desiring.

Desiring earnestly the Pentecost Fire today, for His glory and for His Name sake alone!

PRAYER

Repent of any acts, decisions in the past which were made out of pride, stubbornness and rebelliousness. Seek God’s mercy and grace for healing and restoration.

Hidden in the heart

For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Mark 4:22-23

It is a principle in life that anything hidden will eventually be revealed. This principle applies to the natural as well as the spiritual. Over the years, archeological finds have revealed the truth of some Biblical accounts which were unsubstantiated before such discoveries. They just confirm the authenticity and accuracy of the Bible.

While it is exciting to know the Biblical stories are true, it is more important to us that the Biblical principles are timeless and applicable to us today. There can be many things we keep in our hearts for various reasons. Some are fond memories and experiences. Some are impactful events – good or bad. Whatever we keep in our hearts, these are those we do not want to “throw away”, hoard up inside. Over the passage of time, we may forget them. We may bury them, if they are not so pleasant, or even painful to recall. Whatever we bury will have effects on our inner life. It will change the very emotional, mental responses in us. It will have an influence in shaping our belief system, value system and defines our rationale.

What has been hidden, buried in our hearts in the past, will not remain silent. It will come to the surface and manifest itself in many forms. Fruits from within. Good seeds, godly roots will yield fruits of righteousness. Bad seeds, ungodly roots will yield fruits of destruction. Little wonder the Psalmist says, *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”* (Psalm 139:23-24).

Determine today that you would allow the Lord to search your hearts. Ask Him to expose the ungodly roots inside. Bring them to the Lord and let Him deal with it according to His will. We cannot afford to allow the bad seeds remain in us. One day they might raise their ugly heads. Ask the Lord to affirm and strengthen the godly roots and preserve the good seeds that they might bring forth fruits of righteousness one day.

PRAYER

Lord, cleanse and sanctify my life, that my whole life is a sanctuary unto You. Let everything in my life be wholly devoted to You, set apart for Your purpose, that it might attract Your presence. Let Your presence dwell and remain in me, as I choose to dwell and remain in Jesus, so that every work of darkness and its consequences in my life and my family, shall be destroyed and eliminated. In Jesus’ Name. Amen

True Worshipers

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”

John 4:23

The phrase “true worshippers” must not be taken to imply that there are “less than true” or even “false” worshippers among God’s people. When Jesus used the phrase, I believe He was highlighting that all worships acceptable to God must be “in spirit and in truth”.

In spirit, because the kind of worship God desires from us has to be birthed forth from the heart, from the essence of our whole being; totally focused, wholly committed. In truth, because we cannot worship a God whom we do not know, and our worship must be sincere, primarily towards Him with no hidden agenda on our part – truthful. We must know our God to offer an acceptable worship to Him. We must have faith in who God is before we can draw near to Him in worship. (Hebrews 11:6)

We must be honest with ourselves that sometimes our worship is not entirely “in spirit and in truth” in the way that has been described. There is a need for us to return to a consistent way of life in true worship. Because God is seeking for such to worship Him. He is seeking for true worshippers that He might draw near to. True worship attracts God’s presence. When God’s presence is with His people, His glory is seen in them.

PRAYER

Lord, I surrender to you the old hurts, offences, regrets, resentment, vengeance and any lies from the enemy. Set me free from all these entanglements. Pull out any bitter root in me. Remove all ungodly seeds from my heart, my family or any part of my life. From this day forth, may my heart be good soil for the sowing of godly seeds. In Jesus’ Name I ask, amen.

Hidden in the heart

For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist,” says the Lord. “But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Isaiah 66:2

Once a year on the Day of Atonement, God decreed a day of repentance to address specifically the sins of His people and the nation. Corporate repentance begins with personal repentance. It is not a day merely to go through the motion of fasting and prayers, but with a heart truly sorry for all our sins, we come seeking for God’s mercy and forgiveness.

A person who is poor, in every sense of the word, with a contrite spirit who takes God’s words very seriously, draws God’s attention. Notice that it is not a perfect man who captured His attention, but a humble man. The days leading to the Day of Atonement is an opportunity for us to draw near to the mercy seat of God. These are appointed times with God, to be transparent with Him and ask for His forgiveness of all our sins and failings, admitting our weaknesses and our imperfection.

The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) is most meaningful to us because we have the Atoning Blood of Jesus shed for us on the Cross. The sins that entangle us, even the iniquities in our bloodline, are washed away in full. The cross marks the beginning of a new cycle of God’s blessings, it marks the ending of the old cycles of sins and curses. List down anything that belongs to the old cycle, bring them to the Cross in humility and repentance. Look to the Lord for a beginning of the “New”, starting with us. Let go of those things that hold us. If we don’t, God cannot free us from the “old”. If we are not freed from the old mindset, life style and attitudes, we cannot break forth into the new fruitfulness and abundance.

Let us take a step of faith forward, and expect to see our breakthrough from God!

PRAYER

Ask the Lord to reveal to you what is the “new” He wants to bring to you. Desire to put on the “new wineskin” of attitude, so that you may receive and embrace the “new”.

