



40 DAYS | Praying and Fasting
RESTING IN GOD
23 May - 1 July 2016

TABLE OF

Day 1- God's Invitation for Us.....	1
Day 2 - Would You Come?.....	3
Day 3 - Invitation to The Mountain Top.....	5
Day 4 -The Lord is Our Shepherd.....	7
Day 5 - None like Him.....	9
Day 6 - Be Empowered.....	11
Day 7 - In A Still Small Voice.....	13
Day 8 - Immersed in His Presence.....	15
Day 9 - Biblical Rest.....	17
Day 10 -The promise of Rest.....	19
Day 11 - Healing on the Day of Rest.....	21
Day 12 - Resting in God's Word.....	23
Day 13 - Living Water.....	25
Day 14 - Praise Him.....	27
Day 15 - The Power of Thanksgiving.....	29
Day 16 - Strategies in Prayer.....	31
Day 17 -Transforming Circumstances Through Prayer.....	33
Day 18 - Where does Your Strength Come from?.....	35
Day 19 - He Calms the Storm.....	37
Day 20 - Strategies in Battles.....	39

CONTENTS

Day 21 - Wrestling with God.....	41
Day 22 - Trusting God in Our Journey.....	43
Day 23 - Resting in God's Process.....	45
Day 24 - The Power of Being Still.....	47
Day 25 - Walking with God.....	49
Day 26 - Keeping a Positive Attitude in Tough Times.....	51
Day 27 - God's Present vs God's Presence.....	53
Day 28 - Satisfied in God Alone.....	55
Day 29 - Alpha and Omega.....	57
Day 30 - Do You Believe?.....	59
Day 31 - Victory Rest in The Lord	61
Day 32 - God Knows Best!.....	63
Day 33 - Resting in God's Sovereignty.....	65
Day 34 - Soaring Like an Eagle	67
Day 35 - Faith and Obedience.....	69
Day 36 - Complete Obedience.....	71
Day 37 - Unlimited God.....	73
Day 38 - David in Adullam Cave.....	75
Day 39 - Small Beginning, Impactful Ending.....	77
Day 40 - Together Impactful!.....	79

Dear Prayer Warriors!

In this 40 Days praying & fasting 2016, let us together with our brothers and sisters in IFGF Family around the world draw near to Jesus. Responding to His invitation in Matthew 11:28 " Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." When we come to Jesus and walk with Him, we will receive strength from Him. That is when breakthrough will happen and hundreds of souls will receive Jesus.

This great devotional book by IFGF Pray team will help us learn the biblical truths about the importance of drawing near to God and resting in His presence. Together, we learn and experience the power of Christ through praying and fasting so that His name will be glorified.

Together Impactful,
Rev. Dr. Jimmy Oentoro
Founder & Chairman

Shalom Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is a great opportunity for us as a body of Christ IFGF worldwide to be united through 40 days of praying and fasting (23 May- 1 July, 2016). God's word, presence and guidance are the greatest counsel for our life. His instructions will lead us to life. John 15: 5 says "*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*"

In our praying and fasting season, let us surrender our burden to God, draw near to Him, learn from His word, and allow God to transform our life through discipleship. Let us also pray for one another, strengthen each other, and serve others with God's love.

For those who have testimonies, stories can be shared to us via email: pray@ifgf.org by providing name and the location of the respective IFGF church. Let God equips us with His word and presence in the next 40 days and allow God to use our life to be impactful to our community.

Together Impactful,
Rev. Hanna Kristanto, M.Th
Vice President - Equipping

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

We are very excited to welcome all of IFGF churches worldwide to experience an exciting 40-day period of Prayer and Fasting together, which will take place from May 23 to July 1, 2016.

We cannot deny that we are living in an extremely fast-paced world. Oftentimes we may feel that our performance is determined by how well we can keep up with the speed around us. Advances in communication technology has become a double-edged sword; it helps us be more efficient in our work, but at the same time has robbed us the privilege of distancing ourselves completely from our busyness. Sometimes social, work, and family demands so occupy us that we simply forget how to take a rest.

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus invites us to come to Him, take His yoke upon us and learn from Him, for He is gentle and humble, and we will find rest for our souls. Moses went up to the mountain and stayed there for 40 days in God's presence, and surely afterwards, God's presence was strongly manifest in Moses wherever he went. Are we weary from our work, burdened by the demands from our family, ministry, relationship with others, or even relationship with God? However heavy our burdens are, simply come to Him and surrender our beings to Him. He is ready to meet us wherever we are.

Together as the body of Christ, let us experience the power of resting in God's presence through praying and fasting. Let us make room for God to speak to us, to change us to be more like Him, and watch as God opens the path of victory for us as we faithfully march along in obedience to Him. His presence impacts us to live an impactful life!

Together Impactful!

Blessings,
IFGF Pray

Fasting Background

What is fasting?

Literally speaking, fasting is an act of not eating and drinking for a specific period of time. As a spiritual discipline, we use fasting as a means to humble ourselves before God. As we deny the desires of our flesh, we focus our attention to seek Him. As we rest our body from the food that it craves, we give spiritual food to our spirit and mind.

What does the bible say about fasting?

• Fasting in the Old Testament

In the Old Testament, fasting was a special period during which people gathered to humble themselves, to receive purification from sins through repentance, to obtain spiritual renewal, and to find divine help. Fasting was often associated with tears and humbling experiences before God. In the Old Testament, fasting was declared and instructed in Joel 2: 12-13, Isaiah 58, 1 Samuel 7:6, and Deuteronomy 9:9.

• Fasting in the New Testament

o Jesus gave the example of fasting when He fasted for 40 days after he received his baptism from John.

o When Jesus was still a baby, there was an old woman named Anna who unceasingly served God in prayer and fasted day and night.

o In Antioch, the prophets and Jesus' early disciples also fasted (Acts 13:2).

For every child of God, fasting is a lifestyle and the question is not "do I have to fast?" but "when should I fast?"

How should we pray and fast?

While there is no strict regulation how a Christian should fast, in practice there are three generally accepted options:

1. For those who have previously fasted, it is recommended to skip two meals. The fasting period is from 10pm every night until 6pm the next day. So you have a 4-hour eating window every day, i.e. from 6pm to 10pm every day.
2. For those who have just started fasting, it is recommended to just skip one meal you usually have. You can choose to skip either breakfast, lunch, or dinner.
3. For those who are not physically fit, it is recommended to fast up till noon only.

How can we lead our lives differently during our fast?

1. As you're breaking your fast every day, try to fellowship and pray together with your family, iCare, or prayer tower.
2. Pray and minister to those in need. Have a list of names that we commit to pray for and minister to during these 40 days of prayer and fasting.
3. Dedicate time in the morning, afternoon, or at night to have a personal private time with God.
4. Read the 40-Day Prayer and Fasting journal guide and make time to have a daily dose of God's word.
5. Write down any questions you might have about your life and others, and as you pray and fast these 40 days, write down any answer that you may receive from the Lord.

Always maintain a clean and compassionate heart. Remember that this prayer and fasting period is not simply a matter of not eating or not drinking, but rather to give ourselves to spend more time with the Lord. As we withdraw from our fleshly desires, we draw closer to God. As we focus on the Lord, we will discover that God has all along been waiting to show us great and wonderful things beyond what we could ever ask or think. (Isaiah 30:18)

Have an exciting 40-days prayer and fasting time with the Lord!

1 | God's Invitation for Us

Matthew 11:28-30

In our current fast-paced life filled with modern communication devices, we may often find ourselves unable to break free from the unceasing demands of our life. Imagine this, even a factory that runs 24/7 needs to turn off its machines for regular maintenance from time to time. Failure to do so would lead to the machines' fatal breaks down. A life without sufficient rest will surely affects our health and leads our mental state into chaos.

In Matthew 11:25-28, Jesus calls us to come to rest in Him and experience the Father's goodness through Himself. What exactly does He invite us to do?

a. Come to Him

Jesus sent out invitation to His first disciples, Peter and Andrew – both fishermen - to come and follow Him (Matthew 4:18). Jesus called Matthew, a tax collector to follow Him. Jesus offered to stay in Zacchaeus' house, also a tax collector a job despised by the people of Israel (Luke 19:5-6), Jesus is ready to meet us wherever we are. Nobody is exempt from His invitation, and all we need to do is simply come.

b. Rest in Him

When we come to Him, Jesus guarantees that we will have spiritual rest in Him. God is love, peace, grace, joy, and power itself. He is the creator of all things and the source of everything. To rest in Jesus means to put our trust and hope in Him completely.

c. Learn from Him

When Jesus called His disciples, He told them to follow Him. Let us learn from God Himself. He is a gentle master, an excellent teacher and a faithful shepherd. He will not give us burden that we cannot endure.

d. Take His yoke for His yoke is easy and His burden is light

A yoke is a farming instrument used to plow a field. It is made of a wooden beam normally used between a pair of oxen or other animals to enable them to pull together on a load when working in pairs to lighten individual burden. In the Old Testament, Israelites bound themselves with the worship of Baal of Peor (Numbers 25:3) and also with the yoke of slavery from Egyptians (Exodus 6:7). Jesus has come to set us free from the burden of slavery and sin that entangled us.

When Jesus called, Peter, Andrew, Matthew, and Zaccheus immediately responded and followed Jesus as His disciples. Let us respond to God's invitation, rest spiritually in His presence, and learn from His word. Drawing close to God is the only way we could find rest for our souls and impact those surround us.

Prayer Points:

- Pray that we may be able to still our heart from the noise around us, and enter into God's rest.
- Pray for the spirit for love, hope, faith and revelation to pour down as everyone is entering 40 days of rest, so that breakthrough, restoration, and healing may overflow.

2 | Would You Come?

Matthew 11:28,22:1-14

As children of God, we are always invited to come into His presence at all times. God longs for us to come and spend good quality time with Him. He longs to reveal Himself to us, but do we always respond to His invitation when He calls?

The parable of the wedding feast gives us a picture of how those who had been initially invited could not care less to make time to come because they chose to go on with their busy lives (Matthew 22:5-6). Have we become so busy these days that we could no longer sense God's invitation for us to come to Him? Are we too busy to read God's words or even to pray?

God is trying to remind us through this parable to prioritize our time to come to His place. God never forces us; He would always gently invite and remind us. He desires that no matter how busy our lives might get, we would always set apart the best time to come to His presence. Not because it is compulsory, but because we love Him, and we understand that it is actually for our utmost good that we stay connected to and be recharged in Him.

