

FOREWORD

God has been good to us in 2018. He led us so powerfully to experience greater devotion with Him. All of us experienced many powerful things as we get closer to Him. Many of us experienced healing, members of our family were saved, promotion in our workplaces, opened opportunities in businesses, fruitful ministry, first encounter with Jesus, re-location according to our calling, and many more. As everyone had their breakthrough, we are ending 2018 with great expectations and ready to enter the year 2019 of Greater Promise.

God is taking us as His body to go to the next dimension as we enter to all of His promises. I believe this year is a continuation of last year. All the seeds that have been planted are growing: seeds of prayer and seeds of the Word of God.

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11 NKJV)

The Word will not come back to Him in vain it will do the will of God. As we rest in His promise, it will manifest powerfully in our life. You will see something unusual happen as it is written: *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."* (1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV)

Just watch and see.

Greater promises,

Rev. Maria Tamba, S.Th
Director of IFGF Pray

INTRODUCTION

What is 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting?

In those days, I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. (Daniel 10:2-3 NKJV)

As a spiritual discipline, we use fasting as a means to humble ourselves before God. We deny the desires of our flesh, so that we can 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.

21 Days of Prayer and Fasting is a spiritual discipline by abstaining from eating at certain times and/or abstaining from consuming certain foods for 21 days.

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

The Purpose of 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

1. To obtain knowledge, understanding and wisdom, along with new dreams and visions, to live the year ahead (Daniel 1:17);
2. To dedicate everything we do in the year 2019 unto Him alone;
3. To discipline our flesh.

Fasting Guideline

1. **Abstaining from eating at certain times**
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - For those who are not physically fit, it is recommended to fast up till noon only.
2. **Abstaining from consuming certain foods**

Avoid consumption of certain meats (e.g. pork, fish, chicken, etc) or other foods that you consume on daily (e.g. chocolate, coffee, tea, rice, bread, etc) for 21 days.

You may do both types of fasting or choose only one, depending on your commitment and personal ability.

How do we lead our lives differently during our fast?

1. During 21 days, pray for at least 1 name that is in need of Christ. Contact them and set aside time to meet them personally and pray over their needs;
2. Reduce the time we spend on our gadget or watching television. Set aside routing time to have devotional time with God. Worship Him, read 21 Days Prayer and Fasting Devotional book and meditate upon His word;
3. During devotional time, spend time to intercede for our family members who are in need of salvation, proclaim blessings upon them, intercede for our country and nation, and proclaim soul harvest upon our local church;
4. Ask God for His wisdom and vision to lead us throughout 2019;
5. Attend corporate prayer at your local church and share testimony to strengthen the body of Christ.

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

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1. HAVING REASONABLE EXPECTATION

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”(John 16:33 NKJV)

What is a promise? A promise is a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specific. Once a promise is declared, the receiver expects the promisor to fulfill it. For example: when a man and a woman get married, both of them carry different expectations. The man may expect that his wife will be like his own mother. It turns out that, she does not have the skill needed and he feels dissatisfied.

Most Christians become upset with God because they have wrong expectations. Many of us are taught to believe that if we follow Christ, our lives will be free from troubles, whether it's financial, family problem, or ministry issues. However, Jesus did not say that we will have no tribulation (John 16). He said that even when we are faced with tribulations, we can still have peace because He is greater than any of the life challenges that we face. Be assured that He is always faithful; He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Today, we have learned not to have wrong expectation from God and His promises. Once we have this understanding, we will not be dissatisfied in our walk with Christ.

Prayer:

Lord, I pray for the wisdom to discern between the truth of God's Word and the opinions of men upon me. Help me to reflect on my life. If there is any bitterness that has not been healed, help me to confess and pray for healing; be it my relationship with God or other people in my life. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

2. THE WRONG MOTIVATION

You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. (James 4:3 NKJV)

Every human have desires: whether it's wealth, fame, popularity or success. Is it wrong to ask God to grant our desires? Before we can answer that question, we need to reflect on why we ask God to fulfill our desires.

It is not wrong to have desires and goals in life. However, anything that takes precedence before God is an idol and idolatry is a sin. Idolatry prevents us from having intimacy with God.