Lengthen the cords of your Tabernacle

“Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; Lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes.”

Isaiah 54:2

During the Feast of Tabernacles, God’s people celebrate the promised presence of our God with us in our “Tabernacles”. The Feast commemorates God’s presence, protection and provision for Israel when they were delivered out of the slavery of Egypt, while they were in the wilderness. The God who delivered them is also the God who would go with them, never leaving them to fend for themselves. The God who has promised them the Promise Land is the God who would ensure that they would succeed in inheriting it.

In celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles, Israel is asked to build booths to stay in. This is to remind them that their Faithful God, Loving Father has provided shelter and all their needs while they were in the wilderness. Even though they had not entered into Canaan yet, God was watching over them.

God promises in a Covenant with His people, restoration after they have acknowledged and repent of their sins. The Day of Atonement and the 10 Days of Awe prior to that gives us an opportunity to reflect upon our past year and seek God’s forgiveness over our sins. The Lord promises restoration of not only what was lost, but a return of abundance, multiplication of fruitfulness. That is the reason He asked His people “to enlarge the place of our tent, lengthen the cords”, to make room for the outpouring of His abundance!

The restoration in our lives and our abundance is closely connected to His Presence. As we anticipate this supernatural outpouring in this subsequent season, let us also “extend the cords of our Tabernacles”, to make room for His presence. Let us increase our worship of God in our daily life, consciously making Him the center of our lives, relationships, decision making and the object of our faith. Let us acknowledge Him more, thank Him more and trust Him more.

Whatever state and stage of your journey with the Lord, He is with you in this new season. He desires to “Tabernacle” in you. He has never left you, and He is not about to leave you. You are never alone, and you will never be alone if you allow Him into your life.

Let us desire Him more in this Hebrew year of 5779, as He desires to pour the “new” and “more” into us!

PRAYER

Ask the Lord to break any cycle of curses, failure, disappointment or sins. Turn away from any old mindset, sinful attitude and pray for a new cycle of obedience, fruitfulness and abundance to break forth into your life.

The Cycle of Things

For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Galatians 6:8

Someone observes that the world financial market works in cycles. The market moves between ups and downs in a certain cycle over a period of time. There are many things in our lives, we might have observed, that move in cycles as well. Some of these patterns of cyclical occurrences are good, some are harmful.

Nothing just occurs overnight in our lives. They happen because of what happened in the past. The Bible tells us that what we sow, we also reap. When we sow into the flesh, we will reap corruption. If we sow out of our own fleshly desires, we will bear no lasting fruits, or altogether fruitless. However, if we sow to the Spirit, we will reap life. The kind of life that comes from God. If we sow out of the abundance of God’s resources in our spirits, we reap fruitfulness, the kind of fruits that last (John 15:16).

The cycle of sowing and reaping will continue, for both the good ones as well as the bad ones. A cycle of sins and curses will continue until sins are repented of and curses nailed to the Cross of Jesus. They do not go away natural. The sowing could well start from us insisting on our own ways, ignoring or refusing to listen to the wise counsel of God’s words or godly men and women. The sowing could be compelled by fear. When we sow fear, we reap death. Faith cannot arise, therefore we are deprived, cut off from the blessings of God in Christ Jesus.

On the other hand, when we sow in righteousness, and in obedience to God, heeding His voice, we reap abundant blessings (Deuteronomy 28:1-2). Any sowing motivated by love for God will put us right into a godly cycle of blessings, not only for ourselves, but also for our future generations. When we sow in the fear of God, our reaping or harvest will be attracting the presence and blessings of God into our household, the Church, our city and our nation.

Determine this day to appropriate the Power of the Cross and Blood of Jesus to break every ungodly and bad cycles. Choose to sow in godliness and sow to the Spirit, to initiate or restart a godly cycles in your life!

PRAYER

Ask the Lord to show where and how you can sow:

- Financially
- Time
- Word of encouragement and truth
- Seed of the gospel

Investment

It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

Psalm118:8-9

If you have ever invested in something expecting to benefit in some tangible way you can relate to the gospel parable of the minas. In the parable a certain noble-man entrusted ten pounds of silver to three household servants before leaving on official business. When the master returned he called for an account of the serv-ants’ stewardship, entrusted to them in his absence.

One servant invested the equivalent of three months’ wages and received ten times as much in return. The second servant likewise invested, and though a lesser amount, still gained profits for the master. The third servant invested nothing and benefitted nothing. The master praised the first two servants but strongly rebuked the third for failing to be a good steward.

Our lives are like the parable, we all invest our time and talents somewhere. As with any investment, confident expectation trusts that the person or entity involved will repay us resulting benefits, profits, rewards, etc. Without trust we do not invest and therefore do not gain anything in return. We don’t yield control of something we possess unless we trust the one on the receiving end.

