



ONE CALL

FOR ALL NATIONS

40 Days of Prayer & Fasting
8 May - 16 June 2017



GREETINGS PRAYER WARRIORS IN CHRIST!

As God's children, we have received a command to disciple all nations and bring the kingdom of God onto the earth. To disciple the nations, the main foundation we need to build, besides building relationship with people around us, is connect with God through prayer and devotional time. When we connect with God and become part of God's plan, we will see breakthrough in our lives, family, church, workplace, and the community where we live. Prayers of the righteous holds power to breakdown stronghold and brings God's kingdom on earth.

I am inviting everyone together with our brothers and sisters from IFGF around the world to join in **One Call for All Nations**, dedicating ourselves for the next 40 Days to pray and fast especially for our nations. This is the time for us as one body of Christ to stand in the gap and pray for our nation!

Together Forward,

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Oentoro

Founder & Chairman of IFGF

SHALOM MY BELOVED BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST

Jeremiah 29:7 states “Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper“. We have been given the task to pray and work on the prosperity of our nation in any situation. Jesus is looking for a partner who will stand in the gap on behalf of the land (Ezekiel 22:30), would you like to be part of God’s partner to disciple your nation? This calling of **One Call for All Nations** is a privilege that should be undertaken by all believers. Let us move together forward and win our nation for Jesus!

Together Forward,

Rev. Hanna Kristanto, M.Th

Vice President - Equipping

DEAR BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST

IFGF Pray would like to invite IFGF around the world to join together in **One Call for All Nations**, where we will pray and fast together as a body of Christ from May 8-June 16, 2017. IFGF Pray has provided devotional book where we can learn to grow together forward in our relationship with God, grow together with our family, our church, and nation. Our prayer is may God reveal His heart and purpose for you and your nation during the next 40 days. As we grow in intimacy with Him, we shall walk in His guidance, provision, and breakthrough.

Blessings,
IFGF Pray

WHY DO WE NEED TO RESPOND TO ONE CALL FOR ALL NATIONS?

The world is going through many uncertainties in every aspect. Economic and political issues are unpredictable lately and it could lead to social instability. 2 Chronicles 7:14 says “if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land”. Like Esther and Daniel, we have been given authority to impact our nation through prayer and fasting. The devil might try to destroy nation and bring his kingdom on earth. However, God’s power that is within us is far greater above all rule and authority, power and dominion (Ephesians 1:21). Let us use God’s given authority to leave legacy for our nation through prayer.

HOW SHOULD WE PRAY AND 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 breakfast, lunch, or dinner.
3. For those who are not physically fit, it is recommended to fast up till noon only.

WHAT CAN WE PRAY FOR DURING ONE CALL FOR ALL NATIONS?

1. Pray for government leaders to have fear of the Lord and godly wisdom to rule over the city/nation.
2. Pray for god’s law and regulations to rule our country.
3. Proclaim for godly leaders to rise up especially young generation like Joseph to rise into leadership position.
4. Pray for churches around the world to be the answer for nations in every aspect of life.
5. Pray for soul harvest upon our nation.
6. As you’re breaking your fast every day, take time to pray together with your family members, iCare members, or prayer tower team.

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WHAT FEED YOUR LIFE?

Proverbs 4:23-27

Parents only give nutritious food for their children and limit their intake of junk food. Parents also provide parental guidance for entertainment they watch and books they read. They are very selective with what goes into their children's senses because they want their children to be healthy, have good characters, and possess constructive habits to lead a successful life. As we grow into adulthood, we have freedom to choose what enters our senses. The power of social media provides endless opportunities and provides less control of what goes into our life. We become the product of what we consume.

What kind of inputs God intends us to have in our life? Proverbs 4:20-27 explains clearly to incline our ear to His instruction and to keep our eyes focused on His word. God wants His word to fill our heart. He teaches us if we keep our eyes straight focused on Him and leave distractions, it will guard our heart, help us to keep our thoughts, and keep our path from evil. What do we see daily on social media? What types of entertainment fill our time during our spare time? What kind of books do we read? Are we filling up our senses with constructive inputs?

What goes into our senses leads our thoughts and heart. Then it leads to attitudes; attitudes lead to actions; actions lead to achievement. When we choose to feed our senses with the God's word, we will surely bear fruits and produce impactful achievement. In the next 40 days, let us make commitment to feed our life with the word of God and avoid entertainments or information that cater only to satisfy our flesh.

PRAYER POINT:

Take time to reflect back what kind of inputs we allow to enter your life? During the next 40 days, let us feed your senses with things that are pleasing to God. Pray for God's word to sanctify our eyes, ears, heart, and thoughts.

MATTERS OF THE HEART

Matthew 15:1-20



In this periscope, the Pharisees and teachers of the law rebuked Jesus for allowing His disciples to break the tradition of the elders by not washing their hands before eating, Jesus in turn rebuked them for their shallowness.

The Pharisees focused on outward cleansing, while Jesus focused on inward cleansing. The teachers of the law focused on the physical, while Jesus focused on the spiritual. Years of studying of the law did not bring the teachers of the law closer to God's heart. They did not let the law of God changed their hearts, but instead, became selfish and judgmental towards others.

Jesus stated that human hearts are where evil thoughts, false testimony, immorality, slander come from. And thus, these are what make us unclean. The state of our hearts is revealed through our attitudes and actions. When our hearts are filled with anger, bitterness and evil thoughts, our attitudes and actions are unpleasant and insincere. On the other hand, when our hearts are in the right place with God, our attitudes will be pleasant and positive.

What then, should we do to avoid falling into the same trap the teachers of the law did? How are we to cleanse our hearts that are prone to evil thoughts and deeds? Ephesians 5:26 says "to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word...", meditating on God's Word will remove any dross that will turn us into bitter and legalistic people like the Pharisees and teachers of the law.

Let our prayers be like that of David in Psalm 139:23-24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

PRAYER POINT:

Pray for forgiving and teachable hearts (Psalm 139:23-24).



THE POWER OF MIND

Romans 12:1-2

Our mind will govern our act. As we have learnt on our first day of fast, we become the product of what we see, read or hear. Filling our mind with worldly stuff will produce worldly output; filling it with God's Word will produce godly output.

The world (read: the devil) is trying its very best to make it into a culture or norm things that are against God's way. Issues such as violence, pornography, witchcraft, same-sex marriage, divorce, and corruption are not new, but they have become more prevalent in recent times. So often we hear these issues that we become adjusted to them, and unconsciously start to see it as the norm to live by.

Paul knew it very well the danger of being conformed to this world. It drags us away from what God has best for us. That is why in the book of Romans, he beseeched us to be changed inside out by the renewing of our mind. Thank God we have a great way to start – Christ has redeemed us, and His redemption included our once corrupt mind – and now, let's continue on by renewing it through God's Word, which Paul also wrote in the book of Timothy, is useful for "showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way, and we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us" (2 Timothy 3:16-17 MSG).

PRAYER POINT:

Pray that God help us to be steadfast in renewing our mind through His Word, and let It be rooted in our heart.

THE POWER OF TONGUE

Proverbs 18:21; Matthew 15:18



The book of Proverbs pointed out that, “The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” To know what to say is one thing, but to be able to actually say it is a different thing altogether. We know the Jesus in the Bible went about healing the sick, casting out demons, opened the blind eyes, made the lame walk and the deaf hear. However, when we are actually facing the circumstances ourselves, are we able to say it out loud that the Jesus in the Bible is the same Jesus today and by His stripes He has healed me?