When it comes to listening to God's promises, we need to reflect and discern whether it comes from God or our self-centered desires. Am I serving to glorify Christ or to seek approval from other people? Is my giving coming out of willingness of my heart or for a selfish reward? Believe that God loves us and will provide for us. Because of His love, He wants to protect us from anything that will cause separation from Him, even if that means saying no to our desires.

We might wonder why God has not fulfill our requests and desires, why we have not been promoted at our job or in our leadership position. The focus should be on how ready we are to receive those blessings in our life. Every blessing that God has entrusted to us comes with responsibility.

Prayer:

Take time to reflect whether our unfulfilled desires are for our own satisfaction or to be used to glorify Him. Do we have the right heart, motivation, and skills to carry the responsibilities that comes with the blessings? Pray for a pure heart that longs to glorify Him alone. Moreover, pray for wisdom, strength and faithfulness to carry the responsibilities that God has entrusted and will entrust in our life.

3. WAITING IS FAITH IN ACTION, NOT IDLING

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. (1 Peter 5:8-10 NKJV)

No one likes to wait. Waiting for God's promises to happen is one of the most difficult things to do, especially when we cannot see any changes taking place. For some of us, we might start to doubt whether God still remembers that promise, or whether God even made the promise in the first place.

In order to hold fast to the promise of God, we have to make sure that our focus is not in what we see, but in God's word. What can we do to keep our focus aligned with God's word?

1. Meditate on His Word

We have to focus our minds on what God actually says, not on the opinions of the world. The more we meditate on His Word, the better we become at filtering God's voice from what the world teaches.

2. Pray

When we pray, we shift our focus from the situation to God. Pray not just for a breakthrough to happen, but also to give praises and thanks to God as well. This allows us to set our minds on who God is, His nature, His goodness, and His sovereignty.

3. Be rooted in a Christ centered community

The devil likes to isolate us from our support system. It is always easier to hunt isolated preys than those in a group. Our testimonies and fellowship within a community will strengthen and encourage us.

We cannot control what happens in our lives, but we can control our response to what happens. Waiting is not staying idle and doing nothing. Waiting is living our lives; believing God is faithful to fulfill His promises.

Prayer:

Dear God, give me faith and patience to wait upon You and Your promises.

4. THE RADIANCE OF THE GLORY OF GOD

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (Hebrews 1:3 NIV)

Sunlight that we see during the day is an electromagnetic radiation given off by the sun. We cannot see the sun directly. However, we can feel and experience the power of sun through sunlight. Sunlight is the exact representation of the power of the sun.

1. The Sun and its sunlight are inseparable
Jesus has existed from the beginning, co-eternally with God (John 1:2 AMP);
2. Sunlight source of radiation is from the power of the sun
Jesus radiates the characters, power, and act of God;
3. The Sun always shines and sets everyday without absence and so does its radiance
Cloudy sky blocks radiation and hinders our sight to see the sunlight. When the radiation is not blocked by anything, we have clear sky and see the sunlight clearly. Clouds do not change the fact that the sun and its radiation exist.

Maybe some clouds such as challenges and disappointments hinder us from seeing and experiencing God personally. However, it does not change the fact that God exists. Entering 2019, maybe there are still unanswered prayers and long awaited breakthrough that still has not happened yet. We started to wonder God's existence, help, and promises in our life. However, delay and challenges do not change the fact that God exists and He is still in control over our life.

In the beginning of the year, let us strengthen our foundation in God by taking time to encounter Jesus personally, read His word, and understand Jesus' characters. God's characters, love, and promises are displayed through Jesus Christ who became flesh to show God's glory in our life (John 1:14).

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, let this year be the year where I truly encounter You personally every day. Let my heart understand Your desire, my eyes see what You want me to see in others, and my characters be transformed like Yours.

5. WORD OF GOD

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (Hebrews 1:3 NIV)

When we have problem with our health, we go to the doctor to seek consultation for our physical condition. We often look for a business consultant to seek opinion on how to expand our business. To do our taxes properly and efficiently, we go to a tax consultant. To know what is going on in the world, we read media every day. However, news that we read from others might have bias opinion and even be use a false data. Consultations we received might not be the best solution for our situation.