In all of life ability to trust is a faith matter; and really, the basis of all trust lies in the way we trust God. Trusting Him is as much an investment as is money or time since with any commitment to Him, we lend ourselves to Him, investing who we are and all we possess. Trusting in the Lord is the most important trust relationship in life. Trusting Him is foundational to a faith that endures. Those who mature in faith also grow steady confidence that trusts in a loving heavenly Father.

(Adopted from Shirley Weaver’s Daily Devotional “Held in Trust”)

PRAYER

Focus on your city/town/village and our nation today. Identify any un-godly cycle and begin to repent, intercede, break and speak God’s blessing into it.

The table can be turned

Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, “Because I bore him in pain.” And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!” So God granted him what he requested.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Jabez was a man remembered by his mother as one who brought her pain. We are not sure whether the pain was only a physical one or also an emotional one. He was named “Jabez”, which means sorrow or pain, to remind him that he caused pain whenever his name was called!

How tragic and sad it is for a person, whose life is characterized by “causing pain”. Think of the ridicule and shame one must bear throughout life. However, the Bible tells us that Jabez refused to accept that as the final outcome of his life. He refused to be defined as accursed, one who causes pain. He cried out to the God of Israel. He sought blessing, enlargement of territory, the presence of God’s strong right hand and protection. All these he lacked because of the curse upon his life. Above all, he pleaded that he might not cause others pain. He sought to turn the table on curses, and the Lord granted him what he requested!

A curse is a bondage that locks a person in a cycle of misfortune and fruitlessness. It cuts a person off from the blessings of the Father. Just as Jabez, you too can ask the Lord to bless you and break the curse that separates you from the abundant blessings of your Heavenly Father. Our confidence of such freedom is grounded on the finished work of the Cross of Jesus:

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Galatians 3:13-14)

Not only that the curse of sins is broken, the effects of curse can be reversed. You can turn the table of the curse of sins in your life!

PRAYER

Make a list. Intercede for those who are truly in need of freedom that only Jesus can bring.

Freedom and Independence

"Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

John 8:34-36

When a nation gains independence, it gains freedom from a colonial power. It is set free to determine its own future and destiny. Independence is only meaningful if it also means freedom – freedom from control, bondage or slavery.

Independence does not necessarily mean freedom. Independence could mean, “stand alone; no one to lean on or rely, depending on no one”. If a person or a nation has gained independence but not freedom, it could be a frightening thing. He may find himself isolated, helpless, left to fend for himself and at the same time, still strapped in bondages, poverty, etc.

This however, is quite contrary to God’s plan for us. When man sinned, we fell into the bondage of sin, enslaved to do what sin dictates. A slave of sin is not free to make decisions that would glorify or please God. It always chooses the opposite. It chooses not to lean on God, but live a life independent from God. The very core definition of a sinful life is a life lived independent from God that says, “I don’t need God, and I won’t depend on Him”. When Jesus came to set us free from the entanglement of sins and slavery to sin, He brings us true freedom, not just independence. When we are set free, we can exercise our freewill choices to choose God and His ways. For His ways bring us into His blessings and His love.

A life of freedom in Christ is not an “independent life”. When Christ has set us free from the bondages of sins, He restores us to that original relationship with God the Father. The Father is one whom we can totally depend on in life. Life in Christ means independent from the controlling power of sins and darkness, dependent on God’s grace and mercy. He is pleased to see us trusting Him completely, 100% for all we need in life. He is always ready and willing to provide for His children.

Be freed, not just independent!

PRAYER

Use 1 Chronicles 4:9-10, to pray to reverse every cycle of misfortune and pain, in your family, church and our nation.

Vulnerable

O my God, my soul is cast down within me; therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, and from the heights of Hermon, from the Hill Mizar. Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; all Your waves and billows have gone over me.

Psalm 42:6-7

When we submerge a box deep underneath a body of water, such as the sea, it will come under great pressure. The deeper it goes, greater the pressure it faces. If there is a point of weakness in any part of the box, or the material that makes it just isn't strong enough, it will crack or collapse.

When faced with pressure in life, times of testing and trials, the weakest point in our character, deep inside our soul, will first give in and succumb to it. This weakness could well be due to unresolved issues with people or with God, vulnerabilities, character flaws, bitter past, anger, resentment, flaws in our belief, etc. We may have buried them so well, trivialize them ("not big deal"), ignore them or simply forget about them. But they don't go away. They remain a point of our vulnerability to the devil's destructive works.

The Psalmist here spoke to his downcast soul in verse 5, exhorting his soul to hope in God and praise Him. He calls out to God from the depth of his being. Because his point of vulnerability is deep inside him. Only the Spirit of God who comes from God, can reach so deep into the part of our soul, to connect with that part of us that is vulnerable.

Only when we open up the deepest part of ourselves to God, that the renewing and transforming work of God can really take place. The Psalmist obviously was faced with some real challenges in life. He chose to acknowledge that the true solution begins with God coming to address the unresolved issues deep within him.

Look beyond the surface when you seek a breakthrough or solution to the challenges you are facing today. Let your spirit arise and cry out to God for Him to reveal the deep things on His mind to you. Allow Him to reach down to the innermost part of your being!