Jesus said, “the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart”. So what we say is actually the reflection of our heart condition or what we believe. Do we really believe when the Bible said that our God “gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did”? (Romans 4:17). If we have the slightest doubt on the truth in the Bible, especially if all the circumstances and facts proof otherwise, as much as we want to speak life over our situation, we will definitely not be able to say it out. To be able to boldly say and confess God’s promises for our life takes a firm belief in God’s Word and can only be cultivated through an intimate relationship with our Father.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray for a fresh season of intimacy with the Lord that will give us faith to speak life over our circumstances.



GODLY WISDOM

Genesis 24

Abraham was late in age and he still had a task left; finding a wife for his only son, Isaac. In order to do this, Abraham appointed his loyal servant back to his hometown, the city of Nahor to find a suitable woman. The story unfolded as the servant arrived at the destination and made an uncanny request to the Lord. It was then told, the Lord made him successful even before he finished praying.

What was the key to make such a difficult journey successful in such a short time? Godly wisdom! True enough, God gave the servant wisdom to pray a specific request. The right person was not only to bring stranger water, but also to feed his camels. What an odd request! We all know, camels drink a lot of water. What woman is compassionate enough and not to mention strong enough to draw all those water for the camels? It's impossible! No one in the right mind would do it!

When a difficult task met with uncanny request for signs means it must have been wisdom from God. The servant's strange request allowed beyond the success of his journey, it also showed the true character of Rebekah. Without this strange request, God would not be able to interfere supernaturally making the impossible to be possible. Personal relationship with God builds trust in the Lord. As we depend fully in God, He graciously and willingly guides us through His Godly wisdom. Indeed, through His wisdom we would see His direction and taste His victory.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray for a close relationship with God and Godly wisdom in all aspects of our life (Proverbs 4:5).

THE BEST FOR US

Roman 8:32



Life can be monotonous and we feel like living in an autopilot mode. To solve challenges in life, we often times automatically rely on our strength and past experiences. Because of our impatience, we no longer wait for God's time and God's answer because God seems too slow to answer and we choose to settle for what's best according to our own judgment. The question is, is the decision we make God's best for us? Be it business opportunity, life partner or building a family.

We all know from Abraham's story that Abraham and Sarah still has not bear a child in their old age. With her own thinking, Sarah settle for what was best according to her thinking by giving Hagar to Abraham. This resulted in the birth of Ismail and bitter jealousy for generations to come. Sometimes we have a hard time believing that we do not need to rely on our own strength for God to give His best for us. God has already given His best for us even when we were still sinners. So why don't we trust His word to believe that God has prepared the best for us and we do not need to rely on our strength but to trust and to obey Him fully.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray that God teach us to be like children. To trust that God has His best for us in every circumstances.



EXPRESSING OUR NEED TO GOD

Philippians 4:6

Challenges in life can often makes us worry and anxious. It is becoming very common to hear about stress and depression nowadays. But in Philippians 4:6, we are taught not to be anxious about anything but simply pray, give thanks and tell God our needs.

When we focus on our worries and anxieties, we start to doubt about God's provision and power in our life. Fear and anxieties distracts us from our relationship with God. What God really wants is simply tell him our needs, even the seemingly most impossible requests, and believe in His word. Isn't it simply wonderful to have God as our Father and Friend?

Our relationship with God has to resemble that of a child to its parents. Children would always tell their need to the parents because they believe that the parents is capable to do anything and would always have their best interest. Our needs should not distant us from God but rather it should have bring us closer in relationship and dependency to Him.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray that we can learn to surrender all our worries and anxieties to God and always give thanks for all that He has done in our lives.

“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper”
Jeremiah 29:7

AMERICA

Pray for President and Vice President of the United States of America. They will lead with fear of God and bring positive impact to other nations.

Pray for all leaders in North and South America for God’s protection, fear of God, and wisdom to govern your country.

Pray for God’s law to be restored to return back to schools and governmental area.

Pray for end of poverty and drug violence in South America.

Speak life to churches around America. Churches will stand boldly upon God’s word and be the answer for their community who are in need of Jesus.

A new generation of young leaders will arise in 7 mountains area: arts and entertainment, business, church and religion, digital media, education and science, family, government and politics.



CHRIST'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS AS THE FOUNDATION OF MARRIAGE

Ephesians 5:31-32, Ephesians 2:8

Many people think that marriage is based on their personal decision: whether they want to marry or not, whom they are going to marry, how they are going to live their marriage, and whether they will stay married when the marriage fails to live up to their expectations.

However the Bible clearly tells that marriage was born not out of human's initiative but God's. God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone, so God created Eve to be a helper suitable for him. God blessed them and gave them the mandate to have dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:28).

Further, Paul said in Ephesians 5:31-32 that marriage refers to Christ and the church. What did Paul mean? What is the main characteristic of Christ's relationship with the church? In Ephesians 2:8, Paul said that it is by grace that we have been saved, through faith. It is not our own doing; it is the gift of God. So here and in numerous instances elsewhere, Paul is saying that grace is the essential characteristic of a Christian's relationship with his God. God has forgiven, made right and accepted us sinners, not because of our efforts or doing, but wholly because of grace. And we must make the same grace and spirit of forgiveness to become the foundation of our marriage.

As Christ has forgiven and accepted us amid all our weaknesses, we must also show love and forgiveness towards our spouse, amid all their strengths and weaknesses. When we begin to judge the value of our marriage from how far our spouse has fulfilled our expectations, the marriage will gradually turn stale and die.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray so that the spirit of grace, forgiveness and acceptance may become the foundation of our marriage, so that we may learn to forgive and accept our spouse the same way Jesus has accepted and forgiven us all our weaknesses, even when we fall to the same weaknesses over and over again.

PERFORMANCE VS ACCEPTANCE

Luke 19:1-10



In the modern world, things like social status, financial status, fame or even appearance play a major role in relationship. These so called ‘performances’ are mostly outward, temporary, and often does not reflect the actual person inside. Putting too much emphasis on them will destroy our family relationships – husband and wife, parents and children, brothers and sisters.

The root of successful relationship is acceptance. Jesus touched the lives of many because He does not value people by their performance or status but accepted them in their condition as they are. Many despised Zacchaeus because he collected tax from the Jew and worked for Rome, thus labeled as traitor of their own people. However, Jesus was willing to build relationship with Zacchaeus and such acceptance changed Zacchaeus’ life. Zacchaeus’ life was transformed and he was willing to even pay back the money four times the amount.

Often times in our relationship, we value our family member based on their performances. If our children receive good grades, we praise them. However, when they are struggling in certain aspect, we demanded them to study harder or behave better. Sometimes we value our husband based on his performances at work instead of for who he truly is. If we can accept our family members’ struggles, weaknesses, and support them to be better instead of demanding and judging them at all times, then our family relationship will grow healthily. Acceptance is the key to successful relationship. Performance is only the fruit and not the root of successful relationship.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray for restoration in our family relationships and pray for God’s wisdom to be able to value each family member the way God value them.