God's kingdom provides us with everything we need; and the best of all is that He, Himself is there and we are invited to have fellowship with Him! Let us choose to come to His presence; let us choose not to let our busy lives distract us from following Him wholeheartedly. Do not miss His invitation. Pray that we, like David, may seek after the house of the Lord and gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and His temple (Psalms 27:4).



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that we may steadfastly respond to God's invitation to come to Him.
- Pray so that we would not let the busyness and lesser things of our life crowd Jesus out from our heart.

3 | Invitation to The Mountain Top

Matthew 17:1-13, Psalms 121
Exodus 24:13-18

One of the most important things that we took granted for is prayer. Many of us miss the true essence of prayer as a meeting place between the Lord and us where we could communicate to the Lord and share our innermost desires, worries, fears and joy. Prayer is a place where we could meet God face to face and heart to heart. This may sound like a cliché, but Jesus literally is just a prayer away.


When God was about to give His laws to the people of Israel, He called Moses to climb high up the mountain. There he met God face-to-face and stayed for 40 days in the presence of the Lord. There also he received the stone tablets that contained the special law that God has given the Israelites to set them apart from the other nations of the earth.

Since old times, mountain signifies a place where God reveals something special to us. On Mount Ararat, Noah received the rainbow from God as a sign of covenant that never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. On top of Mount Moriah, Abraham understood that God is Jehovah Jireh, the LORD will provide. There also God expanded His promise to Abraham, saying that in Abraham's offspring, i.e. Jesus, shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. On Mount Horeb, Elijah received new strength from the Lord, and also the mandate to anoint Elisha as his successor. In the New Testament, Jesus prayed in the mountain before He chose His twelve disciples (Luke 6:12). In Mat 17, Jesus took his three closest disciples up to a high mountain to witness His transfiguration and to receive another heavenly confirmation that Jesus indeed is the Son of God.

Throughout the Bible, those who went to the mountain came back changed. The mountain symbolizes a quiet, secluded place, away from the commotion of our daily lives, where God will reveal an additional phase of His plan for us or for humankind. Our eyes will be opened as we see a vision God has for His works. And as our faith grows, we will see God bigger and our challenges smaller. At the mountaintop, we receive a new perspective; we begin to see how God sees, and feel what God feels. Whether or not our life circumstances changes afterwards, what change is how we see and respond to them. Meeting God re-energizes and replenishes His grace within us, so that we can go back to our world with a refined purpose, God's vision, and God's strength with us. Thank God we do not have to climb Mount Everest to seek God and able to meet God a prayer away. Let us embrace this gift that God has graciously give us.



Prayer Points:

- As we spend time daily with God in prayer and Bible reading, pray that God will reveal a greater part of His vision and His will for our life.
 - Pray for spirit of meekness to overflow when we are facing the dreary part of life. Don't be disappointed with our circumstances. Let what we have learned from God in secret be manifest in public through all circumstances. When we live in careful obedience to God, every little part of your life is sanctified, a holy and acceptable offering to Him.
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4 | The Lord is Our Shepherd

Psalm 23

In Psalm 23, David called God his Shepherd. In his youth, David was the most renowned general in Saul's armies. He was perhaps most well known as the young, red-cheeked boy who defeated Goliath, the giant champion of the Philistine's army. After he formally joined Saul's army, he scored flawless victory record in the numerous battles against the Philistines. Later, David - true to Samuel's prophetic anointing - became king of Israel. Long after his death, David is still regarded Israel's greatest king, wise, righteous, mighty in battles, the man after God's own heart. It's wonder that this mighty king, to whom people would ascribe the image of a lion, chose instead to describe himself as a sheep, under the care of God, the good shepherd.

Sheep is known as one of the weakest animals. They have neither physical strength nor intelligence that would enable them to survive on their own. When under attack, they panic easily and are pretty much defenseless. Thus, their survival lies almost solely in the hand of their shepherd.

A shepherd himself, David understands how weak sheep are. He also understands that a good shepherd would go to large extent and even face grave dangers for the sake of the sheep (1 Samuel 17:34-35). In Psalm 23, David wrote that:

a. God will provide all our needs

He leads the sheep to the source of water, food, and safety. When we follow and obey God, we shall lack nothing that we needs.

b. He gives us rest

He leads us beside quiet waters and refreshes our souls. Obedience to God's commandments gives us peace and rest, because God is love.

c. He leads us in paths of righteousness

Without direction from the shepherd, the sheep will follow the flock wherever they are going, even walking into danger. Instead of letting us to be swayed by our circumstances, God leads us to His righteousness through His word.

d. He will lead us safely through the valley of the shadow of death

The valley is there only to be passed through and never designed to be our final destination. His rod defends us from our enemies and his staff corrects and straightens our path.

In our journey towards our final destination, God sometimes leads us through the valley of the shadow of death. God never promises us a problem-free life, but He does promise that goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life. And He guarantees our final victory and safe arrival in our everlasting dwelling place, the House of the Lord. The righteous might have many troubles, but The Lord delivers them from them all (Psalm 44).

Prayer Points:

- Pray that – regardless of our achievements or high status – we may like David follow God like a sheep follow its shepherd, in faith, obedience, and humility.
- Pray for peace, strength and comfort for the people around us who are currently walking through the valley of the shadow of death. Ask God to fill their cup with joy, hope, and thanksgiving.

5 | None like Him

Philippians 4:6-7
Isaiah 43:2

Anxiety is an undeniable part of life. We worry about many things, and often we fear for the future. What do we do when anxieties overwhelm our hearts and minds? Do we immediately look for comfort from other people? Or do we try to bear it all down by ourselves? Neither will grant us the peace we so desperately need. However, God promises that when we pray, He will take away our anxiety and replace it with His peace that is beyond our understanding.




Don't run from our problems, because God has promised that through all our challenges, He is on our side. Isaiah 43:2 says, *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned or scorched, nor will the flame kindle upon you."* That is His promise for us, claim it! Believe that He is with us; He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Our God is with us, guiding our every steps, giving us wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and most of all, the peace that gives rest to our hearts and minds. There is none like Him – no person, let alone a god – who is willing to be with us through our highs and lows, who share our burdens so they will not overwhelm us, and who is ever so patient in directing us to the right path. But do we always listen? Do we always come when He calls?

Even if you have to come to Him every single minute, do so. Our friends will get tired of us. Even our parents or closest brothers cannot find the time to always attend to our cares. But God does not get tired of us, and He has all the time in the world. He promises that He will not turn away anyone who comes to Him in faith. Cast your cares on Him, for He cares for you. In prayer, let Him know what you need. Give thanks for His unceasing care for us. Praise Him for all the great and wonderful things He has done and will do for us, and let His peace fill our heart and mind.



Prayer Points:

- Let us surrender our weaknesses and cares to God, and believe God to turn our weakness for His glory (2 Corinthians 12:9).
 - Pray for Philippians 4:4-9 to rule over our mind. We rebuke negative thoughts, spirit of fear, and the spirit of timidity over our mind.
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6 | Be Empowered

Ephesians 6:10-18, Isaiah 40:29

Whatever our occupations are, there would be time when we get weary of doing our daily routines. We try to relieve our boredom by checking our social media accounts, replying a few messages, reading news, or watching movies. There is nothing wrong with all those, but those activities can only give us a temporary relief.


Ephesians 6:10 (AMP) says, *"In conclusion, be strong in the Lord (be empowered through your union with Him); draw your strength from Him (that strength which His boundless might provide)."*

We need new strength to go through every day from the right, limitless source. Let us, at all times, draw our strength from the One who gives to us abundantly. There is great power working in us when we encounter Him personally daily. Draw our strength from Him for, "He gives power to the faint and weary, and to him who has no might He increases strength." (Isaiah 40:29). Only when we are connected to the right source will we ourselves have a running-over supply that can be shared with others.

The word of God also instructs us to put on the full armor of God so we can take stand against the devil's scheme. Our identity in Christ, sharing God's love of salvation, the word of God, faith, and prayer are our armor to be able to be strong in God. When we come to Him, seek His presence, praise Him, pray and read His words, we are drawing strength from God by equipping ourselves with the right armor to live a fruitful life.



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that we may learn to find our strength and refreshment in spending time with the Lord.
 - Pray for an obedient heart that always put on the armor of God in every situation (Ephesians 6:8-11).
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7 | In A Still Small Voice

1 King 19

Elijah - one of the great Prophet in Israel - had just defeated 450 Baal prophets by bringing down fire of the Lord in a spectacular view in front of the people of Israel. In an act of miraculous grandeur never seen since the time of Moses, Elijah proclaimed that the LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel is indeed God in Israel. After such a striking victory, one would expect that Elijah right now would be overflowing with the boldness of a lion. Instead, a single threat from Jezebel had sent Elijah running for dear life. Despite his victory, Elijah was extremely tired, and in his exhaustion may have developed an unrealistic sense of fear. After walking forty days and forty nights, Elijah arrived to a deserted cave and spent the night alone there.

Our victories and achievements do not guarantee us a life free from fear. Many people who seem bold and confident on the outside are not exempt from fears of their own. But in the midst of our fears, God is again inviting us to come to Him, just as we are, bringing our fears and cares to Him.

- a.** We can be honest and open about things that weary us, like what Elijah did in 1 Kings 19:10.
- b.** Stand in His presence and wait upon the Lord. After Elijah had put down his case before the Lord, He told Elijah to stand on the mount before the Lord to wait for Him to pass by. There is a renewal of strength for those who wait on the Lord (Isaiah 40:31).

c. Listen to God in a still small voice. Sometimes God's help and deliverance do not come in great performance or spectacular miracles, but in His still small voice that is speaking to us through His word and through His Spirit in our heart. Elijah did not find God in great and powerful wind, earthquake, or fire. He found God in a gentle whisper (1 Kings 19:11-13). In this quiet voice, God gave instruction to Elijah for his next move, which is to go to the Desert of Damascus, where he would find Elisha, the man that would inherit Elijah's prophetic anointing.

As we wait on God, He will renew our strength. When we cannot hear His voice, let us read His word. His guidance directs us to the right path. Never leave God when we are tired and weary of this life. Instead, enter His presence. He is ready to meet us and speak to us in in whatever condition we are and give us strength.



Prayer Points:

- Come to God in whatever condition we are, and find His quiet voice. Pray for a renewed strength so that we may face our life with faith and confidence.
- Pray for a renewed vision, so that we may walk with a definite sense of purpose.