PRAYER

Ask the Lord to expand your faith to believe in miraculous breakthrough - for healing, restorations of relationship, financial provision, overcoming unbelief, etc. Pray according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Believe for a Miracle

"Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened."

Mark 6: 51-52

"These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1Corinthians 2:13-14

Despite close relationship with Jesus the disciples struggled to believe. Obviously for them moving beyond their personal level of spiritual experience and into the miracles in Jesus’ ministry was not a simple matter. Their understanding was limited.

Like them, we hesitate when the Spirit of God does something we cannot explain intellectually, something awkward to explain. The reason we hesitate is because the mind naturally overrules anything we cannot understand, and the heart hardens in unbelief. We must understand completely, or we will not believe.

God’s miracles are supernatural and only if we can believe the power of that. The Lord reveals truth to us through His Holy Spirit and we receive this Spirit ministry one way only—spiritually, through the spirit heart. This is the way our Spirit life works.

Stay in faith for the impossible right now. Agree with God’s love. Agree with His power. Believe Him. Don’t stop.

(Adopted from Shirley Weaver’s Daily Devotional)

PRAYER

Acknowledge our weaknesses to the Lord. Lift them up to the Lord and ask the Lord to manifest His grace in each of these areas. “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

The power of the Voice of God

Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness....The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars, yes, the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon. He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox....The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth, and strips the forests bare; and in His temple everyone says, "Glory!"

Psalms 29:1-2;4-6;9

The Voice of God carries His decrees and decisions. When it is uttered, it creates an effect, a final verdict on things. When we read the Bible or receive a revelation from the Lord, it gives us an opportunity to discern God’s mind, His will and His judgment. When we obey these revelations, we see God’s working in our lives and our circumstances.

God’s people has a wonderful privilege. He speaks His mind to us. He reveals the things He is about to accomplish to us first, before executing them. We are only to agree with them and flow with the Lord. When His voice comes forth, we release our voices and sounds, flowing with His voice. We declare His decrees, aloud! We respond to God’s voice by worshipping Him and shout, “Glory!”

There is an acceleration of things in this season. The persistently unrepentant and evil will be exposed in increased speed and measure. The godly and faithful will see the hastening of God’s working in their lives and in their atmosphere. God is on the Throne! And He is on the move! So, let’s respond in faith, and release our voices and sounds this day, to break forth into our atmosphere, to declare that Jesus reigns!

PRAYER & PRAISE

Spend some time praising and worshipping the Lord. Enthroned Jesus over every sphere in your life and over this nation.

The King is on His Throne

Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, then I said, ‘The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord.’ Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.” And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue.

1 Samuel 13:11-14

In the Old Testament, kings and prophets played separate and distinctive roles. God has anointed Saul to be king, Samuel to be prophet. That means, Saul cannot offer burnt offering to the Lord, which was what Samuel anointed to do. However, when Saul was waiting for Samuel to come to Gilgal to offer a burnt offering before going to war against the Philistines, he grew anxious after seeing the Israelites gathered with him were scattering from him. He took things into his own hands and offered a burnt offering himself.

Saul was driven by fear into violating God’s order and disobeying God’s commandments. “What’s the big deal?”, we may ask. After all, it was still an act of worship. Firstly, worship must be acceptable to the one who is worshipped. The worship of God is an expression of our total devotion and commitment to God. It must be in an honoring manner, as prescribed by Him. Secondly, if the worshipper dictates the acceptable worship to God and expect Him to accept it, really, who is the one worshipped here!

We often say, “God is on His throne”. Doubtlessly His is. But do we trust that when He is on the Throne, and He is sovereign, He should also be the one fully in control in our lives? Do we trust Him, the King who is on His Throne, to order our lives according to His will? Trust Him enough to surrender control over those circumstances beyond our power to Him? Even if He seems to tarry or delay? Sometimes with our lips (or even in our mind), we acknowledge that God is in control, yet in our plans and decisions we are in full control driven by fear of man, fear of failure, anxiety, frustration, impatience, lack of trust, etc. Little wonder we see little fruit or even experience defeat in life.

If the King is on His Throne, who or what is in control in your life?

PRAYER

Speak (with audible voice) to every work of the devil you can identify, to subject them under the judgment of God. Declare (with audible voice) that Jesus be magnified and glorified in each of these areas.

In Love He speaks

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.... No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

John 15:9-10;15

On Father’s Day, we remember our fathers. Every day, we have every reason to celebrate the Father of us all, because He is the One who has created us and called us in love. Through faith in Christ Jesus, we are given the right to be the children of God. What a privilege it is to call the Almighty God our Father!

God has given us earthly fathers, with the intention that through them, we might experience His love, receive instructions and guidance to walk in the right paths in life. No matter how our earthly fathers have succeeded in their God given roles, we are thankful today that we have a Heavenly Father who loves us in perfect love.