God communicates to us, offer solutions, and even consults us in our life, characters, and situation through His word. God's word is:

1. Trustworthy

Promises and words spoken by man have limitations. Their advices vary depending on their past experiences, qualifications, or education. God and His word are limitless. His word has existed since the beginning of creation, tested through generations, kingdoms, and accepted in different cultures. His word is the only constant thing in this uncertain world. Like how we can trust that the sun will always rise every morning, we can trust that His word will always prevail.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. (Matthew 24:35 NIV)

2. Creates things

In the beginning, God spoke and it came to be (Genesis 1). His word creates something out of nothing. Start speaking His word in our life!

3. Holds power

God spoke and the lame walks, the blind sees, and the deaf hears.

Sometimes challenges or disappointments in our life hinder us from seeing and believing that His word will come to pass. However, His word and its fulfillment do not depend on our circumstances but on the faithful character of God. Make a commitment to prioritize reading His word and let His revelations through His word guide our life.

Prayer:

Pray for Psalm 119:9-16 fulfilled in our life. Let His word be our delight and keep our ways pure.

6.NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. (Psalm 20:7 NIV)

Expecting parents always search for the best name for their babies. Name and its meaning are very important because, through name, a person or an object is referred to and described as. Everything on this earth has a name. Whether it's sickness, plantation, animals, machines, all has a name. Jesus' name is above all names that ever existed, above all principality, and governor. A Few of the names of God are:

1. Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6);
2. The Lord who heals you (Exodus 15:26);
His name is above all sickness whether its physical, spiritual, or mental illness.
3. The Lord your redeemer (Isaiah 43: 14);
He saved us through His death and made the devil who had power over death powerless (Hebrews 2:14).
4. The Lord my shepherd (Psalm 23).

David, a powerful king and skillful warrior, did not rely on the strength of his horses and his own war strategy. He always consulted God before he had to go to a war (1 Samuel 30:8, 2 Samuel 5:19). Do not rely on the name of a famous doctor or the name of a famous ruler in our country to solve our problems.

In every situation, let us run first and foremost to the Name above all names. His name is greater than our blood test result, doctor's diagnosis, help from a famous governor, or the most well known consultant. Do not fix our eyes on our circumstances but to the Name of the Lord alone.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we believe through every challenges we will run to Your name and Your glory will be revealed (Proverbs 18:10).

7. FREE PEOPLE

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son. (Hebrews 1:1-2a NIV)

How shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? (Hebrews 2:3a NIV)

People who are outside of Christ often wonder who they truly are and seek their identity throughout their life. For us who have accepted Christ, we should know 'our true identity' in Christ. God uses many ways to tell us our true identity. The book of Hebrew states that God spoke through His prophets and eventually through Jesus. God says that we are saved and free; saved from eternal punishment and free from every chains of sin. We are given a new status as children of God.

Let us hold on to this truth and make a step to bring this freedom into all area of our life and wherever we go. Thus, we will know our 'identity' in Christ and other people can know Jesus through our life.

Since we know our identity in Christ, we are no longer slave to sin. Don't forget that God gives us authority to represent Him to the world.

It is written in the Bible, *"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV)*

We have the responsibility to bring this good news about Jesus to the entire world. Jesus can set this world free through His love so that we can enjoy a fellowship with Him and share His love to others.

Prayer:

Thank you Jesus for Your sacrifice that enables us to have freedom and new status as 'children of God'. Use us to bring the atmosphere of 'divine freedom' wherever we go for Your glory. At the same time, help us to bring the Gospel as we are Your body. Guide and lead us in the name of Jesus, amen.

8. SPECIAL EDITION

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. (Hebrews 2:10-11 NIV)

Suffering sanctifies us, just like the perfect work of Jesus on the cross to make us holy. To be holy means to be set apart from sin, the power of devil, and from the way of the world. Precious metal like gold or silver need to undergo the furnace to be purified. Similarly, there is no glory without suffering. So don't be afraid if we are ostracized by our close friends or family because of Jesus. Don't be ashamed if we suffer because of Jesus. We are a 'special edition'. Jesus acknowledges us with pride and has prepared a crown.