COMPLACENCY KILLS

Proverbs 1:32

Think for a while whether these scenarios sound familiar in your marriage: You know there is something wrong with your marriage or family, but you choose to avoid conflicts and arguments, you choose to stay quiet. Or perhaps you have tried to communicate your problems, but every attempt always escalates to explosive arguments such that you no longer feel talking is of any use. So you stop talking, and after years, you get used to the idea that no problems get solved, you know that your work/ hobbies/ other things in your life have eroded your intimacy with your spouse. Deep inside you know you have to change, but you never make the decision to actually make the change.

If these things feel familiar in your life, then the Bible gives a warning: “*The complacency of fools destroys them.*” The message is clear: change before it’s too late. When you leave problems unsolved, you are basically living with a time bomb that will one day explode, whether you like it or not.

Husbands/ wives do not fall into affairs over a night’s problem. These usually happen because of problems that are left unsolved for years, so they are buried and vented out in a wrong way.

The actions that you take or fail to take today will determine where you end up a month or a year from now. Problems do not take care of themselves, so make the required change. Express love and respect toward your spouse everyday.

Say, “I love you.”, I know I am wrong and I am sorry. Would you forgive me?” Say, “Thank you for all your hard work. I want you to know that I have seen and appreciated all you’ve done to make this family work.” Start reading the Word and pray together with your wife and children. Do what you have to do, NOW.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray so that God would reveal areas in your life that need change, especially your marriage. And pray so that you’d be given the courage to take those steps towards change. Remember, complacency kills.

GOD'S CHARACTER GOVERNING OUR ACTIONS

Proverbs 31:10-31



Having a wife of noble character is a husband's pride and desire. The wife portrayed in Proverbs 31 is an example of the perfect woman that every woman desires to be. On the one hand, this can be an overwhelming standard to reach. On the other hand, it can be the perfect example we follow by.

The woman described here focuses her energy, gifts and life on serving, protecting and beautifying her family and others around her. She does not waste her time on finding others' faults, comparing herself with others, or speaking harsh words about others. Instead, she focuses on the tasks at hand. As a result, whatever she does, prospers. People around her, her husband, children, maidservants testify to her noble character and praise her.

What should we do to possess noble character? In verse 30 "...a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised" because the "fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10). A wise heart knows what to do and when to do it, because the Holy Spirit guides it; a wise heart also knows when to break free from bad company. "Bad company corrupts good character" (1 Corinthians 15:33). Spending time with people with good characters will help us to be better people.

Who do we hang out with? Those who enjoy gossiping, doing things that are futile, or those with purpose and visions in their lives? Because doing good works do not make us noble, unless it comes from sincere hearts.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray for Christ's characters to be implanted in us and wisdom to choose our friends.



ASK, WHY?

Luke 23:34, James 1:19

Have you ever wondered why Jesus said that these people know not what they did? Hadn't they knowingly and intentionally rejected, falsely accused, insulted and even condemned Jesus to death on the cross? But Jesus clearly said they knew not what they did.

When our spouse do things repeatedly or say words that hurt us, have we ever thought they might not know what they do? When our wife is filled with jealousy, our husband draw distance from us when facing difficult situation, or our children become rebellious, have we ever thought that they might not know what they do? Do we understand reasons behind our own weaknesses?

When the Scribes and the Pharisees would kill by stoning the woman who was caught in adultery, Jesus forgave and freed her from her sins (John 8:11). When people put to chain the demon-possessed man in the country of the Gerasenes, Jesus healed and restored his condition (Mark 5:15). When the Pharisees looked upon Levi and his tax collector friends as lowly sinners and would not even go near them, Jesus ate with them (Mark 2:14).

Man tends to look and focus on other people's weaknesses, but Jesus sees beyond the weaknesses to the needs. Jesus knows that behind every weakness, there is a need to be filled, a sickness to heal, a soul to restore to the image and glory of God. When we are facing seemingly unsolvable conflicts with our spouse or family, let us try hard to understand their needs, learn to listen, and listen to them with honesty and humility.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray so that we will not be quick to judge. Realize that we ourselves are not free from faults. In humility, try to understand the reason and needs behind every weakness you see in your spouse. And in yourself.

FAMILY ALTAR

Ezra 3:1-6



When the exiles returned to Jerusalem from the Babylonian captivity, they rebuilt the altar of God where they sacrificed burnt offerings to God. The altar represents the place where God dwells, the center and foundation of life itself. In the midst of the ruins, brokenness, fear, and shame the people sought the One who could restore all things that were broken. At the altar, people gathered to seek the Lord and listened to the Book of the Law. There was unity and restoration as they gathered as one people. This was where unity was established and walls of differences were torn down.

Likewise, as we gather daily as a family to seek the Lord, we will experience unity, restoration, love, forgiveness and all great blessings in abundance, for the simple reason that He is present. He is true to His Word when He says, “for where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18:20). In the presence of the Lord, there is healing for the broken, peace, unity, love, counsel and miracles.

The New Testament believers understood this well when every day “they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:46-47). As a result, miracles were performed, hearts turned to Christ and their numbers grew exponentially.

It is crucial for us to build a family altar at home, where we can come in our brokenness and our weaknesses before God as a family. In this day and age, it is very important that our children learn the importance of putting God at the center of their lives, and it all starts in the family. As the saying goes, “a family that prays together stays together.”

PRAYER POINT:

Pray for IFGF families to have family altars at home.



AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD

Joshua 24:15

The story of Joshua summarizes perfectly what we have learnt about building a solid family. God used Joshua mightily all his life, leading the Israelites to enter and to possess the Promised Land. Yet even more notable is the fact that “Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua.” (Joshua 24:31).

As God appointed leader of His people, Joshua knew very well his calling. It is not an easy, calling for Joshua and his entire family to bear a huge responsibility. Joshua definitely had his own ups and downs, be it in his personal walk with God, dealing with the stubborn and hard-headed Israelites, or closer at home, dealing with his own family. And like many of us, he probably had to juggle between family, work and ministry too. However, by depending on the Lord, Joshua and his family learn to accept each other and stick through thick and thin. He took charge as the head of the family, leading by example, and aligning his family’s purpose to that of God’s, boldly declaring “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

You might think, it is impossible for my family to be like Joshua’s; but remember the power of mind and the power of tongue. The same God that encouraged Joshua three times in the beginning of his ministry, is the same God today. So be strong and be of good courage; fulfill the godly purpose that God has for your family.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray that God transformed our attitude and mindset to match that of Joshua’s for our family, and let His purpose for our family be fulfilled.

“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper”

Jeremiah 29:7

EUROPE

Pray for leaders upon European continent to govern with godly fear, wisdom, and seek the prosperity of the nation instead of personal ambition.

Proclaim economic and social stability. God's peace upon Europe

Churches to arise and be the light and salt over Europe.

Young generations turn their heart to The Lord and many God fearing young leaders arise and transform Europe.

Those who had forsaken God will turn back their heart to The Lord.

Pray for refugees to have an encounter with God and find God as the source of strength and love.

Relationship restoration upon family life over Europe.
Healing upon broken relationship between family members.



WHOSE ADVICE DO WE SEEK?

Psalm 1: 1-6, Joshua 1:6-8

Children always ask their parents when they need answer about anything. Sometimes they ask “mommy, how come the sun shine during the day and the moon by night?” and daddy “how can airplane fly?” In the eye of children, their parents know everything and their answers are trustworthy. Like little children, let the advice and answer from our heavenly father be everything to us because His word is flawless and perfect (Psalm 18:30).