8 | Immersed in His Presence

Philippians 4:4, Matthew 14, 1
Chronicles 16:27, Psalm 16:11

The Bible commanded us to rejoice always. It is easy to rejoice when things are going our way, when it seems like life is on our side. It is easy to rejoice when we have just received a promotion, when we have just received a miraculous healing, when we have just scored a large business deal. But can we rejoice when things are not going our way? Can we rejoice when our spouse will not respect / love us the way we want it? Can we rejoice when the business deal we have wanted so desperately suddenly turn sour? Can we rejoice when money is tight and we can see no light at the end of the tunnel? Can we rejoice when we have tried in vain to conceive for years on end?

In Matthew 14:13, the news of John the Baptist's death must have come like a heavy blow for Jesus. Not only was John his cousin, John was also a strong supporter for Jesus, one of the few people who early on testified that Jesus is the Son of God. However, when Jesus heard the news, He responded with calm and withdrew to a secluded place by Himself. Not long afterwards, we read in the Bible that Jesus was already back to ministering to the people.


There are three things that we can learn from how Jesus responded to the shocking news of John the Baptist's death. When we, like Jesus, choose to come to God in the midst of unpleasant situations, it means:

- a. We are choosing to keep ourselves focused to do what is right.
- b. We take time to get connected with God and allow His presence to overflow in us.
- c. We are not letting the circumstances to overwhelm us but faith to arise.

Do not let our circumstances overwhelm us; rather, take time to pray to God for the situation. Ask God for wisdom and for miraculous intervention. Allow His presence to give us strength and joy, so that, regardless of our situation, we will always have grace to serve and bless the people around us. Every morning when we wake up, let us always remember to invite His presence to be with us, so that we may always be ready for whatever we may encounter that day. Be immersed in His presence, and let Him lead the way.



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that we may increasingly live in God's presence, to find our strength, peace and joy in Him, so that in whatever situation we are in, we can always be full of God's grace.
 - Pray may God's unconditional love overflow in us every day so we will be able to serve and bless the people around us.
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9 | Biblical Rest

Hebrew 4, Numbers 14,
Genesis 39-41

Biblical rest is an attitude of heart that sheltered with faith in God's promise. The heart puts its confidence and security in God's provision and word. God longs for us to accept His invitation to enter his rest with faith and obedience (Hebrew 4:2-3).

The Israelites had been promised to enter the land of milk and honey and had experienced firsthand the provision of the Lord. Israelites had seen red sea parted open, had experienced the pillar of cloud and fire guided their journey, had eaten manna from above, and many more. However they still doubted Him. They did not have faith in His promise to give them a better future. When things get tough in life, they constantly long to go back to the old life (Numbers 14:2-4). Due to this, the Israelites were never able to fully enter God's rest.


On the other hand, the story of Joseph illustrated a life of a young man who rested completely in God's promise and provision. God had given Joseph a vision that he would be a ruler one day (Genesis 37:5-10). However, throughout his life, Joseph's story was filled with up and down journey from being Jacob's favorite son, betrayed by his brothers, sold as a slave, went to prison due to false accusation by Potiphar's wife, until he became second in command of King of Egypt. During difficult times in Egypt, Joseph put his faith and walked with God. Joseph believed that through everything God intended everything for good (Genesis 50:20).

What made these two attitudes so far apart? It is an unbeliever heart. Unbeliever heart does not trust God's provision. Unbeliever heart wavers our faith to question God's promises constantly. Unbeliever heart leads nowhere and it will keep us away from entering a place of rest.

God is waiting on us to be at rest in Him (Hebrew 4:11). He longs to pour out His compassion on us and reveal His kingdom to us in ways you could never have imagine. God's word that is alive and active able to change a disbelief heart to a faith filled heart and obedience. There was a saying, "When we act, God waits. When we wait, God acts." Waiting on God and entering into His rest could be the most productive moments of your life. Let us learn from God's word, encounter him personally, throw away your unbeliever heart and start believing now!



Prayer Points:

- Pray for a patient and unwavering heart to wait upon the Lord and trust in His provision.
 - Pray for God's divine word and counsel to guide us as we wait upon Him.
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10 | The Promise of Rest

Genesis 12, 18:1-15

Abraham is known as the man whom God called "the Father of many nations." The most notable value that we could learn from his life was his journey to receive the long-awaited child that God has promised. At the ripe age of 75, during which most men would be happily spending time with their grandchildren, Abraham was still childless, and perhaps had been at peace with the fact that he would never have a child. But God suddenly stepped into his life and turned it upside down.

Perhaps we know the story all too well. But there are two things that we'd like to point out from this story. First, do we notice that - based on the Bible's account - it was not Abraham who first requested God for a child. God actually initiated the promise towards Abraham. In Genesis 12, God commanded Abraham to leave his land, his parents, his family, his cultures, practically everything that represents his identity, and go to a land that God would show. God promised Abraham greatness, blessings, and perhaps most importantly, descendants so many they would make a great nation.

Secondly, even though God gave the promise and its fulfillment assured, the journey was long and arduous. Along the journey, Abraham did have his moments of doubts. Following Sarah's urging, Abraham tried to have child through one of Sarah's slaves. God was never angry at Abraham, and He probably knew that Abraham - like all of us - would need some faith-boosters along the way; so God did appear four times to reconfirm and in fact, expanded, His promise to Abraham.

Waiting is never fun. We live in a world and time where speed is expected and rewarded. Many times, when we are waiting for God's promise, we would grow impatient and anxious. Like Abraham, maybe we would resort to questionable methods to "speed up" the fulfillment of God's promise. What should we really do when we are waiting?

Perhaps we can learn from Abraham. The best attitude to have is to be at rest. To be at rest means that we have surrendered our life and our future to God's will. 24 years finally passed, and Abraham was 99 years old when God appeared to finally fulfill His promise to Abraham for a child. Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his house when he looked up and saw the Lord coming. Instead of demanding answers and explanations, Abraham offered great hospitality and comfort for his guests. He was focused in God and in pleasing God alone. God reconfirmed the promise for the fifth time and by the following year, Abraham received his long awaited heart's desire. The final phase of the promise's fulfillment was when Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his house, at the heat of the day, and was completely at rest (Genesis 18:1).



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that we will be enabled to wait for the fulfillment of God's in full peace and trust, instead of anxiety and worry.
- In waiting for God's promises to come to fulfillment, pray for faith to arise for He who has promised is faithful.

11 | Healing on the Day of Rest

John 5

There was an agony that some of us were too familiar with; the agony of waiting for an answered prayer. Henry Thoreau said, "Happiness is like a butterfly; the more you chase it, the more it will elude you; but if you turn your attention to other things, it will come and sit softly on your shoulder." The author explained that sometimes in order to receive miracles, one must come to a point of rest.

John 5 talks about a man who had been sitting by the pool of Bethesda due to his 38 years of infirmity. Everyday he had been focusing his life to wait for the water to stir and figure out a way to be the first to step into the water. Due to his limitations, others would always arrive at the pool before him and he would miss his chance of receiving the miracle of healing.

But one day, his life took an unexpected turn on the day of Sabbath. It was a common knowledge that Jewish are not to perform any job on Sabbath because it was meant to be a day of rest. Therefore, it was the least expected time to receive healing on that day. The man knew that the water would not stir that day and was just lying down where he was without any expectation to receive healing on that day. However, this man had an encounter with Jesus. Jesus came to him in his place of brokenness and offered him an answered prayer; a complete healing.

As this man turned his focus from receiving healing through the pool of Bethesda to Jesus, he encountered God's presence, able to walk, and shared to others about Jesus. Being at rest means surrendering and focusing our eyes on Jesus. As we fix our eyes on Jesus, our faith arise, and we will be able to be secure and rest in Him.



Prayer Points:

- Pray for a hopeful heart that believes and expect God's miracle even in our brokenness.
- Pray for God's characters to be revealed to us so we will be able to understand God's faithfulness and surrender our life to Him.

12 | Resting in God's Word

Psalm 1, Psalm 92:12-15,
Jeremiah 17:7-8

Psalm 1 likens a man who meditates upon the Law of the Lord day and night to a tree planted by streams of water. The root of the tree will absorb life-giving nutrients from the water, so that the tree, richly and abundantly blessed, will yield its fruits in season and its leaf does not wither. The fruits can be enjoyed by many, and the leaves provide shelter for the weary.

Cactuses, on the other hand, live in the desert. Being thus adapted to scarce water, when rain does come, cactus will retain as much water as it could to sustain its life. Cactus' spine is surrounded by thorns to discourage animals from sucking water from it. And unlike a tree planted by the water, cactus has short root that enables it to react quickly to rainfall and absorb any water found on ground surface. Psalm 1 teaches us the benefits of resting in God's word. Those who love to meditate on His word will:

a. Live close to the source of living water

God's word will rebuke us, teach us, and give us strength to live this life.

b. Grow healthily

The health of a tree depends on its roots. Nutrients from the ground and the water will enable a tree to grow strong, healthy, deep-reaching roots. Thus, enabling the tree to yield excellent fruits. When we are strongly planted in the word of God, we will be transformed to be Christ-like, not easily swayed by circumstances, ungodly counsels, or storms in our life.

c. Be a blessing to others

As we fix our eyes on Jesus, His word will cleanse and purify us, so that others will be able to see and enjoy these spiritual fruits in us.

d. Lead other to Christ

The tree's green leaves are pleasant to the eyes and will attract people to Christ. Moreover, it provides protection from heat to those who rest beneath it. Those who are planted in the word of God will be sought by others for counsel and comfort and will be able lead others towards Christ.

e. Be prosperous in everything we do

When we live close to the source of life, everything we do will be imbued with eternal values, according to God's power and spirit at work within us.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for Psalm 1:1-3 to be fulfilled in our lives, Pray so that we may find delight in the meditating on the word of God and patterning ourselves to God's instructions and counsel.
- Pray for wisdom to guide our speech and action so others will be able to see Christ in us.

13 | Living Water

Genesis 16, 21, 24

Beer-lahai-roi, or in Hebrew be'er lachai ro'i, is a well located in the Negeb, Southwest border of Canaan, between Kadesh and Bered (Genesis 16:14). Several phrases have been used to describe the meaning of this place; "well of the living one that sees me", "a fountain of water in the wilderness" (Genesis 16:7-14) or as some render it, "the well of the vision of life". The significance of this place is often looked over, but there are three important events that took place at this particular well.

a. Beer-lahai-roi was a place where Hagar finally saw God (Genesis 16:7-14). After Hagar ran off from Abraham's house out through the desert, Hagar wondered if God understood her affliction, and God did. In this place, Hagar first met Abraham's God and she named Him "The God who sees me". She later named the place Beer-lahai-roi.

b. Beer-lahai-roi was the place where Hagar met the Lord the second time. (Genesis 21).