The Bible also says, *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18 NKJV)*

The suffering that we face right now cannot be compared with the glory that we will receive in Christ. So our focus is no longer to the problem, challenges and suffering. Instead, we should now focus on Jesus and His promises. As we enter the year of greater promise, let us rest in the Lord by fully trusting Him that He is able to do exceedingly that we can imagine.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, (Ephesians 3:20 NKJV)

Let us celebrate and at rest in His promises. Greater Promise!

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you because You are never ashamed to acknowledge us. Give us the courage to acknowledge You despite all the suffering that we need to go through. We believe in the future glory that is set before us. Thank you Jesus for the year of greater promise. In Jesus name, amen.

9. VVIP

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14 NIV)

All the perfect answers for us can be found in Jesus. Living in this world can be challenging, Jesus Himself experienced that when He lived on earth. So today, Jesus sends His angels to protect and serve us. Similar to the important people that the world called Very Very Important Person (VVIP), they are protected and served. We, who are in Jesus are the VVIPs of the kingdom of God. We have God's angels who camp around us, always ensuring our safety. Thus, the word 'Don't be Afraid' can be found in the bible 365 times. Therefore, don't be afraid of the situation around you. God's angels are ready to do all commands that come out from His mouth.

Do you remember the story when Jesus was fasting and praying in the wilderness? Three times the devil tempted Him, but Jesus resisted the devil with the Word of God. The first temptation was food. The devil asked Him to turn the stone into bread.

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4 NKJV)

The last temptation was worship. The devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Then devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. (Matthew 4:9-11 NKJV)

The bible teaches us that when the devil tries to tempt us, we can resist him with the Word of God. And as we obey Him, the angels of God will come to serve and protect us because we are His children who live according to His Word.

Prayer:

Thank you Jesus, because You give angels who serve us who believe in You. We will not be afraid anymore. And we know You give us power to resist the devil if they are coming in our ways. Help us to stand on the word of God and command the devil to go away as we walk in obedience. We believe your angels will come and serve us as our protector. In the name of Jesus, Amen

10. REWARD AND ETERNAL LIFE

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him (James 1:12 KJV)

God promises to give us the crown of life. The crown of life is totally different from the eternal life that God also promises to give to his believers (John 3:36). Eternal life is a gift from God, given freely to us. There are no necessary requirements to get this gift other than to just believe in Jesus and accept Him as your Lord and Savior.

Another word for crown is “prize” or “reward.” In Greek tradition, a crown is given to the winner of the Olympics. In real life, God will not necessarily put an actual crown on our heads but a “crown” points to special blessing, honor, privilege, or recognition in the future.

To whom is it given? To those who persevere in faith through temptation, tribulation and persecution (James 1:12). The crown is a reward for special acts of service and perseverance under trial. So if you are being insulted because of the name of Christ or you face temptation or persecution, be encouraged and persevere. Like a runner in the race, run in such a way to get the prize (1 Corinthians 9:24).

It is encouraging for us to know that when we are facing trials, there is a safe hand to hold us securely and never abandon us. God will always be there to love, comfort, protect, and restore us. This crown encourages us to remain faithful, stay strong, and keep the course. This is a special way that Jesus rewards and recognizes those who faithfully serve and honor Him.

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe that You are the founder and the perfecter of my faith. Please help me to focus my gaze on You in the moment of trials. Strengthen my faith so I remain faithful in the course. In Jesus' name, Amen.

11. GOD IS FAITHFUL

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. (Isaiah 41:10 NLT)

"Life is unfair!" Fires devour cities, people lose their homes, businesses, family members and pets. Gun-shots are everywhere in the news, taking the lives of loved ones. Diseases do not recognize age or status but ruin families and individuals' lives. The economy collapses, poverty rises, and anxiety and depression become more prominent.

If God is a good God, why does He not prevent these things? God does not promise a smooth freeway life. In fact, trials are good to shape our characters to grow us in maturity. He promises to be there to comfort, protect, and direct our paths during these trials.