Jesus has come to the world to demonstrate the Father’s perfect love to us. Jesus loves us by giving His life willingly, to suffer and die in our place. When we receive Jesus into our lives as Saviour, we have received more than just His love, we have in fact receive the Love of the Father. This Love is not merely a momentary expression of emotion. It is something we can “abide” in, for the whole of our lives. To abide in His Love, we need to respond to it, by making a choice to love Him back. Love is a 2 way affair! We express our love to God by obeying Him. We obey Him because we love Him, not because we want to gain His love.

When we are “in Love” with God, because we are no longer slave nor servant of God, we are in fact His sons (male and female), we are joint heirs with Christ, He speaks to us. Children of God, expect your Heavenly Father to speak to you! He longs to bare His heart to you. He longs to commune with you, guide you, encourage you, comfort you, affirm you and reveal the deep things of His Kingdom to you.

“In Love” the Father speaks. We are not orphans. We will never journey through life alone. Enjoy His daily presence. Expect it.

PRAYER

Focus on praying for children, youth and young adult (below 35 years old). Pray that good seeds sown in them will take root and bear fruits. Pray for marriages and young families also.

Guard the crops

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.”

Matthew 13:24-26

The Kingdom of God is likened to planting a field by sowing good seeds. Seeds by nature will grow when the condition of the soil is conducive. But the field when un-guarded, will be exposed to seeds of all kind of weeds, or tares, which on the outside, look very much like wheat. Tares are not beneficial, in fact they contain toxin that is harmful to the human bodies. This problem with the tares is not because there were lack of good seeds, good sowing, or even due to the lack of good soil. It comes about because “men slept”, and dropped their guard against the scheme and intrusion of the enemy.

At times, we witness the “good sowing” of the Lord in our lives and in the Church. There is no lack of evangelism, preaching of the Word, financial blessings, healings and God’s blessings of all sorts. We even witness this fact in nations, where godly values were incorporated into the constitution of these nations, education system, governance, etc. However, with the passage of time, we sometimes see the decline of even the decay of these godly values and heritage. Perhaps, at some point, the enemy has found his way into our lives and started sowing seeds of lies and deception, fear, doubts, unbelief and offence. These seeds of “tares” begin to take root and bring corruption to our lives until destruction and defilement spread to other parts of our lives, affecting others as well.

The Lord wants to give us the very best. He desires to sow good seeds into our lives, because He wants His blessings to take root, multiply in our lives. He wants us to be blessed, to be a blessing to others, and to pass His blessings down the generation line to those who come after us. But the enemy of God, Satan, want the exact opposite. He wants to bring maximum damage and defilement into our lives, and he wants them to multiply and spill over to the future generations.

The key is: we must not slumber; we must be vigilant spiritually at all times. We must not stop or slack in prayers. We need to put up a shield of prayers over the seeds of evangelism, godly heritage, godly relationships (husband-wife, parents-children, brothers-sisters in Christ, etc) and all other blessings which God has given us. So that they might be preserved in purity, grow up to be crops and trees that benefits others.

Guard the good seeds of the Kingdom of God in your lives today with Spirit-led and Spirit-inspired prayers. Do not be complacent.

PRAYER

Read through John 15 and meditate upon it throughout the day. Respond in prayers, to each of the revelation you receive today.

From Fear to Freedom

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.

1 John 4:18-19

Fear is paralyzing, when it is fueled by punishment. It is tormenting, rob its victims of all joy. It keeps people from experiencing love. It stops people from living out their calling and destiny. Fear places what we afraid of in a very powerful position. It subjects us under the power of the very thing we are fearful of.

If we are fearful of failure, we will never try. If we are fearful of death, fear of death controls and dictates our lives and decision making. If we are fearful of rejection, we will do everything and anything to gain acceptance, could become a people-pleaser. Pleasing man, in general, determines our behaviour and persona.

If we are fearful of punishment, we will probably do everything we can to cover up our wrongs. God knows this very well. If our relationship with Him is controlled by fear, love cannot take root. So, He sent His Son Jesus to take upon Himself the “punishment” of our sins, so that we will not be fearful of being punished when we approach Him. He demonstrated His love towards us first, by removing the very obstacle that hinders a love relationship between us. How amazing is that! What a costly way for God to show His love towards us! *Perfect love casts out fear.*

The Lord says in Deuteronomy 10:12 “*And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul*” To fear God is not to be afraid of Him but to be in awe of Him – His amazing love, His wisdom, His might, etc. To fear the Lord is to respect Him, to love Him so much that we do not want to hurt Him or grieve His heart in any way. To fear God is to subject our whole life to His love, being loved by Him! This is true freedom.

Let His love rules your life.

PRAYER

Pray for your individual “garden” or “mission field”. Summit yourself to the Lord and allow Him to shine through you so that you might be a blessing to others around you.

Mustard Seed

Then He said, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches.”

Luke 13:18-19

I have never paid any attention to a mustard seed until I studied the Scriptural reference to it. I understand a mustard seed is very small, in fact it could be the smallest of all seeds! Yet, small as it is, it has the potential to grow to be a large tree. It has the potential to provide shelter to birds who needed a safe heaven to build their nests for their young. It can grow in such a magnificent way because it contains the potential of life in it.