The homeless Hagar and Ishmael wandered through the desert until they ran out of water. In despair, Hagar set Ishmael down under a bush and turned away, expecting him to die. As she sat there, she began to sob. God heard the cry of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid". Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. God provided Hagar the water she needed. There Hagar proclaimed that all along God had been seeing her but in this place she finally saw Him.



c. Beer-lahai-roi was also the place where Isaac was dwelling in the time he met Rebekah (Genesis 24:62).

One of the greatest love stories of all time, the love story of Isaac and Rebekah was a story of faith and prayerful dependence on God to be the matchmaker. At Beer-lahai-roi, Isaac saw Rebekah for the first time and he loved her. Isaac and Rebekah had trusted in the Lord, and He had brought them together to be husband and wife.

Although in technical terms, Beer-lahai-roi is just a geographical place, but the true significance of a well is a place where we could gather water directly from its source on the ground. Like Isaac and Rebekah, we need to come and dwell in Beer-lahai-roi. Beer-lahai-roi is a place of intimate personal relationship where we see God face to face. It is a place where we can draw eternal living water (the Word) so that we will never thirst again.



Prayer Points:

- Pray to God that He may bring you to your Beer-lahai-roi, a place of personal intimacy where you can see God face to face; where God, and not simply His blessings, will be your true great reward.
 - Pray for an open heart and mind so when God teaches us His word, God's word can easily be planted, grow, and bear fruit within our life.
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14 | Praise Him

Psalm 147:1-14

"O praise the name of the Lord our God; O praise His name forever more; for endless days we will sing Your praise; Oh Lord, Oh Lord our God" - Hillsong Worship

Sometimes, disappointments or pains are inevitable, even after we have given our best. Sometimes giving the best care, the best attention, the best work, and the best dedication to our work and to the people around us is not enough to give us the success we look for. However, while the disappointments are inevitable, how we choose to respond to them totally depend on us.

Human's comfort, strength, and understanding are limited. What would happen when people around us could not give more? Will we fall to deeper disappointment? Psalm 147:10 reminds us that God does not take pleasure in human's strength, but He delights in those who fear Him, those who put their hope in His unfailing love.

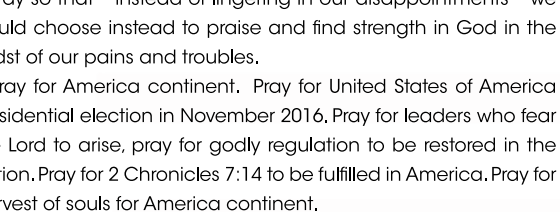

Our God has unlimited strength and infinite understanding! And fortunately for us, He is also long-suffering and kind, our true comfort who would never get tired of us. Let us always choose to seek Him first and praise Him in all circumstances. When we praise Him in the midst of our discomfort, we are lifting up our thanksgiving to Him. and surrendering our hope to Him.

May we always find our strength and comfort in God, and not in the limited comfort, strength and understanding of human. If God cares even for tiny sparrows, and if He cares enough even to number our hair, how much more would he understand our disappointments and brokenness?

Seeking God in the midst of our disappointments and challenges is a choice. Therefore, let us choose to enter God's presence. Give Him our best moments, instead of our leftover moments. Let His presence comfort, strengthen, satisfy and give peace.



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that – instead of lingering in our disappointments – we would choose instead to praise and find strength in God in the midst of our pains and troubles.
 - Pray for America continent. Pray for United States of America Presidential election in November 2016, Pray for leaders who fear the Lord to arise, pray for godly regulation to be restored in the nation. Pray for 2 Chronicles 7:14 to be fulfilled in America. Pray for harvest of souls for America continent.
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15 | The Power of Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 5:18,
Proverbs 17:22

Many cultures celebrate festivities in different ways as a sign of thanksgiving. In North America and Korea, thanksgiving is celebrated as an expression of gratitude to God for the bounty of the autumn harvest. In Egypt, thanksgiving is celebrated during spring season as a sign of thanksgiving to the god of fertility and vegetation for the harvest season.

The Bible tells us to give thanks in all circumstances because it is God's will for us. (1 Thessalonians 5:18). The book of Habakkuk also teaches us to give thanks simply for who God is regardless whether the harvest is good or bad. "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior." (Habakkuk 3:17-18). The act of giving thanks in all circumstances holds much power. A heart of thanksgiving will:

a. Activate our faith

When we give thanks, we are placing our confidence not in our strength or circumstances, but in God alone. We are exercising our faith to turn our worry and anxiety into prayer, praise and worship to God. We are acknowledging that God is greater than our situations and can do exceedingly and abundantly beyond what we can ever ask or think.

b. Bring contentment in our life

Giving thanks to God will bring contentment into our life and is a great gain for us (1 Timothy 6:6). When we give thanks, we are essentially declaring that God alone is enough to help us through our circumstances.

c. Unlock God's power

When Paul and Silas were imprisoned, the prison doors were opened after they prayed and worshiped God. (Acts 16:25-26) When Jesus was about to do the miracle of feeding 5,000 people, He gave thanks to God beforehand (Matthew 14:19). The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit (Proverbs 18:11). There is life-giving power when we speak the word and promises of God.

There is God's supernatural power ready to be released from a heart of thanksgiving. Let us take time and give thanks for what God has done in our life. Maybe we have some unanswered prayers at this moment. Do not focus on what you don't have. Instead, give thanks for the things that God has given without us even needing to ask for them. Lastly, give thanks for the difficulties in our life because God is faithful and He works in everything for good to those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

Prayer Points:

- Pray so that we may give thanks in all circumstances, because in thanksgiving and trust lie our strength.
- Pray for Australia Continent. Pray for soul harvest upon Australia continent. Pray for the fear of the Lord to always guide Australia government officials.

16 | Strategies in Prayer

Ephesians 6:12,
Esther 4-5,

The book of Esther is a great example of strategic intercession done in faith. When threatened with total annihilation, the whole Jewish people in the land of Babylon declared a season of prayer and fasting led by Mordecai and Esther. Prayer is indeed a powerful expression of faith resulting in the fulfillment of God's plan on earth. When we pray, we have to pay attention to the following.

a. Do it with the right attitude

In Esther's life, Esther has a heart that focused to please the king - Esther 2:15. This sincere attitude was reflected on Esther's prayer. Esther entered into prayer motivated not by a selfish desire, but simply out of love for her people, to save them from annihilation.

b. Take initiatives and pray with courage

Mordecai and Esther took initiative in praying for the salvation of Jews by commanding all the Jewish people to abstain from food and drink for three days.

c. Maintain a heart of surrender

The famous quote by Esther is, "If I perish, I perish." Esther prayed, fasted and planned everything to the best of her ability. However, she left the final result of her efforts to God's divine decision.

d. Believe that God desires to bless us


The King asked Esther numerous times, "What can I do for you?" (Esther 5:3,6) We need to ask ourselves, what do we want God to do for our family, for our

workplace, for our church, for our nation? What do the words and promises of God say about our surroundings? We should start claiming His promises in our prayer and God will bring them to pass.

What are we battling for at this particular time in our condition? Could it be for salvation of our family members? Are we battling for the power to forgive? Or perhaps even for godly transformation of our country? Receive His word and promises regarding our battles, claim them in our prayers, sow the word of God in the area of our battles through actions, and we will see that faith-filled prayer plus obedience can win any battle.



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that we may see our battlefield with the correct strategic understanding, so that we could start praying targeted prayers against our real enemies, the spiritual princes and rulers of this world.
 - Pray for Asia Continent. We bind every stronghold that takes control over the continent and we release the spirit of repentance, love, and peace.
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17 | Transforming Circumstances Through Prayer

Daniel 2, Matthew 16:19,
Matthew 18:18-20

Daniel 2 narrated the story of King Nebuchadnezzar's troublesome dream. The dream bothered him so much that he summoned magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and wise men to tell him his dream and its interpretation. However, when the so-called wise men came up with various excuses why such a thing could not be done, Nebuchadnezzar was so furious that he ordered the execution for all wise men in Babylon. Daniel wisely asked the king's captain for more time, and he brought the matter into prayer together with his companions. When Daniel gave the king the answer he sought, the king made Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon and all the wise men of Babylon. There are several things that we can learn from how Daniel handled the difficult situation:


- a.** After hearing the execution news, Daniel went and shared the news with his friends. There is power when two or three pray in unity (Matthew 18:19-20). When we pray together with our prayer partners, family, loved ones, or trusted friends in unity and in Jesus' name, God will hear and release His blessings.
- b.** Daniel and his friends did not rely on man but quickly ran to the source of all things, God Himself.
- c.** Praying with humility. Daniel also urged his friends to pray for God's mercy to be released. Mercy of vision and understanding were released and death sentence was bound when Daniel and his friends pray to God. When we pray together with our prayer partner, loved ones, or friends, believe that there is unity in Jesus name. God hears and he releases His blessings.

d. Daniel stay connected with God all the time, even through the night hour. God revealed his vision and Daniel spent time to praise God in the night hour. Sometimes God's vision, dreams, and understanding are revealed to us at the night hour when we are spending time with Him.

Daniel's prayer has turned the difficult circumstances he faced into a tremendous opportunity for impact. The wise man of Babylon escaped their death sentence, and King Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that there is a powerful God who is in control over mysteries, greater than any god or kings. (Daniel 2:47) God has given us a powerful key that can be released through prayer. It is up to us take the key and use it to release God's power and bring eternal impact to those around us. Let us spend more time in prayer, bringing our requests to God and praising Him for His unchanging promises. Nothing is impossible!



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that the difficulties we face will turn into opportunities for impact. Nothing is impossible!
 - Pray for European Continent. Pray for repentance and soul harvest upon European Continent.
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18

Where does Your Strength Come From?