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God", for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. (James 1:13 NKJV)

God is faithful. Although we are faithless, He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13). This is the promise He gives us. Wherever Jesus is, the Bible writes, miracles happen. Every person who draws near to God never leaves disappointed. When we draw close, God also draws near to us (James 4:8). The question is where are we when God is present? Are we drawing near to God? We want the miracle but we do not want to be in His presence. It is like we expect medicine from a doctor but refuse to be seen by him.

If you have questions or doubt God, frustrated about life, come to God and worship Him. He is faithful. He promises you that He will be there to give assurance and security. He is holding you by your hand, protecting and showing you His righteous path. Trust Him. He is a faithful God.

Prayer:

Dear faithful Father, I run to You as I am. Forgive my attempts to avoid You and try to find solutions to problems my way. I acknowledge that without You I can do nothing. Please open my eyes to see what You are doing, hold my hands and help me to feel Your presence. I declare that when You are present, miracles happen. I want to experience that miracle. I trust You, Amen.

12. KEEP BEING ALERT

Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed; everyone was fulfilled. (Joshua 21:45 NIV)

When someone makes a promise or we make one to someone, the recipient will wait expectantly. A promise is a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something. Many of the promises we give or receive are broken rather than fulfilled. This creates disappointment but Jesus' promises never do.

We all have been in a moment of waiting in our lives. In times full of uncertainty, humans tend to think negatively. However, the Lord reminds us that His Word cannot be altered and He will absolutely keep His Word and fulfill it. It is only the time and the how that we do not know.

God promises to give us hope for the future. We need to trust in the Promise Giver and claim these things. When we ask God to show us what we should do, He will answer us through His Word. Here, we are building our faith in Him. Next, we meditate on His Word and we begin to internalize His Truth in our hearts. Once He opens the door, we step in by faith. Then, He opens another one. Through our learning to trust Him, we confirm that He is faithful at all times.

But be careful with the habit of complacency. Once we receive His promises, we tend to take them for granted. We need to keep it in our hearts, work on what God has told us to do, and keep being faithful even after the promises come true.

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. (Galatians 6:9 NKJV)

Prayer Point:

Dear faithful God, I claim all Your promises are for my good and bright future. Thank you for being faithful to me. Strengthen and make me alert about Your Word and Presence in the moments of waiting so that I don't miss Your promises at the end. Trade my weariness with hope; sadness with joy; doubt with truth, as I put my trust in the name of Jesus, Amen.

13. BELIEVING WHEN THE ANSWER SEEMS TOO FARAWAY

Look, the Lord takes notice of his loyal followers, those who wait for him to demonstrate his faithfulness (Psalms 33:18 NET)

Is there something in your life that needed miracle? Have you been walking too long to reach the winning line? Sometimes running towards our breakthrough in life is similar to running in a marathon.

1. "Preparation before the marathon" is our foundation in Christ, keeping values, all the right mindset according to His Words (Proverbs 1:7)
2. "Our energy intake throughout the marathon" is daily relationship with Him. To "eat on His words" (Mathew 4:4) and our iCare who bears with us along the journey) to "fill" us when our appetite is gone.
3. "Keeping stamina along the marathon" is enjoying life and maintaining mental health. Fight for the situation, pray and fast to the matter, and rest properly. (Ecclesiastes 3:13, Ecclesiastes 5:19)
4. "Light and proper clothing" is letting go of every bad habit, all the wrong kinds of friends that might weighing our step.
5. Keep records of each breakthroughs (small and big) to see how God is with us all along and to see how far we've gone.
6. Keep alert on every curve and turns. Many things can happen during the long run. Ask for guidance and wisdom.
7. Keep your eyes on the finish line. Knows God spesific promises for the matter, speak on it, set the standard to it.

And in all these, know that God is there in each step to carry us when we're down. For the battles is not ours solely, but ultimately His. To everything He has called us to do, He'll provide everything we need. (Philippians 3:13-14 MKJV)

Prayer:

Lord, nothing is impossible to You. Help me to see Your way and walk with me. Light the way and show Your will. In the name of Jesus, amen.