After Moses death, Joshua was chosen to lead Israel to reach the promise land. Imagine being a successor of a great leader like Moses. Joshua had a big shoe to fill the task and expected to be a great leader for Israelites. In the transition period of Joshua’s life God instructed Him to be strong, courageous, meditate on His word, and live according to all that is written in it (Joshua 1:6-8).

The benefit of seeking God’s word is immensely countless. The word of God is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path (Psalm 119:105). When we are at an intersection in life, seek His word first before any other. His word is able to guide us one step at a time and equips us to do good work that will lead to fruitful result (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Do not let easily available information on social media replaces our priority to seek counsel from the word of God. The first person whom we seek advice will determine the course of our action and result.

PRAYER POINT:

Are you in need of advice in your life? Ask God for His counsel and wait expectantly for His guidance. Read His word and implement it in your life.

HAVE YOU LISTENED RIGHTLY?

Luke 8:18



Jesus is essentially saying, there is a right way of listening, and there is a wrong way of listening. Have we listened rightly?

In Luke 8:10, Jesus said: “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God.” Whom was Jesus referring to by ‘you’ here? He was referring to his disciples, who not only listened to Jesus’ teachings, but actually walked with him every day.

Jesus continued: “... But for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’” Whom was Jesus referring to by ‘others’ here? Those who came to Jesus to listen to his teaching and find miracles, but never really walked with Him.

Right now the invitation to be Jesus’ disciple is given far and wide, and anyone who is willing can walk with Him every day. Will you be Jesus’ disciple?

This is how we listen rightly: before we read the Word of God or go to the church to listen to the sermon, have we made the decision that we will become Jesus’ disciple? Meaning, we will honor and obey the truth of the revealed word, no matter what the cost? If we have made that decision, it means that we have prepared our ears to listen rightly, and our heart could become the good soil, where God’s word could grow and bear abundant fruits (Luke 8:8).

This is how we listen wrongly: if we think lightly of the word of God, and we assume that it’s okay to compromise with God’s commandments here and there to suit our convenience, then for a while the word may be planted, but as Jesus says, both difficulties and pleasantness of the world will sooner or later kill the word. For them, Jesus gives this warning: “... Even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.” (Luke 8:18)

PRAYER POINT:

Pray that God may give you grace to listen rightly and to be obedient to all his commandments.



GOD'S ENABLEMENT

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

When God told Ananias to pray for Paul who was blinded by a bright light on the way to Damascus, the Lord told him that Paul had to suffer for the sake of the Gospel. “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name” (Acts 9:15-16).

With the calling, comes the enablement to fulfill the calling. The things Paul had to go through as he suffered for the Gospel seemed to be at times humanly impossible to bear, yet he was able to continue to spread the Gospel joyfully.

Each of us has a calling and purpose to fulfill. God’s purpose for us has been written before the foundation of the earth “All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be” (Psalm 139:16). Yet often times we live as people without a purpose, or even without knowing what the purpose of God for us is. Philippians 2:13 states, “for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” Whatever that we need to accomplish has been planted within us to fulfill them; our characters, our likes and dislikes, our desires are formed to accomplish that purpose. Things that we are passionate about are placed within us so that we would excel in the God-given talents. The closer we are to God, the more we are enabled to fulfill His calling joyfully.

Are you still unsure of God’s calling upon your lives? Do you feel burdened as you walk through this life, trying to fulfill God’s calling? Start looking within at the talents and gifts God has given you. God enabled Paul to fulfill his calling joyfully despite the sufferings when he confessed, “...I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation. I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:12-13).

PRAYER POINT:

Pray for us to rejoice in our calling and rely on God for His strength and enablement.

GOD'S REVELATION

Genesis 6-7



Due to his close relationship with God, Noah was a man who lived experiencing the benefit of God's revelation. During the time when the earth was corrupt, Noah maintained a righteous and faithful life. As Genesis 6:8 described "Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord". As God was about to destroy the earth, God saved Noah and his family by revealing His plan, gave a clear direction on how escape the flood, and the perfect timing to prepare everything. Noah obeyed God or as Genesis 6:22 described, "Noah did exactly as God has commanded". Noah understood the importance of God's revelation and his obedience eventually brought salvation to him and his family.

Truly, God's revelation is a privilege God willingly gives to those in close relationship with Him. Through Noah's life story, we learnt that God's revelations prepare us, rescue us, and bring life. God's revelations give us wisdom and strategies that would not have otherwise cross our mind. However, knowing God's revelation means nothing if we do not take a step to believe and follow through with it. Imagine building a big ark on a hot sunny day with no sign of rain! Noah kept his trust and obedience in God regardless how seemingly odd God's direction was.

In this world filled with uncertainties, we need God's revelation to guide us more than before. His mercy is new every morning and He is ready to give us new understanding and revelation every morning. Are we ready to make time and room for God to reveal us His new understanding every day?

PRAYER POINT:

Let us draw close to the Lord and experience listening to God's revelation and walking in accordance to His guidance.



DISCIPLINE IN SOLITUDE

Daniel 6:10, Matthew 4

Michael Phelps is an American former competitive swimmer. He won a total of 28 Olympic medals, bringing him to be the most successful athlete in Olympic games. To achieve his success, Phelps practiced with discipline six hours a day at six days a week and lifts weights 3 times a week. Even though painful, He did many other practices to improve his effectiveness in the field. He also follow strict healthy diet and discipline in his sleeping time to give his body enough rest to be ready for his competition and training session. Phelps strong discipline toward his physical body enables him to conquer challenges and lead him to be the most decorated swimmer in the history of Olympic.

If we impose the same discipline for our spiritual life, we also can easily conquer challenges and temptation in our life, leading to a successful life. Jesus often goes to a solitary place and pray (Mark 1:35). When Jesus was tempted, he had just finished 40 days praying and fasting, and filled with God's spirit, he was able to defeat devil's temptation. Daniel also had a habit of seeking God in solitude by disciplining himself to not defile himself with the King's food and pray three times a day during challenging time.

Our discipline in solitude enable us to conquer challenges and give our spirit, mind, soul, and physical body a rest to be able to conquer our next challenges and be an overcomer according to God's will. Do we spend more time feeding our flesh or disciplining the flesh? Let us re-prioritize our activity and make time to be discipline in His presence before our other activities.

PRAYER POINT:

Make a commitment to prioritize our time to have discipline in seeking God's word and His presence daily. Ask God to reveal the hindrances to do so and start making little changes at a time.

COMMUNICATION THROUGH PRAYER

Habakkuk 1:12-2:2, Psalm 5:3



Regardless types communication tools used, phone, e-mail, videoconference, two important components need to happen to have effective communication; speaking and listening. Imagine having a husband who would only talk when he needs something or when he is in public but never talk to his wife at home. In other hand, what happen if a wife would always talk but never listen to her husband? When communication is disrupted, relationship is broken.

God's purpose for human creation is to build relationship with us. This can be done through discipline in prayer life. First, we need to speak to God verbally in prayer. God knows our need even before we say it (Matthew 6:7-8). However, when we want to start conversation with others, we start talking, "Hello, how are you?" What is new with your life? When we communicate with God, we do the same thing. We can talk to Him about how we feel, what make us anxious, and express our need to Him in prayer (Philippians 4:6).