Daniel 6, Psalm 121:1-8


The key to victory in our everyday uphill climb in life is in where we draw our strength. In Daniel 6, we learn how Daniel maintained his devotion to God at the risk of his life, and God honored Daniel's faith by saving him from his enemies' grip. Through a series of occurrences, the king, despite his high view of Daniel, was trapped in his own words, and was compelled to have Daniel thrown into the lions' den. Daniel could have easily avoided the lions' den if he had obeyed the king's decree by not praying to the Lord. Instead, Daniel, in full understanding of the consequences, did still pray to the Lord three times a day - as he did previously. But God honored Daniel's steadfast love and devotion to Him, and saved him from the lions. The king was exceedingly glad when he found out that Daniel survived, and he commanded that Daniel be taken out and his enemies thrown to the lions' den instead.

God sometimes lead us into situations that confront us with the reality of our limitations, designed to lead us into a deeper dependence on Him. Daniel understood this very well. Through a series of trials, Daniel's faith and devotion to the true God was proven. Daniel understood that his key to everlasting victory is only through unconditional worship and trust in the Lord. He had built this trust through a personal and close relationship with God, such that his faith had transcended beyond what the world could give or threaten out of him. That is why his faith was solid and his hope did not cease in times of struggle.

So where does your strength comes from? In Daniel's case, his faith and God's subsequent deliverance became a living testimony to other people how magnificent God is, that there is nothing impossible for God. Daniel made a deep positive impact to everyone who witnessed his life.



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that we may have the courage to do the right thing, at family, school, or work. We may face the risk of ridicule, lost business deals, or even bodily harms, but believe that in the end, following God is the only thing worth doing, and that God will reward everyone who seeks Him in faith.
 - Pray for Africa Continent. Pray for harvest of souls upon Africa. Pray for economic breakthrough and god-fearing leaders to rise up upon every country in Africa.
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19 | He Calms the Storm

Matthew 8: 23-27,
Proverbs 3:5-8

Many storms come our way in life. Among those, the hardest hitting ones are usually those that include people closest to us. While we may put a mask and put up with strangers, many times we let loose our patience and vent our anger easily towards our closest people – our spouse, children, parents, brothers/sisters, and close friends – thus hurting them and ourselves in the process. It is difficult to pray when we are upset or anxious. However, when we rest and start calling the name of Jesus, God Himself will take charge of the situation and calms the 'storm'.

In Matthew 8:23-27, when the storm came by suddenly, the disciples were in a boat with Jesus. They were fearful and called upon Jesus. Jesus told them to have faith and took control over the situation by rebuking the winds and waves, promptly calming them.


When God calms the 'storm', He stills our heart and takes control of the situation. When we put our faith in Him, we would be surprised how things are solved when God is control. Winds and waves are stilled in His presence. Impossible things become possible. Unforgiving hearts are miraculously filled with mercy and grace. Pleasant and kind words that are sweet to the mind and healing to the body are spoken (Proverbs 16:24).

When we pray and call on His name, God intervenes in our lives. He helps us focus on doing the right thing, think positive thoughts, and have faith that everything will be okay in the end. Throughout our life journey, we will cross path with storms that will bring anger, problems, anxieties, and disappointments in our

life. Having God right beside us is the only way we can emerge victorious from those storms. Acknowledge Him always in all that we do and let Him show us the paths we have to take, the words we need to speak, and the things we need to get done. Listen to what He has to say, allow Him to calm the storms in our life, trust Him and obey His commands and instructions. His ways bring peace to our heart, healing to our body, and strength to our bones. All glory to His name!



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that in the midst of storms, we may always find our peace in God, and thus calmed, to be able to hear and obey God's instructions regarding our situations.
 - Pray for our city and nation where God has resided us. Pray for our local government for wisdom, fear of the Lord, and unity to govern their conduct daily (Jeremiah 29:7).
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20 | Strategies in Battles

2 Chronicles 20:1-30

It is no secret that our everyday life can often be filled with uphill climbs. However, while some of us spend our times struggling and perhaps complaining and whining about how difficult life is, once in a while we will come across someone who seems to manage strong as they go through their battle. But the truth is, usually these are exactly the kind of people who have weathered extreme storms in their lives and prevailed. Their foundation has been set so strong, that the winds that so easily sway us would not make them waver. What is the key behind successfully riding through every day's battles and emerge victorious?

In the story of Jehoshaphat, When Moabites, Ammonites, and Mount Seir waged war against Jehoshaphat; Jehoshaphat feared and set himself to seek the Lord. In the face of impending death for him and slavery for his people, Jehoshaphat sought the Lord and God gave him a strategy that is so powerful that the applicability can be put into practice during our everyday's battle (2 Chronicles 20:17):

a. Position yourself

A strategic position could determine the final outcome of a battle. In the case of our every day's battle, our position has to align with God. This means our eyes have to be focused on His capability instead of on our ability or situation. Jehoshaphat correctly took his position by seeking the Lord and sending singers dressed in holy attire in front of the army. He understood that worship is the only way to place ourselves in the right position before God.

b. Stand still, do not be afraid and do not be dismayed

Standing still means being at rest, instead of worrying over our circumstances. As we worship the Lord and position ourselves correctly under the protection of God, peace and calm will be a natural outflow.

c. See the salvation of the Lord

As our eyes are focused on God and we earnestly worship Him, God will personally bring the salvation to our lives. In the case of Jehoshaphat, as they begin to worship, the Lord ambushed the other tribe and wins the battle for him. Victory happens when our soul truly rests in Him.

Like Jehoshaphat, when we are facing battles, let us earnestly seek God and ask for His strategy to guide us. The most important thing is to obey whatever revelation God instructs us to do after God reveals His strategy to us. Remember, the first person we decide to ask help from will determine the outcome we receive.

Prayer Points:

- Worship now. As you worship, understand that in worship, we humble ourselves and we magnify God.
- Pray for young generations all over the world. Pray for Joel 2: 28-32 to be fulfilled in young generation's lives . We bind the spirit of depression, rejection, and bitterness in the life of young people and release the spirit of God, peace, love, sound mind, courage, and godly identity among the life of young people.

21 | Wrestling with God

Genesis 32:1-32

When we are facing a great, seemingly unsurmountable problem with no solution in sight, we can choose either to struggle with the problem ourselves, or bring the matter to God and be persistent in receiving His guidance to help us get through it.

In Genesis 32, Jacob had just left Laban's house on a journey back to his homeland. After staying for many years in Laban's house, the time had come for Jacob to face his greatest fear, i.e. to meet his older brother Esau, from whom he stole his birthright. And now he found out that Esau was approaching him with 400 people, and Jacob feared for his and his family's lives. At one of the darkest hours of his life, Jacob did not know what to do and what awaited him the next day. Jacob had sent his wives, his two female servants and his eleven children before him across the river, and so he was all alone. In that aloneness, he wrestled with God until God blessed him and changed his name to Israel. Three things happened that night.

a. Jacob received blessing from God

Jacob would not let the man go unless He blessed him, and God honored Jacob's request (Genesis 32:29).

b. Jacob's identity was changed from Jacob to Israel

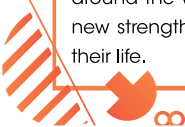
The name "Jacob" means "liar". God took away his shameful name and his shameful past, and gave him a new name and destiny (Genesis 32: 28).

c. Jacob received a milestone victory in his life
He had fought against God and men, and had won (Genesis 32:28).

An encounter with God would change the course of a person's life. When God intervenes, a challenging situation is changed into a chance of victory. When we are faced with great distress, let us not spend our time and energy battling the problem ourselves. Instead, let us spend time to enter into His presence and rest in His promises. As we do that, God in his mysterious ways will change us - the same way he changed Jacob - so that we can emerge victorious from our problems.



Prayer Points:

- Pray to God so that God may use every challenge in our lives as a moment of transformation. Just as God transformed Jacob in his darkest hours, allow God to transform us in our most difficult moments.
 - Pray for IFGF leaders, apostolic team, pastor, and ministers around the world. Pray for Isaiah 40: 28-31 over their life. Pray for new strength, hope, and faith to walk with God in all aspect of their life.
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22 | Trusting God in Our Journey

Exodus 13:17, Proverbs 3:4

The Israelites were leaving Egypt to their promised land, Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey. A shorter route would have been through the Philistine country, but God led them around by the desert toward the Red Sea, for God said, if they faced war, they might change their mind and return to Egypt. At the Red Sea, the Israelites witnessed God's miraculous power when He parted the sea into two, allowing them to cross it as through a dry land. The pursuing Egyptians were drowned when God brought the water back upon them. Through this story, we can learn:

a. A detour does not always mean defeat or failure. Sometimes in our life, God allows us to take a detour or go through a journey that seems longer than it should be. However, God allows this to happen for our own good.

b. God fully understands and takes into account of our current abilities, potential, and circumstances

when He plans out our life journey. At the moment the Israelites were leaving Egypt, they were not yet physically and mentally prepared to fight the Philistines. God understands that and led them around to the Red Sea. In the same way, He understands our weaknesses but He does not overlook what we could become. Along the process, He guides us throughout the journey so we can be what He intends us to be.

God always has our best interest in heart because of His love for us. When He takes us on a journey that is longer or tougher than we expect, never doubt His love or provision. Instead, trust Him completely. Believe that our life does not happen by accident. God has carefully put His thoughts when He writes our life story.



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that we can see God's miraculous provision in every difficulty or setback we experience in our life. Believe that God has our best interest, and He is changing us to be the person He intends us to be.
- Believe in God's perfect timing. His help and provision is never too late for us.

23 | Resting in God's Process

Psalm 92:12-15

The cedar of Lebanon is a tree originated from Lebanon in the Mediterranean Sea. It is priced above all trees from that region, planted in a region of dry, hot summers and cold winters that can go to a low of -26 oC. The cedar of Lebanon takes time to grow but is able to live for an extremely long time, surviving over 1,000 years. For every 3 meters of height above the ground, the roots have to go down 9 meter underground. Thus the tree has very deep roots. The tree is very tall, about 20 meters high and 60 cm wide. The cedar of Lebanon is popular for its wide range of usage. The Bible itself mentions many usages of the tree. In Leviticus 14:1-7, cedar wood was used to cleanse people with skin diseases. It was also used as material to build the house of God (1 King 9:11). The wood and oils are useful to repel moths and mosquitoes.