The Kingdom of God was described by Jesus as a mustard seed. Insignificant it may appear to be, it contains the Life of God. It therefore has the potential to grow into something proportionately extremely larger than its beginning. What is this mustard seed then? It is anything that is in line with God’s heart and His will as revealed by Him. Anywhere this is accepted, believed and acted upon, constitutes the sowing of the seed of the Kingdom. Given a conducive environment, it will surely grow because it contains life, and life begets life. It multiply after itself.

This seed of the Kingdom will grow into a presence that will be felt and appreciated by many. It will become, or at the least, its influence will be visible to all. It provides shelter to the restless, homeless and listless. That’s in a nutshell, what the Kingdom should be. That is God’s will for all those who are called to come into His Kingdom. We will exhibit the same characteristics. Our lives as Christians, as the disciples of Jesus are meant to be a blessing to others.

Start sowing whatever that is in accordance to God’s heart and will as revealed by Him today, in whatever garden that God is working in. However small a sowing we feel it is, if it is of God, you can be sure it will grow and impact so many lives, including yours! That’s the nature of the Kingdom of God!

So, do not despise small beginnings! (Zechariah 4:10)

PRAYER

Bring to the Father, whatever fear you may have, and ask Him to replace each one of them with His supernatural love.

Harvest Mentality

He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.

Proverbs 10:4-5

I remember from my geography lessons many years ago of a harvesting method employed by some sugar cane farmers. Sugar cane ripens quickly in the heat of summer. The concentration of sugar content is high when the weather is dry. Because the bark of the plant is very hard and thick, it does not catch fire easily. The farmers would set fire to a ripened sugar cane field, where all the dried weeds and leaves would be burned easily and speedily. Once the field is cleared, the harvesting is carried out quite easily.

When we are in a season of harvest, we may sometime need to take decisive actions to facilitate the harvesting. The fruits of harvest may be hidden by the “dried weeds” or “lalang” in our lives. We may need to invite the fire of the Holy Spirit to come upon us and our circumstances, to clear up all that is hindering the harvesting. Once that is cleared up, then the fruits of the harvest will be clearly visible before us.

To reap the harvest in our season we must be willing to be diligent and work hard. Though fruitfulness and increase is from God, not due to our own efforts, harvesting requires determination and hard work. Ask the Lord today to reveal to you and expose all that is hindering your fruitfulness and your potential, giftings from being revealed, call down the fire of the Holy Spirit to clear them up. Then, step out into your harvest field and bring in the harvest. Hard work is required, but this is different from sowing: in sowing we wait for the crops to grow and bear fruits, in harvesting we taste the fruits immediately!

Go forth! The time is now!

PRAYER

Pray for the discipleship process in the church. Pray that many faithful men and women of God will be raised to pass down to future generations the inheritance we have in Christ Jesus.

The Clash of the Two Kingdoms

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Romans 8:5-9

A kingdom must have a king. It must have its subjects. Without any one of them, there is no kingdom to begin with. The King of the Kingdom of God is God Himself. God is Spirit (John 4:24), and when He created man, He breathed His breath of life, His Spirit into man, and he immediately became a living being. It was right in the beginning that God shall rule through man on earth, who was created in His image and likeness. The Kingdom of God was to be established on earth through man.

Then, something went terribly wrong. Man chose to live contrary to the will of God, walking and living against the way of the Spirit, thus forfeiting the authority to rule. The flesh sets in and begin to war against the Spirit. The flesh by its very nature, is enmity against God. It provides the opportunity in man to “cooperate” with the devil, the king of the Kingdom of Darkness. If we make conscious or careless choices to live according to the flesh, we render ourselves vulnerable to the devil and his control. Though the devil is the author of evil in man’s life, we cannot always “blame it on the devil” alone without taking responsibility of the way we might have lived according to the flesh.

If God’s Kingdom is in us after we have received Jesus into lives, we need to live according to the Spirit, yielding to Jesus and His Lordship in every part of our lives. The devil too, seeks to expand his kingdom on earth through man. He seeks to appeal to the flesh in us, so that we might live according to the flesh. If we live according to the flesh, his kingdom grows in us and through us. There is a clash of the 2 Kingdoms in man!

Choose wisely, therefore, and cultivate a lifestyle of God’s Kingdom characterized by love, honor, righteousness and obedience. Sow to the Spirit and expect to see the Kingdom of God grows in us and through us!

PRAYER

Ask the Lord to reveal to you what must you get rid of before you can see His righteous harvest in your life, your work and your ministry.

The war within

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Galatians 5:16-17

One of the dreams of computer technologists is to develop robots or computers which operate fully as artificial intelligence (A.I.). It processes information fed to it and “learn” from those data and any conclusion derived from them. A machine that thinks on its own, and decides on its own. There are of course, pros and cons to a full A.I. The usefulness of it depends almost entirely on the data we feed it, and the thinking process we create for it. If the data we feed it are erroneous or the thinking process is bias, an A.I. may turn out to be a destructive monster!