The second part is listening. To listen effectively to others we need to stop talking, focus our ears, and our attention to our speaking partner. In prayer, we need to take time to stop talking and clear our mind from distractions to be able to listen clearly to God. Habakkuk had just expressed his complaint to God about the wicked. After He finished his complaint, Habakkuk waited expectantly to listen for what God will say about this matter (Habakkuk 2:1). We might not hear Him audibly but God can speak through His word, our thoughts, other people, and even our heart. We only need to commit ourselves to understand Him and expectantly listen to Him.

PRAYER POINT:

Commit to have discipline in our prayer time to communicate effectively and build our relationship stronger in Christ. Pray for Isaiah 50:4-5 in our life.

“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper”
Jeremiah 29:7

ASIA

Pray for peace between Asian nations.

Speak with faith for economic recovery in the global world crisis.

Pray for religious freedom. Pray for strength and Holy Spirit comfort for those who are persecuted.

Pray for everyone, especially children who had been victim of persecution and victim of religion violence to find hope and encounter God personally. Jesus will restore their life.

Peace in North Korea issue and South China Sea dispute.

Revival upon North Korea.

End of corruption era and end of poverty.

Proclaim soul repentance for nations.

GENEROSITY



Mark 8:1-9

Generosity is one of the most powerful characters of God displayed to us. He generously gave His love to us when He gave His only begotten Son to redeem us from the curse of sin. He continues to give Himself to us by loving the unlovable and bringing hope to the hopeless when we least deserve it.

In this passage, Jesus saw the crowd who had been with Him for three days and had compassion on them. This compassion led Him to action. He met them at the point of their needs and desperation (since they had nothing to eat for three days). He multiplied seven loaves of bread and few small fish to feed four thousand men, not counting women and children, and still had 7 basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. In their desperation, Jesus stepped in and performed a miracle.

Why did Jesus wait for three days before feeding them? No reason was specified except that had He fed them sooner; they probably would not appreciate the great miracle Jesus was about to perform, because untimely blessings would bring curses instead of blessings. In their weaknesses and desperation, the crowd witnessed a great miracle performed before their eyes.

Likewise, God, in His generosity will intervene in our lives in the time and way we least expect (Romans 8:32). We often fail to see the greatness of God in our lives because He often does not answer us according to our ways and desires. It is because He is gracious that He desires to bless us abundantly. John 1:16 states that from “the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.” Let us not be so caught up with our own problems that we fail to see both the little and the big miracles the Lord Jesus gives us on a daily basis.

PRAYER POINT:

Ask God for clear understanding of His gracious heart towards us, and be grateful for the miracles we experience daily.



THE SOURCE OF GENEROSITY

1 John 4:10, James 1:17

It is one thing to give a gift to someone; it is another thing entirely to receive that gift. The experience of receiving an impactful gift would not make that gift dormant. It would make us desire to share that gift to someone else. That excellent gift will ripple through and out, leaving a continuous impact to other people's life. In order to do so, we must first receive an excellent gift.

The apostle Paul received this wonderful gift. Realizing that Christ died for us, Paul experienced the gift of salvation. For Paul had never received a greater gift than the love of God shown through Jesus at the cross. Jesus took not only our sin but also the punishment our sin deserved. Such an incredible expression of God's love compelled Paul so much that he turned his life around. He rededicated his life for ministry so he could share this wonderful gift to others.

We can only be generous in giving if we had received and experienced God's generous love and acceptance in our life. Without receiving God's gift first, Paul would never be able to generously share the gospel in his ministry to others. And just like Paul, receiving God's love would turn our life around. God's generous love will transform our life and will then help transform the lives of others.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray we can experience God's love personally so we can share the good news to others generously.

LITTLE TURNED MUCH IN GOD'S HAND

John 6:1-14



News often publishes story about billionaires who build foundation for a good cause. Big companies also allocate certain amount of their budget for Corporate Social Responsibility program. The world seems to teach us to be generous out of abundance. However, in God's kingdom, God does not require us to give out of abundance but out of our heart because He actually is the giver of what we have.

In the story of feeding the five thousand, Jesus asked his disciples "where can we buy bread so they may eat?" Phillip realized their financial limitation that the money they had would not be enough to feed the crowd. Another disciple, Andrew, found a boy who had five barley loaves and two small fish and also realized that it would not be enough to feed the crowd with five loaves and two fish. However, Jesus performed a miracle and showed His disciples that little can be turned into much in Jesus hand, even with abundance left over of twelve baskets of bread.

In this parable, Jesus teaches us to be generous does not depend on what we have but out of compassionate heart. Out of His compassion, he did not only provide spiritual food but also physical food for the crowd. Jesus also teaches us to be generous with what we have. How much time, money, talent, knowledge and experience can we share with others? Do not focus on the amount we have but focus on allowing God to use what we have to feed others spiritually and physically. With God, Little can be turned to much and leave an impactful mark in other people's life.

PRAYER POINT:

What do we have in our hand that can bless others in need? Be generous with what we have and allow God to use turn it to bless others.



GOD'S PROVISION

Luke 10:38-42

Martha had a goal in mind; she wanted to please Jesus. She desired to serve Jesus so much she had her focus solely on it. Before she knew it, her ministry became her obsession. Martha was so distracted by her ambition that she could not pay attention to Jesus when He came to visit her. Eventually she reached a point of exhaustion and started complaining to Jesus. Jesus responded by telling Martha that He never needed her work but He desired her to sit quietly at His feet and listen to Him, just like Mary. According to Jesus, what Mary did was more than enough and will not be taken away from her.

We are all guilty of being a Martha sometimes. Often we think; "I would like to achieve my goals so I could use this for the Kingdom of God". We live focusing on our checklist, wish list, and list of goals to achieve. While it is good to have these dreams, it is never a good idea to make our goals as life obsession. When we do, we will be exhausted, lose focus, and start to feel what we have or do is never enough.

God desires us to spend time to sit quietly and focus our attention on Him. Intimacy and focus on God will allow us to see His provision. He Himself is enough because He is able to give us direction, refreshes us, and blesses the work of our hands. Understanding and realizing God's provision help us to never lose sight of what's important. Our work and ministry should be the fruit of our intimacy with God and the proof of God's provision in life.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray for a desire to have a strong intimacy with the Lord just like Mary, heart to understand, and eyes to see God's provision in life.

GENEROSITY IN THE MIDST OF STRUGGLE

Matthew 14:13-21



After hearing the news that John the Baptist had been beheaded, Jesus withdrew to a solitary place to grieve for him. John the Baptist was no ordinary man. His existence had been prophesied as a forerunner to His coming, long before he was born, in Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord'" (John 1:23). He was the one Jesus praised: "among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist..." (Matthew 11:11). Surely Jesus needed time to grieve the loss of someone so dear to His heart. Yet the crowd seemed oblivious to what He was going through. They followed Him and did not give Him the time He needed for Himself.

Once again, His reaction upon seeing them revealed the compassionate heart Jesus had towards the people. He overlooked His own grief and needs to meet the needs of the people. He could have driven them away, and took time off from His ministry; but He did not. How often do we refuse service to those who are in need, when we ourselves are fighting our own battles? While we have the mindset that our needs are of utmost importance, Jesus teaches us otherwise.