In order to grow to maturity, the cedar of Lebanon has to go through a long growing process, withstanding hot and extreme cold weather, with the roots drilling downward through tough rock beds, so that they can withstand the tree's own height. As we allow challenges and obstacles to process and shape us in Jesus Christ, we will:

a. Grow deep roots

Our roots grow as we implement God's word in facing our daily challenges. They grow as choose to obey God's instructions rather than our own impulses. The more our roots grow in Christ and His word, the more we are enabled to stand firm and overcome challenges.

b. Bring out our potential

In Judges 3:1-2, the Lord allowed Israel's enemies to remain for the specific purpose of teaching them warfare, especially those that had not had previous battle experience. Challenges and obstacles are the best training ground for us to conquer our weaknesses and bring out our highest potential.

c. Generate positive impacts towards others

As the cedar tree grows to maturity, the various tree parts are useful for many purposes. Similarly, as we grow in maturity in our walk with Christ, we will bear various fruits that will bless others. Our life story would also be a living testimony of God's goodness to those in need.

Our God will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear (1 Corinthians 10: 13). Do not let the difficulties we face make us bitter or negative about life. Instead, like the cedar trees in Lebanon, let us allow those obstacles and challenges to shape and mold us to be the person God wants us to be. With the Holy Spirit's help, those challenges will become God's tools to enable us to reach our full creative potential, to the display of His glory.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for God's protection upon our heart so we can withstand God's process and do not allow bitterness to take roots during difficult times.
- Pray for the spirit of prayer to pour down upon all churches (Isaiah 56:7).

24 | The Power Of Being Still

Genesis 24



In the case of one of the greatest love story in the bible, Isaac and Rebekah, there was a man whose loyalty and hard work contributed in introducing two souls together; Abraham's servant. Abraham entrusted his oldest and most faithful servant the most important task; finding a wife for his beloved son Isaac. As he embarked on a quest to find this woman, Abraham's servant displayed several winning characters that played prominent part to the success of his mission. He committed the journey to God in prayer by taking time to be still and wait upon God's guidance.

As Rebekah offered to draw water for him and his camels to drink, Abraham's servant witnessed the sign of his prayer answered. However, Abraham's servant was not hasty to conclude the success of his mission. He took time to be still and remained silent. Genesis 24:21- "Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the Lord had made his journey successful." Abraham's servant took time to be still and to watch Rebekah closely to ensure the certainty of God's answer to his prayer. Through being still and waiting upon God, he witnessed first hand the completion of God's divine guidance and indeed it was truly Rebekah the woman set apart for Isaac.

As in our walk with God, the power of being still means a complete trust and patience in God's divine guidance and timing. Rather than wandering around and be restless with our circumstances, let us learn to be still and wait upon God's guidance and focus our life in His word.



Prayer Points:

- Be still in God's presence, Pray for a heart that is willing to wait upon the Lord's guidance and mind that is focused on the word of God.
 - Pray for those who are persecuted around the world to be filled with strength, hope, comfort and peace from The Holy Spirit. Pray for Philippians 4:4-7 be fulfilled in their life. Pray for repentance and God's grace to be accepted by persecutors.
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25 | Walking with God

Exodus 3, 4

In Exodus 3 and 4, Moses received an invitation from God to walk with Him and a mandate to fulfill God's promise, by leading the deliverance of the Israelites out of Egypt. Throughout the journey, God transformed Moses from a timid and slow-of-speech man into one of the greatest leaders in the Bible. From Moses' story, we learn the following lessons:

a. God can use anything we have during that moment

God does not require something we do not have. God does not look at our weaknesses or skills. He simply uses individuals who are willing to walk with Him (Exodus 3:2).

b. The strength and success of our journey rely on God's rather than our ability
Moses was slow of speech and tongue (Exodus 4:10). He realized that by his own, he would convince neither the Israelites to leave nor Pharaoh to let them go. However, God was able to provide for Moses anything he lacked as Moses went step-by-step deeper into God's plan. Each step of obedience will reveal another step of God's provision.



c. The journey will transform us as much as it transforms other people

In Moses' journey, the Israelites were not the only party receiving deliverance and a transformation of identity. Moses and his relationship with God were also transformed (Exodus 33:15).

God does not look at our past successes or failures. He simply wants us to walk with Him in every aspect of our life. He has new hopes, new favors, new grace, and new mercies in store for us regardless of what we have or have not achieved.. Allow Him to use whatever we have in our hands at this moment, giving Him room to transform us to be more like Him as we move step by step in obedience to His call.



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that we may always look on Jesus who calls, rather than on our own limitations or situations. God's power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).
 - Pray for churches around the world. Pray for churches to rise up, be the salt and light of the world, and be the voice of truth in this world (Matthew 5:16).
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26 | Keeping a Positive Attitude in Tough Times

Numbers 13, Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 62

Sun shines and rain pours down for every mankind regardless of whether they are rich or poor, whether they are wise or foolish, and even whether they are noble or wicked. Tough times, uncertainties, and crises happen to all mankind regardless of their status. The difference is in the attitude we choose towards what's coming in our life. When Moses asked the twelve spies to explore the land of Canaan, those twelve men faced the same situation and saw the same sight. However, only two men, Caleb and Joshua, responded with faith and optimism in God's promise. In facing the giants in our life, we should:

a. Be strong and courageous

a. Do not let fear rule over us because God has given us the spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. Tough times are indeed the times for us to be strong and courageous. Gather up strength from God alone by being in His presence (Deuteronomy 31:6).

b. Put our faith and hope only in our victorious Lord

Soak yourself in His presence and do not rely on human strength or guidance. Learn from Caleb who focused on God's strength and thus came up with a different conclusion: he wholeheartedly believed that they would conquer Canaan.

c. Have a heart of thanksgiving

When we face obstacles in our life, be thankful for what we have, because a thankful heart changes our mindset from negative to positive and unlocks God's power.

d. Keep our integrity with God

Do not look for shortcuts. Believe that He is faithful and will reward everyone according to what each has done (Joshua 1:7-9).

e. Hold on to our identity in Christ

Know who we are in Christ and who God truly is. He is a God that specializes in turning nothing to something wonderful.

Prayer Points:

- In the midst of uncertainty in world condition, let us pray prophetically for all leaders and congregations to be strong and courageous (Deuteronomy 31:6), put our faith and hope only in our victorious Lord (Isaiah 41:10), and be filled with a thanksgiving heart.
- Proclaim Psalm 20:7 and Proverbs 21:31 over our difficult circumstances and problems.

27 | God's Present vs God's Presence

Exodus 33

If we could be completely honest, which do we seek: God's promises or His presence? Have we ever wondered if somehow, unintentionally, we're more eager for God's blessing and provision rather than His presence? We desperately need God's help to get us through school, to find the perfect mate, to fill up our bank accounts or to make our churches successful, and all the while our hunger for Jesus are often compromised. Is it possible that we've been comfortable settling at God's promises rather than His presence?

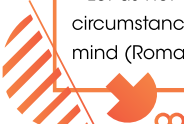
Moses, the prophet, understood the true value of God's presence in his life. He strongly believed that without God's presence, it was pointless for him to attempt on anything. Moses understood it was God's presence that set the Israelites apart from the other nations. Without God, Moses would not have been able to lead Israel out of Egypt. Moses had experienced firsthand the security that came from having God's presence in his life. He trusted so much in the manifest presence of God that he said, "Lord, if your presence is not with me, then I'm not going anywhere. I won't take a single step unless I'm assured you're with me!" (Exodus 33:15).

God honored Moses's boldness and love for Him. He answered Moses, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." (Ex 33:14) What an incredible promise! The Hebrew word for "rest" here means "a comfortable and quiet rest". God reassured Moses that His presence gave security regardless of Moses' circumstances. In God's presence, we would experience a calming peace and God's divine order. The promise of rest through God's presence will allow us to have a quiet confidence in the Lord at all times because He has everything under control!

God's presents give momentary satisfaction, but His presence guarantees an everlasting peace and security that transcend understanding. With it, we will finally be able to know true rest. So who among us will rise up and say, "Oh God, I don't want Your promise without Your presence. If Your presence doesn't go with me, I don't want to go another step"?



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that we may be able to know God so deeply that we would have a hunger and thirst for God's presence that won't be satisfied with momentary earthly blessings.
 - Let us not conform to the attitude of the world. However, in any circumstances allow God to transform us by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2).
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28 | Satisfied in God Alone

Numbers 20, Deuteronomy 34

To say Moses had worked hard to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and into the Promised Land is an understatement. Moses sacrificed and completely dedicated his entire life after the burning bush to the task that he didn't request for in the first place to lead God's chosen people to the promise land. Through it, Moses had both struggled and savored the bittersweet journey with God.

At the water of Meribah in Kadesh, God commanded Moses to speak to the rock and the rock would give out water. But Moses, wearied by the people's constant complaining, disobeyed God and in his anger hit the rock in front of all the Israelites. In that instant, God decided that Moses would not enter the land. What an utter disappointment Moses must have felt at that moment! He tried to reason with God, but God would not change His decision (Deuteronomy 3:23). However, as Moses was approaching the time of his death, God brought him up to Mount Nebo and showed him a glimpse of the Promised Land. Then Moses passed away and was buried by God in a secret place.



Pondering upon this story, one could not help but wonder at Moses' faithfulness in completing his mission. However, one would be even more astonished at Moses's contentment in receiving God's decision not to let him enter the Promised Land. Moses deepest desire after working so hard for 40 years must have been to taste the sweet victory of his labor, which was to enter the Promised Land. However one single act of disobedience had caused God to one-sidedly decide that Moses would not enter. In other words, Moses literary worked hard and in the end received nothing to speak about.

But Moses was content! Why? After such a long journey and a personal experience with God, perhaps the reward didn't matter to him anymore. The success, the present, and the end goals had lost their luster in Moses' eyes. Moses' priority had shifted from temporary matters to the eternal reward of being with God. At the end of his life, he found his rest and satisfaction in following God, and in knowing and being known by God. The Bible said that there was no other man before and after Moses whom the Lord knew face to face (Deuteronomy 34:10).

Comparing our lives to Moses, Often times, we demand ample rewards after our little efforts. Moses worked hard for 40 years and was content to be without a reward. Should we demand self-entitlements after our relatively incomparable efforts? To hold up and apply Moses' principles in our life would be life changing: to find rest in following God alone and to feel satisfied in God, more than in anything on earth our heart may desire.



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that we may find our reward and satisfaction in God alone, more than in any other earthly blessings that our heart may desire.
 - Pray for IFGF upcoming mission trip in July 2016. We speak repentance, healing, and restoration upon the land and we claim soul harvest upon Maumere, Kelimutu, Ende, Bajawa, Mbay, Ruteng, Labuan Bajo, and Komodo Island. Pray also for godly covering for all ministers.
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29 | Alpha and Omega

Philippians 1:6

When hard times come and we are faced with challenges in our lives, we often ask God this extremely classic yet human question, "Why?" Or, "Haven't I passed through this before? Why again?" We thought we have passed previous challenges with flying colors. However, new challenges, either familiar or foreign, seem to take us by surprise. God allows challenges to occur in our life to process us so we can grow stronger each day.