Man is made up of spirit, soul and body. The body or as the Bible often refers to it as “the flesh”, is sort of an A.I. It operates following the natural desire of man. On its own, it records data collected over time from experience and information fed to it. It has a memory of pain and joy. Just like an A.I. Because of sin, the flesh on its own is against the things and Spirit of God. It cannot receive nor comprehend God’s truth. But God has through the finished work of the Cross, given us His Holy Spirit to reveal God’s truth to us. The flesh is at war with the Spirit. As the flesh is very much part of our body, God has provided an avenue for us to deny the controlling power of the flesh over us while we live this life on earth: “And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24). It means, if we choose to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us, guide us into God’s way, we will not walk according to the way of the flesh.

For us to live a life glorifying and pleasing God is not to first focus on behavior modification, to choose “mind over matter” in life. It is not to exercise our will to change our behavior. We must win this war against the flesh within us first. The only way to overcome the way of the flesh and not to be overcome by it is to submit to the Holy Spirit. Choose, to obey the voice of the Holy Spirit, even if it is inconvenient and unnatural. Choose daily, to crucify the flesh on the Cross. Then, we will do the things that we agree in our mind with God.

Go ahead, win this war! Victory is yours!

PRAYER

Intercede for the mission and ministry of the church to grow like leaven. Pray that God’s Kingdom will continue to expand, and lives continue to be transformed.

The growth of the Kingdom of God

And again He said, “To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”

Luke 13:20-21

Jesus has likened the Kingdom of God like leaven or yeast, hidden in a lump of dough. The center feature of this metaphor is that the Kingdom of God always starts small, and the inevitable outcome will be growth – grow to influence the whole sphere.

I learnt from my Priest Warden that the best temperature for yeast to grow most efficiently is the temperature of a human body. Likewise, the Kingdom of God is like leaven. It grows most efficiently in man and woman who will open their hearts to the King of the Kingdom of God, Jesus. The presence of the Kingdom of God is first to take root in a person’s heart. It then will pass on to the next person, and to the next, and the next...

The Kingdom of God is not a physical organization, a structure. These only give expression to the substance of the Kingdom. It is not about a set of “do’s and don’ts”. Far from it, it is about transformed lives from the inside out, not changed behavior from the outside in. Therefore, the Kingdom of God surpasses any political boundaries and human institutions. It is about a community of transformed lives, transformed by the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, bringing transformation to society.

When individuals who have encountered God are spread out over the society, placed on the 7 mountains of culture shaper, or the 5 sphere of influence in society, whichever you prefer, than the values of the Kingdom of God will permeate into all our lives. We will then see God’s rule and reign, justice and righteousness, compassion and mercy, translate into our daily living.

So, the preaching of the Kingdom of God is a non negotiable essential if we want to see change for the better for our nation and a future full of hope for our next generation. Choose to live a “Kingdom life” today, intentionally putting King Jesus first in our lives, we will surely see the redemption of God coming to us!

PRAYER

Have you acted or reacted recently in a fleshly manner? Nail to the Cross the works of the flesh and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in the exercise of your will and in your decision making.

Purge the yeast

Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

I Corinthians 5:6-7

The **Black Death**, also known as the **Great Plague**, the **Black Plague**, was one of the most devastating pandemics in human history, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 75 to 200 million people in Eurasia and peaking in Europe from 1347 to 1351. The disease was carried by black ground rats, who migrated out of the dried out grassland in Central and West Asia.

Though rats are relatively small and unnoticeable, if unchecked, they can cause devastating destruction. Sin, can be as small as rats or yeast. If allowed to remain in our lives, can be potentially fatal, causing death to the purposes of God in our lives. Sin always gives opportunity to the enemy to bring far reaching destruction in wherever we allow it to remain. Sin inevitably defiles the whole.

In the dryness of the grassland, the deadly disease carriers were forced out. But they must be completely eliminated or at least not allowed to multiply in order for man to be spared from fatality. When sins are repented from and forgiven by God, their effects and curses must be purged as well. Individual repentance is vital for personal renewal. However, sins and traces of sins, must not be permitted to dwell in the corporate life of the Church. Just as little leaven (or yeast) affects the whole dough, so will compromise on sins and their effects defile the whole Church.

Holiness is more than just right behavior. It is right believing which will eventually lead to a lifestyle of trusting God for who He is, and trusting every word that comes forth from His mouth. Holiness is living life free from the “leaven” of sins in the individuals, and in the Church. Holy living opens the door to God’s miracles of supernatural grace and restoration. Compromise on holiness, death and destruction awaits us.

Today, choose to purge out every leaven of sins and their effects from every sphere of our lives.

PRAYER

Open your heart today and invite the King of the Kingdom of God, Jesus to come and reign over every area where we can still observe the presence of sins and darkness in your life, your family, your workplace, your city/town/village and our nation.