Having met their needs, Jesus went an extra mile and satisfied their physical needs. With five loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus fed 5000 men, excluding women and children and even had 12 basketfuls of left over. Perhaps some of the crowd did not know what He went through; perhaps some knew but did not care, as they were focused on their own needs. Whatever the attitudes of the crowd were, He was able to overlook their weaknesses and once again revealed the Father's compassionate and generous heart.

Are we able to do what Jesus did, by serving those in need despite our own weaknesses and struggles? As long as we are willing, He will enable us to do so.

PRAYER POINT:

Ask the Lord for compassionate hearts that are willing to go extra mile.



PRAYING GENEROUSLY

John 17

In John 17, Jesus was praying in Gethsemane. At this moment, Jesus faced His greatest struggle. He was about to be captured and face his road to crucifixion. Anxious, troubled, and in fear to the point of death Jesus took time to pray for His disciples and all believers.

When we are facing the biggest storm of our life, often time we only pray for our needs. However, Jesus gave us an example to pray for others generously even during our most difficult moments in life. In the garden, Jesus showed us to:


1. Pray generously for others even in our difficult moments. Jesus took time to pray even though He himself was struggling with His problem.
2. Pray for those who are experiencing the same battle as us. Jesus prayed for His disciples who will betray Him and denied Him. Jesus understood their fear, anxiety, and temptation. He did not judge them but pray for their battles.
3. Pray according to God's will at all times. Jesus mention many times not as His will but God's will to happen in His prayer.

When we received Christ, we have received complete package in Christ; in protections, provision, guidance, basically everything. God's characters and promise never change even in the midst of storm. With this blessings, Let us generously freely bless others with our prayer.

"The strongest people make time to help others even when they are struggling with their own problem" (anonymous).

PRAYER POINT:

Pray for a compassionate and generous heart to pray for others need at all time.



*“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper”
Jeremiah 29:7*

AUSTRALIA

Pray for wise leaders in government position so they can implement godly rules for the nation.

Pray for believers to stand firm on the Truth of the Gospel against changing cultures and norms.

Pray for Jesus Christ to capture hearts of next generation and protect them from destructive influence.

Holy Spirit to transform Australia and revive its Church.



FOCUS ON GOD

Matthew 6:33

Have you ever feel exhausted with life's problems? Everyone at some point has felt the same way. Day to day, our life is filled with challenges and demands. Whether these problems come from family, friends or work, they certainly can feel endless. In life, encountering problems are inevitable. However, instead of focusing our sole attention to our problems, we should shift our focus on the Lord. Our life on earth is temporary and so does our problem. We need to realize our real identity is as citizen of Heaven and start focusing on Eternal Kingdom matters.

In 2 Corinthians 4:18, it says "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen is eternal" Focusing on the Kingdom means fixing our eyes on the Lord, the creator of all who is able to guide and lead us through our ups and downs. It means focusing our eyes on His characters, His laws, and His way of life. The enemy rejoices when we focus our eyes on our problems. The enemy wants us to believe that our problem is bigger than God.

Focusing on God and His kingdom is a matter of choice. His characters, word and promises do not change and do not depend on our circumstances. God is never ignorant or too late to help us. Our part is to focus on God, believe in His promise and He will never fail to deliver us from our storm.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray a prayer of acknowledgement that God is mightier than your challenges and make a choice to focus on God alone.

SPIRITUAL AMNESIA

Mark 4:35-41



As technology advances, there is a new phenomenon called digital amnesia or widely known as the Google effect. The study shows that brain is less likely to remember information that can be taken for granted because it is found easily online by using search engine.

In Mark 4, the disciples were in great distress because of the storm that broke out during their journey. At this point of the journey, the disciples had followed Jesus, saw Him performed great healing, and listened to His teachings. However, when faced with storm, the first response that came out of their mouth was "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" When the disciple saw Jesus as simply a teacher and thought Jesus failed to help, to give direction, and to solve problems, they begin to think Jesus simply did not care about their life. However, Jesus in fact was in control over their life and even over the storm.

Likewise digital amnesia, we often experiences spiritual amnesia in our walk with Christ. When we start to position Christ like a search engine and demand Him to give instant answer, immediate help, and provide direction during our storm instantly, we begin to forget about His true position in our life. Jesus is not merely a teacher, healer, or problem fixer. He is our God. Never forget Jesus true position in our life as our God. When we believe and position Him as our God, we shall be still and walk through our storm victoriously (Psalm 46:10-11).

PRAYER POINT:

Are there areas in your life where Jesus seems to be and silent? Do not lose heart and take Him for granted. Remember that He is God over our life and is in control over everything!



THANKSGIVING HEART

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The Duke of Wellington was a British military leader famously known for defeating Napoleon at Waterloo. He was a brilliant man and had much great accomplishment in his life. In his old age, a woman asked him this question, "What would you do differently if you had your life to live over again?" He thought carefully and said, "I would give more thanks".

When life hits you hard, it is never easy to be positive and be thankful. It is easy to complain and blame situations. While challenges may never end, there is an attitude that we can cultivate to change our situation around; it is to have a thankful heart.

There is power in thankful heart. When we give thanks, the enemy loses the ability to manipulate us with discouragement and lies. An attitude of thanksgiving accepts our situation, embraces the truth that God is in control over our life and He is bigger than our problems. Thankful heart moves our faith to give Him praise in every situation.

Thanksgiving heart is the key we need in our life to turn our situation around. While it may not solve problems instantly, it will certainly change our attitude and outlook towards our problems. There is power in a thankful heart. As David writes in Psalm 116:17, "I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the LORD."

PRAYER POINT:

Give thanks to God no matter what your situation is. Acknowledge that He is bigger than your problems and give thanks for His help that is on the way.

PURPOSE OF CHALLENGES



Judges 3:2, Proverbs 3:11-12, Hebrews 12:6

There are always challenges and struggles in life. Sometimes, it seems that the challenges are more intense for God's children. David envied the wicked, who seemed to be without struggles (Psalm 73:3). Why does God allow challenges and seemingly unending battles to be in our lives, if indeed He loves us?

A diamond exporter billionaire, Savji Dholakia, challenged his only son, who was 21 year-old to spend his school vacation working because he wanted him to learn about life. His son was to find a job on his own, without his father's referral or influence, and was given only USD 105 for emergency purposes. He was rejected by 60 companies, was jobless for five days and had no proper place to stay. He worked at a bakery, McDonald's outlet, call center, a shoe shop, and had difficulty making ends meet. Through these experiences, he learned life lessons and did not take the father's privileges for granted.

God uses challenges and struggles to help us to grow, to learn more about His characters, and to teach about life skills. In Judges 3:2, God allowed nations to rise against the Israelites in order to teach them battle skills to generations who had not had previous battle experiences. Do not doubt God's goodness and protection in the midst of our struggles. He is our good shepherd who is in control over our life.

PRAYER POINT:

Give thanks for everything that happen in our life including our challenges. His grace is sufficient in our life and we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.



IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Colossians 1:27, 1 Peter 2:9

We lived in the world that judged people by categories. We are generally categorized based on our achievements and failures. Are you married? Do you have children yet? Are you are drug addict? The list never ends. When we are being judged by our achievements, we might feel like we are at the top of the mountain or maybe even proud. But when we are being judged by our failures, it is easy for us to fall into identity crisis.