14. TRUST GOD BY HIS CHARACTER

It pays to take life seriously, things work out when you trust in God (Proverbs 16:20 MSG)

Life is easy when everything runs smoothly and fine. But when bad things happen to us, especially when it happens repeatedly, could we still praise Him? When a given promise takes longer time and yet to be fulfilled, how do we keep our hope high?

Many has fallen into disappointment toward God and gone back to their old ways. When things get overwhelming and you can't see His hands, trust His heart.

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. (Proverbs 3:5 MSG)

Trust His character that He is kind and true (Psalm 84:11-12). Thus, He can not plan anything bad to happen to you (Jeremiah 29:11). He said He cares for the bird, so much more He cares for you (Matthew 6:25-34).

Many people in the bible had gone through hardship but at the end we saw God's help and blessings in their life. God never said our life would be easy, He said He'll be there for us and won't let us down nor leaving us.

"Be strong. Take courage. Don't be intimidated. Don't give them a second thought because GOD, your God, is striding ahead of you. He's right there with you. He won't let you down; he won't leave you." (Deuteronomy 31:6 MSG)

Prayer:

Lord, I may not understand why things happen to me this way, but help me to rest in You. I put my restless soul and ask for Your peace and joy; knowing that You are in control. Give me strength to face the hard time and not running away. Teach me Your wisdom to face this matter. In the name of Jesus, amen.

15. LIVING IN FEAR OF GOD

It's crucial that we keep a firm grip on what we've heard so that we don't drift off. (Hebrews 2:1 MSG)

We all experience the first time God touched our heart; an indescribable moment leading us to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. And like many others, we were like babies so hungry for His word and truth and even more and more of His presence and joy.

But after sometimes, hardship and temptations come and many fall. Some people even choose to leave everything and go back to their old ways. Others continue to show up in church yet live a double standard; saying that it is too hard. The rest barely drags their spirit and wonders whether this is really living victoriously.

It is important for us to first understand that this new identity as God's children is fully by His grace; it is only because of His favor and mercy towards all of us (John 15:16). We're undeserving so there's nothing to boast. If we are still in course, it is only by grace. Pay attention to our way of living. We are to discipline our spirit in this race and to obey His calling day by day (1 Corinthians 9:25). Keep alert and be on guard, not to compromise (1 Peter 5:8).

We are not to judge our brother and sister because it takes us many years living the new and leaving the olds in our journey of becoming like Him (Luke 6:37, John 7:24, 1 Corinthians 4:5, Ephesians 4:22, Collosians 3:9).

But let us pray for each other and accept each other while motivating each other to not give up on their faith. (James 5:16)

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for Your love and protection towards us. Help us to take heed to Your voice each day and to obey. Give us Your heart and teach us to see others the way You see them, to reach out and not to condemn. In Jesus name, amen.

16. LISTENING TO GOD'S VOICE

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away (Hebrews 2:1 NIV)

Our life is a living testimony to show that God works perfectly. Sadly, we often live without His presence thus we feel as if God has left us. Pay attention to what we see and hear so we will not lose His promise.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. (Matthew 14:27-29 NIV)

Do you remember when Peter walked on water? Peter and the eleven disciples were in the midst of a big storm. We all know that they were all terrified. They were in that situation because they were obeying Jesus' command to go ahead without Him. Then, Jesus showed Himself by walking on the water, yet the twelve disciples thought He was a ghost.

Some of us feel that God opens new doors for us. But when a problem appears, we pray for help but then claim that God is wrong and not faithful.

When Jesus says 'come', some of us only watch just like the eleven disciples. How many of us want to be like Peter who courageously made a step to do the impossible? Peter himself got shaken and sank, yet Jesus was faithful to help him.

In the end times, we need to listen to God's voice correctly so we can stand strong in faith. Let's not only hear God's words, but also be a doer.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we pray so that we can see and hear the promise of God in our life and to build our relationship with you. As a result, we can make our faith stronger. Help us not only to listen but to become a doer of your Word. Let us experience the impossible thing because Your promise is a yes and amen. In the name of Jesus. Amen

17. OBEYING GOD

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. (Hebrews 1:1-2 NIV)

Through the verse at the beginning of the book of Hebrew, we see one constant thing God has given us, that His own Son will be our mediator between God and us. When we hear Him speak, we have two choices to respond: either ignore Him like a passing wind or meditate what we hear and be a doer of that word.