The Kingdom within

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

Luke 17:20-21

A kingdom is the realm of reign of a king. It is evident by the characteristics of that kingdom, the value, authority and power held by its king. The Kingdom of God likewise, is characterized and evident by the righteousness, love, power and authority of King Jesus. It is where the will of God is executed against all other reigns or kingdoms, because His Kingdom is supreme. Where the Kingdom of God is established, the kingdom of Darkness cannot prevail.

Jesus described the Kingdom of God in this manner: it starts within us. The Kingdom of God is not established in a vacuum in this world. It manifest itself through us, His people and His children. When we open our hearts to embrace the King of the Kingdom of God, when we welcome Him to rule and reign over every part of our being, our hearts become the realm of His reign. Whatever darkness and its works, sins and the weakness of the flesh, anything that is out of sync with God’s righteous rule and will, will be expelled from our lives.

The rule of King Jesus within us is through the work and operation of the Holy Spirit. When He is welcome into our lives, He gives us spiritual gifts to enable us to do the work of the King (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). When we allow Him to dwell in us, He bears fruits in us (Galatians 5:22-23). The Holy Spirit convicts and convinces us of sins (that which is out of sync with God’s holiness), He has power to heal and deliver us. He grants us wisdom and understanding. He reveals God’s heart to us. He pours out the love God the Father into our hearts, etc.

When the Kingdom of God is established in us, the kingdom of Darkness has no place in us. When the Kingdom of God is in us, we will live out that victorious life which Jesus has obtained for us on the Cross, whenever He positions us. When the Kingdom of God is evident in us, we will create an atmosphere of His presence, His love and His power in our environment.

PRAYER

Spend some time in asking the Lord to reveal to you the “yeast” of sin in your heart. Repent of them and shut the door on them !

The Repentant

And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

Matthew 11:23

Sin always and inevitably has far reaching effects where it dwells. Whether it is found in individuals, family, community, city or nation. It gives an opportunity, an “excuse” for the enemy to demand control over where it dwells. Sin invokes curses, invites judgment of the Holy and Just God.

When Jesus walked on this earth, He came preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God. He healed the sick, drove out demons, showed grace to the weak and demonstrated the love of God the Father to the outcast and oppressed. He performed miracles of supernatural healings, signs and wonders that only could be done by the all-powerful God. In all these, the single most important message Jesus wanted to convey is: there is God in heaven and now dwells among man. The message demands a response, which man need to be in a right relationship with God in order to be saved.

You see, God’s judgment will come upon the sins of the world. Wherever sins are found, that judgment when released by God, will fall on the people who are still unrepentant. The miracles of God are God’s grace to us, so that we might take Him and His words seriously.

Sin is obviously the culprit for judgment and curses. Jesus came to extend to man an opportunity to be delivered from judgment and curses. Wherever sins are found, judgment will fall – on individuals, family, city and nation, unless repentance is expressed. When God’s people continue to live unrepentant lives, when God’s judgment comes to a city or a nation, we will not be spared. However, when God’s people live holy (set apart for God) and repentant (sensitive to sins) lives, God’s mercy covers His own people. So, when judgment befalls the city or nation, evil is judged but God’s people are spared.

When a city or nation repents, great is the deliverance! Even city as wicked as Sodom can be saved. Pray therefore, for a spirit of repentance to come upon our city and our nation!

PRAYER

Let us confess and repent of the continuing sins being committed over this land by the people and her leaders. Pray for God’s mercy upon our nations, and healing of the land.

Healing of a nation

Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity.”

Daniel 4:27

The Lord promises if we turn away from our wickedness, He will forgive our sins and heal our land (2 Chronicles 7:14). Healing of the land involves the healing of everything in the land: its people, its habitation, its economy, etc. Just as forgiveness precedes the healing of an individual, so is forgiveness the key to the healing of a nation.

Forgiveness involves seeking God’s forgiveness for the sins committed in this nation, whether we are directly involved. We ask for forgiveness because sins hurt people and they hurt God. Forgiveness also means that we forgive the offenders, the sinners who have caused hurts to the land, robbed and done injustice to the people of this land, while not excusing them of their sins. It means we release them from our judgment, surrender them into the hands of the Righteous Judge, to the rule of laws. We hate the sins, but love the sinners.

The other component of healing of the land is about the response of the leaders of the nation. In Daniel 4:27, the word of God tells us that leaders of a nation can redeem themselves from their past sins and wickedness. Their sense of remorse and repentance must be confirmed by their subsequent actions and decisions. They must choose righteousness in the exercise of their governing authority. They must demonstrate justice and fairness in their policy and laws making. Then, God’s healing will flow like an unending river, full of grace. His restoration will follow, and His glory will be seen in the nation.

Let us continue to uphold our nation in fervent prayers. Looking to God as the only hope of healing and restoration for this land and its people. Pray for our newly elected leaders to display righteousness and the fear of God.

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Flood this land with your grace and mercy!

PRAYER

Before we call on God’s judgment upon the wicked in our nation, let us ask the Lord to make us sensitive towards sins, so that we will not participate in activities or be part of a culture, which are lawless.