When we decide to received Christ as our Lord and Savior. Christ becomes our identity. Christ has taken away all our sins past, present and future and has redeemed us at the Cross. He is in us and we are in Him. Regardless of our performances or what the world label us, Christ identity is in us. 1 Peter 2:9 says we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's special possession. When we believe our identity in Him, we will be able to act and live life accordingly.

Keep our focus on Christ alone by understanding His characters and His word for us. As we focus more on Christ, we make Him bigger in our lives. He, in turns, enables us to stride forward and face our challenges boldly.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray that we can learn to see ourselves in Christ and not by what the world judges us.

PLEASING TO GOD



Galatians 1:10, Philippians 3:7-8

Acceptance is one of humans' most basic needs. From the time a baby is born, she needs the love, touch and acceptance from her parents / guardian in order for her to have a healthy mental and physical growth. Even until adulthood, she will continue to seek other people's approval and recognition, and she will to some extent use that approval to measure her own self-worth.

But when someone has a personal encounter with Jesus, the values and priorities in her life would change dramatically. She would no longer crave the acceptance of others', because she finds the perfect love and acceptance in Jesus who died and rose again for her.

Paul was not worried about pleasing or gaining the approval of others. The secret of his contentment is written in Galatians 1:1: "Paul, an apostle -- not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father." Paul has had a personal encounter with Christ, and the priorities and dreams of his life was to know Jesus and carry out his calling as a trustworthy apostle of Christ.

Likewise with us. Whatever position we are in right now, be in inside or outside the church, we must realize that they are the calling of God in our lives. Whatever the role and position that God has placed us in right now, understand that there is no role that is not important, there is no position that is insignificant. Remember that they all come from God, and let us cease to find the approval and recognition from man. May our eyes always look to Jesus who has called and redeemed us. Only from Him do we expect our praise, and we earnestly wait for the time that He would say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21,23).

PRAYER POINT:

Pray that we may know Jesus as Paul knew Him, so that the dreams and desires of our heart may focus on Jesus, not to our selfish ambition or recognition from others.



SOVEREIGN GOD

Proverbs 18:10, Psalm 34:19, Ephesians 1:11-12

Joseph lived a challenging life, one may say. Driven by jealousy, his brothers sold him to slavery. Just when life was about to get better for Joseph, he was accused of rape and got thrown into jail. Joseph's life seems to be a series of mishaps until one day God fulfills His promise and Joseph became ruler in Egypt.

Our faith could easily be challenged in times of sorrow and suffering, leading us to seriously question God's role as creator and controller of the universe. He is excellent and perfect in all His way. His capacities and capabilities surpass the scope of human reasons. However, in times of challenges, we often doubt Him and think that He must have made a mistake and He might not be in control after all.

In the later life of Joseph, God lift him up to be second in command in Egypt. The series of trials Joseph put through was to prepare him to be a just ruler that delivered Israel from famine. We might not understand the purpose of our trials currently. However, believe in God's character and His word, "...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

PRAYER POINT:

Pray for an increase in faith to trust whatever path God leads us through knowing all is in preparation to the His plan.

PRAY IN THE MIDST OF CHALLENGES

Psalms 121



Challenges are inevitable and part of life. We can let challenges control our life or we can overcome it through prayer! David was facing distress in life when he composed Psalm 121. In this prayer, David turned and trusted God to cover Him in the days of battle.

Through Psalm 121 we learn that:

1. In times of trouble, we should focus our attention not in our problems but in the Lord. David had his eyes fixed on God. As we focus in the Lord, He will direct and guide us through our problems.
2. Source of help does not come from anything or anyone, but come from the Lord. Human's help, advices, and resources are limited but God's wisdom and grace are new every morning.
3. The word "watch" was mentioned five times in this chapter, ensuring us that the Lord indeed is a wakeful watchful keeper. God knows, sees, and understands the challenges we are going through. As we place our confidence in Him, He will personally protect and guide us through.
4. There is a promise of security and guidance both in our present and future. The Lord's help is never temporary but it is "both now and forevermore" (Psalms 121:8).

Times of crisis are indeed the most important times to turn to God. The more exposed we are to problems, the more we should repose our confidence in God. As we turn to Him, The Lord will protect and care for us in the fullness of His providence and grace.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray a prayer of intimacy, describing in detail all the troubles and challenges you are facing. Humble yourselves in front of the Lord and seek His guidance and mercy to help you through. Release your confidence in Him and not in your strength.

“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper”
Jeremiah 29:7

AFRICA

Pray for government leaders over protection, fear of God, and wisdom to govern the nations.

Speak healing upon sickness (ebola, AIDS).

Proclaim end of corrupted government, churches and people.

Pray for recovery in the land, no more bareness, drought and the nation can start bearing fruit.

God's teaching to penetrate and transform cultures and education.

TAKING DELIGHT IN JESUS

Psalm 16:11, Mark 8:34-35 NIV



What comes to your mind when you hear the word “relationship”? Below are several different definitions of relationship in their respective context:

- Interpersonal – a strong, deep, or close association or acquaintance between two or more people.
- Mathematics – the relationship and dependency between two variable or sets of data.
- Business – the way in which two or more people or organizations regard and behave toward each other.
- Family – the state of being connected by blood or marriage.

Now when Jesus invites us to follow him, who is this invitation given to and what is He really inviting us into? The word “desire” used here is the Greek word “thelo” which means – to purpose, to wish, to desire, to delight in and or to take pleasure in.

The invitation to follow Jesus speaks about commitment. A commitment is the starting point of any relationship. It’s like a wedding vow between the bride and groom, they willingly and joyfully commit to loving and cherishing each other for life. Following Jesus is the same, it requires a commitment – a decision to follow him through the thick and thin, through the storm and clear skies, through the laughter and the tears.

The invitation to follow Jesus is relational. “He appointed twelve that they might be with him...” (Mark 3:14). The twelve disciples spent three years following Jesus. They were everywhere Jesus went and did everything with him, they took delight in Jesus. They grew from spiritual infants into spiritual giants as they learned to walk and love Jesus more each day.

So what can we conclude of this great invitation? It is a lifelong commitment to loving and walking with our Lord Jesus.

PRAYER POINT:

Are you willing to respond to Jesus’ great invitation? Make room for Jesus to be the center of your life and walk with Him faithfully. Pray for God’s love to fill your heart with desires to walk with Him in every step of the way.



SAY "NO" TO YOURSELF AND "YES" TO JESUS

Matthew 26:41, Galatians 5:16-26

It's the start of the year, your new year resolution is to lose weight so you start avoiding junk food. You might say that is denying yourself, but that's not what Jesus was talking about in this context. Denying yourself is not a form of self-denial but rather a shift from a self-centered to a Christ-centered life. A classic example would be fasting; people say "no" to food but they don't necessarily say "yes" to Jesus. Why? It comes down to motivation because saying no to food is in-line for the people that are trying to lose weight, but at the same time they could potentially miss out on deepening intimacy with God when dieting becomes their primary purpose. It is learning to say "No" to yourself and saying "Yes" to Jesus. It is about seeking His approval rather than our desire.