What are we facing today, another hard lesson in life? Do we feel like we are in our 'darkest valley' all over again? Are we feeling extremely exhausted? Be encouraged and do not lose hope for He who began the good work in us will continue it until it is finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. Be certain that our 'darkest valleys' are part of His good work in our life. The good days and the bad days are all under His control.

Know and remember that in each and every challenge that we face, He is with us, processing our character, perfecting our ways, and bringing His plan for our life one step closer to completion. He will not let challenges come that are beyond what we can bear. With God, sooner or later we will understand the purpose behind every circumstance that we had or have to go through.

If we position our mindset to understand that all things happen in our life under His control, we will be able to stop wasting countless hours to wonder why certain things are happening or not happening to us. Instead, we will put our life, hope and energy to make the best out of every situation, in full surrender to God. During challenges, faith will only grow stronger because we know God is with us at all times. His power, strength, and presence will enable us to endure and conquer our challenges.



Prayer Points:

- Pray so that in every difficult situation we may always remember that God is in control, so that we can always keep up a positive attitude, sustained by the full belief that in everything God is working to bring good for us.
 - Pray for upcoming IFGF Conference, August 4-6 in Jakarta.
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30 | Do You Believe?

Mark 5: 21-43, Psalm 121:1-2

Our God is the God who parted the sea, performed healings, cast out demons, turned water into wine, multiplied 5 bread and 2 fishes, raised the dead, and risen from the dead. He is the same yesterday, today and forever, and He desires to perform miracles in our lives. He is the Great I Am. What should our attitudes be to experience miracles?

a. Believe

In Mark 5: 36, Jesus told Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe." Sometimes we need to stop thinking about the negativity and the impossibilities of our situations and just believe. Believe that Jesus is the expert at turning the impossible situations around and making something out of nothing. Believe that the God we serve is always true to His promises. Our negative circumstances often crowd our thoughts with fears and worry. However, to receive miracles, Jesus wanted Jairus to stop thinking of his daughter's death and simply believed. Have faith and believe on the greatness of our God instead of the impossible situations.

b. Focus on the Creator of all things

In Mark 5:27-28, the woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years was under great depression. She visited many doctors. Instead of being healed, her condition worsened. When she heard about Jesus, she positioned herself to be near Jesus, focused her thoughts, faith, and expectation to receive miracles from the Creator of all things. She did not pay attention or focused on the crowd around her, but on Jesus alone. Her faith and focus on Jesus brought miracle upon her life.

c. Expect miracles

Mark 5:35 "While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead." Why bother the teacher anymore? The people thought that the girl's death was the end and told Jairus not to bother Jesus. However, Jesus miraculously raised her to life. Critical situation is the best moment to expect miracles from God.

Never rely on our own strength and keep on expecting miracles because our God is a miraculous God. The God who is able and willing to perform miracles for us and through us lives in us. Let us trust His promises, have faith and expect God's miracles in our lives!

Prayer Points:

- Pray for a fresh fire and hearts that believe in the true power of Christ.
- Pray for those who are in need of physical, spiritual, and mental healing. Proclaim Isaiah 53:5 over their lives.

31 | Victory Rest in The Lord

Exodus 14, Proverbs 21:31

When the Israelites left Egypt, Pharaoh had a change of heart and prepared his 600 best chariots with officers (Exodus 14:7) to chase the Israelites. When the Israelites saw Pharaoh's army going after them, their first respond was to complain. They began to blame Moses for taking them out of Egypt. Self pity and terror consumed them and they chose to be in Egypt rather than following God's better plan of freedom from slavery. However, in the midst of this great fear, God assured them to:

a. Not be afraid, stand firm, and be still

God, through Moses did not instruct the Israelites to physically stand firm and be still. Rather, they were told to calm their hearts and trust in God's deliverance. It was God who rescued the Israelites from Egypt and He would bring them through it.

b. Physically, keep on walking

God told Moses to tell the Israelites to move on physically and continue walking, crossing the impossible Red Sea and to leave the land of slavery. In our life, we need to never give up and continue walking in accordance to God's guidance.

c. Trust in God because He would do His part

When they walked with God, He was doing His part that was beyond human control. The angel of God and the pillar of cloud that were traveling before them withdrew and went behind them. God used the pillar of cloud to halt the advancing Egyptian army and jammed the wheels of Egyptian's best chariots in their pursuit. God was also in control over Pharaoh's heart by hardening it

to display God's glory. While the Israelites were obeying God's instruction, God was busy strategizing and moving things that were beyond Israel's control to be where they were supposed to be.

Through this exodus, the Israelites and Egyptians saw that Pharaoh's best chariots and army could not defeat God's plan and protection over them (Exodus 15:4). The people feared the Lord and put their trust in God and Moses (Exodus 14:31) and the Egyptians knew that God was the Lord (Exodus 14:18). Let us with obedience trust God and follow God's purposes in our lives, believing that our victory rests in The Lord (Psalm 33:17-22).



Prayer Points:

- Pray for God's strength, courage, and trust in God to enable us to keep walking through difficult circumstances.
- Pray for family members' and friends' salvation. Pray for Isaiah 43:11-13 to be realized, understood, and accepted by those who are in need of salvation.

32 | God Knows Best!

Psalms 139, Isaiah 25:1


Budi Soehardi was awarded CNN Heroes Award in 2009 to recognize his work for building an orphanage in Kupang, Indonesia. In one of his testimony, he shared on how one day he received a letter to pay for a plot of land that was bought by his acquaintance using his personal identification number without his permission. Even though he was upset over the matter and did not understand why this could happen, he decided to comply. Many years had passed, Budi had forgotten about the matter and was busy building an orphanage in Kupang. Through hardship, this orphanage has grown and needed a bigger and permanent place for the children to stay. When he was searching for a bigger land, Budi suddenly remembered about the land that he was forced to buy many years ago.

At that point, he understood that indeed God was the choreographer of the purchase. Had he not purchased the land in that timing, he would not be able to afford that particular land now. The experience taught him on how perfect God's plan and timing is. God knows Budi Soehardi's heart's desire long before he realized it and He prepared the way for the call He has for us (Romans 8:28). Truly, nothing in our lives is ever a coincidence or a mistake.

Budi Soehardi's story is a testimony of God's perfect plan and timing. Often times, we do not always understand the reasoning behind our trials and life processes. Our limited mind can only see the puzzle pieces but God holds the master plan of our life. God takes notice of all intricate details of our lives and they matter to Him. As King David says in Psalm 139:17, "how precious to me are your thoughts O God! How vast is the sum of them!" Indeed, we are secure in Him because God knows best.



Prayer Points:

- Pray for a heart that accepts God's sovereignty over our lives and rest in His wonderful plan for us (Psalm 139).
 - Pray for families. Pray for godly marriage to be built upon men and women of God. Pray for new wine, God's love, and godly characters to lead and unite every family. Pray for forgiveness and restoration of relationships in families. Pray for God's rule and discipline to be the foundation of every family.
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33 | Resting in God's Sovereignty

Proverbs 16:1-4, Psalm 103:19

In Psalm 103, King David praised God for His loving kindness and tender mercies. He concluded with a universal praise by declaring God's sovereignty. God's sovereignty has given King David the understanding of his human fragility and God's control over the universe. Psalm 103 announces God's majesty for He is high above us in power and nature.


What does this sovereignty that King David highly valued mean? God's sovereignty means that He is the supreme ruler who immanently and personally rules over all the affairs of the universe— this includes our personal lives as individuals. There is nothing on earth that could happen without His direction or permission. As Proverbs 16:1 declares "The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD". It is the Lord who ultimately establishes our plans and allows them to come to fruition. God's sovereignty means that He is in control of all aspects of our lives.

The knowledge of God's sovereignty will bring peace to our souls. It is indeed our true resting place and a strong foundation to worship. The understanding of God's sovereignty will also cause us to be courageous as we put our trust in God. Just as Paul described in Phillipians 1:6: "I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ."

God tells us that if we understand the core value of His sovereignty, trust in His goodness, and surrender our plans and lives to Him, He will guide our steps and establish our plans to bring them about, all according to His purposes and His righteousness. What a great promise it is!



Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for God's sovereignty in our lives. Regardless of what happens in our lives, God is in control and our future is safe with Him.
 - Pray for leaders' and congregation's work or businesses. Pray for wisdom, integrity, the fear of the Lord, and creativity to guide the congregation's work life. Pray for a heart that desires to be a blessing after being blessed by God.
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34 | Soaring Like an Eagle

Isaiah 40:28-31

Eagles are extraordinary bird species that possess majestic beauty, tremendous strength, and skill. The United States of America uses an eagle as the symbol of their country and national seal to symbolize power, authority, and strength. There are a few things we can learn from Eagles.

a. Eagles do not only fly but soar, and it soars alone

Definition of soaring is to increase or improve above the normal or usual level without moving the wings or using an engine. When eagles soar, they spread their wings and their tail feathers, letting the wind carry them to new heights, then glide down to catch another upward thermal. Soaring saves eagle's energy because it does not have to flap its wings as often as flying. When we soar, we are actually resting on the power of the wind. In addition, eagles soar at high altitude alone and not with other small birds. When Moses went to meet God on the mountain for forty days and forty nights, Moses went up alone. Moses left the crowd at the hills. In order for us to soar high like an eagle, we need to spend time alone with God personally away from distractions.

b. Eagles have strong visions and great focus

Eagles have the ability to focus up to five kilometers away. Once it sets its eye on the prey, it will not move its sight and focus from the prey until it catches it. We need to have a strong vision of God for our lives and focus our eyes not on things seen, but on God alone.

c. Eagles love the storm

Eagles have the ability to detect storm when it is approaching. It will anticipate and wait for the storm. When the storm comes, it sets its wings and allows the

wind to pick it up and lift the eagle above the storm. They take opportunity of the storm to lift them up to a higher place. As God's children, we can use the storms in our lives to take us to a higher place where God's glory is. Like the wind, God's power will lift us up above the storm.

d. When eagles grow old, his feathers become weak

When an eagle feels weak, it retreats to a secluded place and plucks out every feather on its body until it is bare. It remains in its hiding place until new feathers have fully grown. Only then, will it fly again. In life, we need to shed off unpleasant habits that hinders us from growing in Christ and let God renew us with His Word and presence.