Denying yourself is more than just merely exercising "self-control" but with a deep desire to obey and please God. Each day we're all presented with decisions to make, whether at work or at home. When you decide to abide by the law in a tender process for your business project, you're doing it to honor God and not just because you're scared of getting caught in bribery. When you decide to end a certain habitual sin in your life, you're doing it because it honors God and not just because you're scared that God will punish you. The motivation shifts from self to Christ.

The Apostle Paul beautifully states this in Galatians 2:20 (MSG), "...My ego is no longer central... Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God". As you continue to learn to say "no" to yourself and "yes" to Jesus, your ego lessens and He increases – keeping saying "yes" to Jesus!

PRAYER POINT:

Which area of your life have you not said "Yes" to Jesus? Ask God to give you strength to surrender and obey him.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS



Mark 8:34, Matthew 10:34-39

During the Roman times, the cross was a punishment for the worst criminals. It was a symbol of suffering and death. So imagine when Jesus says that following him meant carrying our own cross. People wanted a “no-cost” discipleship but Jesus was very clear about it, he said “take up your cross”.

Taking up our cross transcends beyond the question of God’s will for your life, who you will marry, what career you will take or which school to attend. To take up one’s cross means to be willing to pay any price for Christ’s sake. It is a picture of a total and radical commitment to follow Jesus daily even if it means suffering, injustice, isolation, pain and even death. It’s saying that it doesn’t matter if I’m ousted by loved ones for my faith (Matthew 10:34-36), if I lose my job for refusing to cut corners or if God sends me to warring zone to preach the Gospel.

The Apostle Paul showed us what it meant to carry the cross - “To live is Christ, to die is gain”. He said “I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24) and even when danger awaited him, he said “For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 21:13) What Paul is really saying is, “it doesn’t matter what happens to me” - as long as the Gospel is preached.

PRAYER POINT:

Never compare your life with others, but pray for faithfulness and courage to take up our own cross and finish the race well.



FROM CROWD TO DISCIPLE

Mark 1:16-17, Mark 8:1-13

Everyone follows something or someone. It may be a favorite sports club, a certain music group or celebrity. Why do we follow? Because of common or self-interest. We probably love the sports, the music and the life of celebrity so we follow these group and persons. In a world that is connected through social media, we also follow people through twitter, Instagram or Facebook - we are all followers by nature.

When Jesus went around to preach the Gospel, the bible tells us that there was a crowd of followers following him. They probably enjoyed his sermon and the work of miracles so they followed him. They enjoyed the free lunch when Jesus blessed the bread and fish. But when Jesus laid out his conditions to discipleship, they all falter and the crowd started to thin out. The crowd wanted it easy to follow but Jesus wasn't looking for mere crowd but disciples. What is the difference?

The crowd follows Jesus out of convenience but a disciple follows Jesus out of obedience. The crowd follows Jesus in their own terms but a disciple follows Jesus in His terms. The crowd follows Jesus to benefit themselves but a disciple follows Jesus to become like Him. You have to decide, are you just a face in the crowd? Do you follow Jesus because you are chasing what you want or what He wants? Or are you a disciple of Jesus? Jesus says "If you love me, you will obey my commandments." (John 14:15). As you commit your life and learn to walk and grow with Jesus, He will change your life – from the crowd into a fruitful disciple.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray for God to reveal those challenges and make decision to change to experience breakthrough to be His disciple.

FISHING TOGETHER

Luke 5:6-7



A typical fishing vessel would usually consist of a small group to a multi-dozen crewmembers. They depended on helping each other to make the big catch on a sail away. Some would be experts in the net; some great navigators and some would take care of the crew by preparing meals. It was one vessel with many crews that were doing different parts but all toward the same goal – catching fish.

In Luke 5, Jesus told Peter to cast his net into the water and the bible tells us that they caught so much fish that their net was breaking. In other words, it was too much for one boat and for Peter and his crew to make the catch – they needed help. So they called out to their partners in the other boats who came to help them. The same spiritual truth applies in evangelism. You can't do it alone. You're not meant to do it alone. You need to fish together.

“And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.” (Mark 6:7). When Jesus sent out his disciples, he always did so in pairs – they were never alone. And he even said “where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them”. Why did Jesus do so? When you work together as a team you can encourage one another in times of need. You can empower your testimony as two persons with provide different background and perspective. Remember “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17). Fish Together!

PRAYER POINT:

Respond to God's given opportunities and be available to be able to fish souls together with other believers.



TRANSFORMING NATION THROUGH PRAYER

Esther 4, Jeremiah 29

As Jesus' disciples, we have been given authority to transform our nation through prayer. Esther was an ordinary orphan; together with Mordecai changed the course of Israelites through prayer and fasting. They both understood the heart of God for Israelites and saved Israelites from annihilation. During exile in Babylon, even though Israelites lived under oppression from leaders of Babylonians, God instructed Israelites to still pray for the nation (Jeremiah 29:7).

God has His reason to place us in our nation and no matter who governs our nation, He is in full control and His promises upon our nation will come to pass. However, the devil also tries many ways to destroy a nation through media, culture, and through passing laws that are against God's law. Then, how can we take action and pray for our nation?

1. Understand the will of God for our nation specifically and proclaim it for our country.
2. Are there any rules and regulation that are against God's principality and teaching? Pray for those rules specifically to be overruled and be replaced by godly regulations to govern our country.
3. Pray for leaders to have wisdom and fear of the Lord.
4. Be an example through action for people surround us.

Do we long to see God's way of life to transform our country? Do we long to see our children and generations to come to live peacefully and be fruitful in our country? God is looking for those who would stand in the gap to pray for our nation (Ezekiel 22:30). Let us be involve in God's will for our nation through prayer and together we will see His mighty power transforms our nation because His power is stronger than any rules and principality of this world.

PRAYER POINT:

Pray for wisdom to understand God's specific will for our country and proclaim peace, prosperity, and God;s promise upon our country.

BUILDING CORPORATE PRAYER

ACTS 2:42-47, ACTS 12

The early believers devoted themselves not only to the teaching but also to prayer. When Peter was kept in prison, the church was earnestly praying to God and supported Peter in prayer. Praying together with other believers are important and should be a lifestyle. There are many benefits of praying corporately. Acts 2:47 says with the fellowship of the believers, The Lord added the number that were saved. Praying together with other believers also unite each other in godly love. Through praying together, we can support each other in difficult times, like what the church did when Peter was in prison. Praying together also shield and protect our church, family, and even office from enemies attack. Corporate Prayer can be done in your family, office, church, and even your iCare. "For when two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there I am in the middle of them" Matthew 18:20.

HOW TO BUILD CORPORATE PRAYER?

1. Believers can pray once a week at church or even a house. Pastors, leaders, or prayer coordinator can invite other leaders and ministers to pray together.
2. The church can hold praise and worship night or all night prayer where leaders and congregation are invited earnestly to seek The Lord.
3. Leaders have prayer points ready to be distributed to make prayer time efficient and give understanding why it's important to pray corporately. We can intercede for church, families, congregation, nations; those who are sick, and pray earnestly for those who are in need of Jesus.
4. Have time for short testimony/short sharing of the word of God to encourage each other.
5. Encourage everyone to come to corporate prayer with heart focus to seek God and His answer.
6. Write down prayer lists and cross it out at when prayer has been answered for the glory of God.