Like the eagles, God has created us to be extraordinary overcomers. Let us be renewed in His presence and allow Him to transform us to be more than a conqueror.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for God's conviction to reveal the hidden barriers in our lives such as unproductive habits or sinful behaviors. Pray for His love and strength to renew us as we enter His presence.
- Pray for a spirit of servanthood, love, humility, and excellence in our ministries (Ephesians 6:7-8).

35 | Faith and Obedience

Luke 5:1-11



Peter, the fisherman was toiling all night with his friends. However they did not catch a single fish. Like Peter, there are moments in our lives where knowledge, power, connections, experiences, and strengths are not able to help us receive our breakthrough. At times, it seems that we have given our best attempts, efforts, intentions, investments, and yet, there is no result.

In moments like this, a humble heart is needed to seek answers from the Lord since God is the source of wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:24). Our knowledge and experiences are limited. However, God's wisdom is limitless. God has been with thousands of generations, and is in control of all kingdoms and nations since the earth's existence. God is the Creator of wisdom itself (Proverbs 11:2.).

Peter displayed full obedience to His word. Even though what Jesus said might be illogical since they repeated the same process throughout the night with no result, Peter did exactly what God told him to do. Peter's obedience resulted in amazing success and breakthrough (Luke 5:6-7). God's presence and Word enabled Peter to harvest fish beyond what they imagined. Faith and obedience release God's supernatural power and allow us to see the impossible become possible.



Prayer Points:

- Pray for faith to arise and a commitment to always be obedient to God's commands in our lives.
 - Pray for a fresh fire and a heart filled with joy and willingness to serve Him. Pray for opportunities to bring His impacts to our surroundings through our lives.
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36 | Complete Obedience

Genesis 22

No test could have been more severe than the one in Genesis 22. God requested the ultimate sacrifice of a promised child. God commanded, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering" (Genesis 22:2).

God had previously appeared and reassured Abraham multiple times that he would be called father of nations. Through years of waiting and struggle, Abraham and Sarah finally received their hearts' desire. What God requested was unthinkable; He wanted Abraham to sacrifice his only son whom Abraham had labored for in prayer. But how did Abraham respond to God's command to sacrifice Isaac? With immediate obedience; early the next morning, Abraham started on his journey with two servants, a donkey and his beloved son Isaac. He brought along firewood for the offering. Abraham obeyed God without negotiation or doubt.

To give up something that you have long desired is certainly not an easy thing to do. But Abraham did more than gave Isaac up. He surrendered with ultimate trust to the Lord. Abraham's faith was such that, even if he had sacrificed Isaac, he believed that the Lord would keep His Word and raised Isaac from the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19). Abraham trusted that God's plan was always the best.



Abraham's obedience in the face of this crushing command extolled God's sovereign character. Abraham proclaimed, "In the mount of the Lord, it shall be

provided" (Genesis 22:14). This was the attitude of a man who was at complete rest in God. His source of joy and satisfaction was God. Through the long process of waiting that God allowed Abraham to go through, he learned God's character of trustworthiness. His source of confidence was in God and this gave Abraham rest in all the trials he went through.

As we rest in God's sovereign love, let us exalt His attributes and praise Him. Indeed God will always pull us through and He will always provide.



Prayer Points:

- Pray for a responsive heart that is quick to respond to God's command.
 - Pray for the Holy Spirit to enable us to lay down our desires and make room for the Holy Spirit to guide us through God's word.
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37 | Unlimited God

Matthew 14:15-21

There are times in our lives when we feel that we do not have what it takes to face our circumstances. It could be patience, skills, wisdom, or finances. We learn from Matthew 14:15 that the disciples were focusing on the impossible situation of feeding the crowds. The easiest solution was to send the crowds away and let them take care of themselves. Without us realizing, we are often like the disciples who become hopeless with our situations.

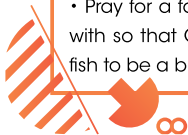
When we are at a point where we realize that what we have is limited, we should bring our 'five loaves of bread and two fish' to God and let Him bless it. Notice that Jesus gave thanks, blessed, and handed the five loaves and two fish to the disciples. The disciples in turn distributed them to the people and they ate and were satisfied (Matthew 14:19-20). When God blesses and multiplies our limitations:

- a. What we have is enough to face any challenges ahead.
- b. We will realize that what we have comes from God alone.
- c. What we have can be used to bless others around us.

It is important for us to do our part as well. We need to be willing to equip ourselves and grow in wisdom, skills, and knowledge. God will be able to multiply what we have learnt many folds to bless others. Take courage and give thanks for our 'five loaves of bread and two fish'. Do our part and bring it to Him with a thankful heart. Let Him enlarge it, and we would be satisfied and praise Him for what He has done.



Prayer Points:

- Surrender what we have to God and pray that God would use and multiply them for His glory.
 - Pray for a faithful heart to work on what God has entrusted us with so that God can multiply our five loaves of bread and two fish to be a blessing for many.
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38 | David in Adullam Cave

1 Samuel 22: 1-5, Psalm 142

In Samuel 22:1-5, David was under great pressure to escape from Saul's anger upon him. He ran from city to city. David went from the city of Nob where he was starving and had to ask bread from the priest, to the city of Gath where David had to act like a mad man before the King of Gath. Goliath came from the city of Gath and after David defeated Goliath, he was known as someone who had slain thousands by the people of the city. However, during this journey, the great man who defeated Goliath was dismissed from the King's presence because he was regarded as an insane person.

In his greatest distress, David hid in the cave of Adullam and poured his heart out to God (Psalm 142, 1 Samuel 22). However, in the cave, David was still making great impact for those who were in need. David's family and 400 men who were also in distress, in debt, and were discontented came to him and he became their leader. To be an impact, we need to:


- a.** Allow God to change us from within and fill us with His strength and love. In the lonely cave, David received strength and comfort from God alone.
- b.** Believe that God is unchanging regardless of our situations. In Psalm 142, David's prayer showed that God was unchanging and would lead him when he was alone.
- c.** Cater to others' needs sincerely. David served and led those who were hurt and distressed, and impacted their lives with new hope he received from God even though he himself was in distress.

d. Believe that God will use our circumstances to bless others. Even though David's life was far from perfect, God used him in his lowest point in life to be a channel of blessings for those who were also hurting.

The changes we want to see happen around us have to start with us. God will use what He has worked on us personally to bring impact to others regardless of our situations.



Prayer Points:

- Pray for eyes to see others' needs despite our circumstances. Pray for willing hands and feet to always share the gospel in every circumstances of our lives.
 - Pray for world economic. Pray for the fear of the Lord to reign over bankers, central banks, ministers and officials who are in charge of world economic. Pray for protection, godly wisdom, and creativity over God's children upon their finances.
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39 | Small Beginning Impactful Ending

Matthew 13:31-35

Mustard seeds are small round seeds of various mustard plants. The seeds are usually about 1 to 2 millimeters in size. It is small compared to other plants. However, mustard plant can reach up to 9 feet tall. Like mustard seed, the quantity of yeast used to make bread is miniscule compare to the whole dough. However, without yeast, the dough will not be able to rise and be delicious consumable bread.

God illustrates that His kingdom are like mustard seed and yeast. Many things can be learned from these two small yet powerful things.

a. Start with the little things

Never underestimate little things in life. We should be grateful with whatever we have. It might be our family, talents, finances, or simple act of kindness. In God's hands, small things are precious because it can be turned into magnificent value for His glory.

b. Kingdom of God is a a great agent of transformation

Mustard seed might be unnoticeable. However, through growing process it is turned into a tall tree, visible from afar. Through kneading and mixing process, the miniscule amount of yeast is transformed to be the tool to unite flour and the key success for baking bread. Without yeast, bread will be as hard as stone and will not be as enjoyable to consume. Trust in God's process. He is not a God who wastes our time. His process will transform us to be Christ like.

c. We are called to bring impact to others

Mustard can be used to give spices to many things and yeast is used to make bread that is able to feed many. Our lives are destined to bring impact and to be an extension of God's kingdom on earth.

The world believes that in order to have great results, a bigger amount of investment is needed. However, in God's hand, small things will have large impact. Our lives have been destined to have big impactful endings. Nothing is impossible in God's hand. We only need to fully trust and obey God along the process. Let us start using whatever God has deposited in our lives for His kingdom.



Prayer Points:

- Pray for God's Spirit to lead us in every aspect of our life so we can impact others in every little things we do.
- Pray for godly transformation in characters to be manifested in us as we seek His presence so that we will be a blessing to those surround us.

40 | Together Impactful!

Matthew 5: 13-16

Salt has wide range of use besides food seasoning or excellent preservatives. For many years, salt has become one of the world's important trading commodities and form of payment. From health perspectives, salt helps nerves and muscles to function properly. Salt possesses great benefits in life. On the contrary, the Dead Sea is a lake where salt gather together vastly with no output channel. Due to its high salt content, living things were unable to survive.

The Word of God instructs us to be the salt and light of the earth that is useful for many. When salt loses its saltiness, it has no use for seasoning and will lose its trade and health value. When the world was in need of good news and hope, Jesus willingly shared His life and came to bring His grace to the world. We are called to share God's goodness in our lives to our family, friends, co-workers, communities, and even nations. We can be salt and light to the earth to:

a. Family

Take time to fellowship with our family, spouse, and children. Praying together and extending forgiveness to those who are closest to us is a simple act that can bring light to other's world.

b. Friends and communities

Always be an encourager to those around us. Bring out the best in people and always be willing to extend our hands to those in need.

c. Work

We can always be a person who gives solution, have integrity and the fear of the Lord. In addition, being a person who always see the potential in others and help them to reach their potentials will impact others in positive ways.

d. Church

We can put others' need before ours, using our talents to serve others, and pray constantly for the church.






e. Nation

The simplest impact we can do for our nation is to pray for the leaders and the well being of our nation.

Unlike the Dead Sea, our lives are called to be an open book to be shared by many and bring impact to others who could taste and see God through our daily lives. We can only remain salty and always reflect the light if we are attached to the Source of light, which is Jesus alone. Let us always be connected to God, maintain our saltiness and bring impact to others.



Prayer Points:

- Pray for God to use our lives to be the salt and light of the earth.
 - Pray for courage, boldness, and daily opportunity to share the good news of salvation to those around us (Isaiah 52:7).
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