Do you remember the story of a rich man who wanted to follow Jesus? Jesus asked him to sell all of his possessions. He became sad and walked away. There was also a story of Zacheus who was joyfully because Jesus dined in his house and therefore he was willing to give away his possessions.

Our life is full of mystery. How many of us want to obey all God's commands that are given through Jesus? We do not follow Jesus due to obligation, but because we love Him. The Bible said, "His commandment is not burdensome."

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:3 NKJV)

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, help us all to live according to all commands that You have given through Your Son. We will not be ignorant, instead we will have a desire to fulfill God's plan. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

18. LIVING TESTIMONY

God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. (Hebrews 2:4 NIV)

Have you ever thought that the situation you are facing is not only for you but also to free someone else through your testimony?

We understand that we must pay attention to our life. Let us not be distracted by worldly things just like Apostle Paul said in the book of Colossian 3:2: to think of things above and not earthly things.

Apostle Paul understood that our life's purpose is more than achieving success and receiving compliments from people. The prison that Paul was staying did not put down his passion for Jesus. In fact, it caused Paul to praise God and get closer to Him. The situation that Paul was in did not provide him with much choices, yet he knew that he should not let this situation intimidate him. Paul truly understood his calling and potential.

Prison did not chain Paul. In fact, the head of prison witnessed Paul praying and praising God which caused a great earthquake that broke every chains. In the end, the head of prison and his whole family were saved.

Continue to stand firm on God's promises when we face hardships. God can use every hardships according to His will, not only to mature us, but also to give hope and strength to others, which ultimately for the glory of God. Continue to live as a living testimony!

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us to understand every potential and calling that we have. I believe You will use every hardships in my life to bring impact to other people. Every challenge that we face happen according to Your will. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

19. TRUSTING THE LORD

But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. (2 Corinthians 2:14 NIV)

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

The Bible says that we need to always give thanks to God. Regardless of the situation we are in, we can still see the goodness of God. Why? Because the Bible says that He will always leads us into a place of victory. He will lead us in triumph in Christ. "Triumph in Christ" is another word for victory. So Jesus always leads us into the victory.

Sometimes, we may need to go through some processes, but Jesus is with us and He leads us to a victorious life. We may not like the process but we must have faith in His Word, not succumbing into the situation and our condition. Do you remember the story about Jesus when He was sleeping in a boat while all His disciples were afraid because of the storm?

He replied 'You of little faith, why are you so afraid?' (Matthew 8:26 NIV)

Jesus was saying to His disciples to not be afraid for He was there with them, He will never forsake or leave them in the time of storm. We may be going through some difficult situations in our life, but remember that we are not alone. The One who loves you is there and will lead you to Victory. He guides us to experience Greater Promise in our life. Amen.

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, pray for me as your son and daughter. I am experiencing (tell your situation to Jesus). But through Your word I want to experience Your greater promise in my life, so I will choose to give the leadership of my life to You, for I know Your promise says that You will always lead us to triumph in Christ. So takeover my life today, In Jesus name, Amen.

20. FOCUS IN THE GOODNESS OF GOD

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. (Revelation 12:11 NIV)

Hearing testimonies from other believers made me realize that God is working powerfully, and is still working although we may not notice it. If we want to see miracles in our life, we must change our focus to His goodness regardless of our situations. When we fix our focus on the wrong things, most probably we will fail to see the good things that He is working in us. Miracles come when we fix our eyes on Jesus and His characters alone.

The Pharisees failed to see God's plan to save them. They were hoping for a Messiah with the wrong perspective. The worst thing was that they crucified the very Messiah they were waiting for. They failed to understand and missed the opportunity to be saved and restored when the Messiah was among them. Many Jews are still unaware about this until today. Judas also focused on the wrong things, that were not eternal. He might follow Jesus for the sake of getting a lot of money; that's why he chose to sell Jesus.

For example, when we are driving, we only focus on either left or right. We cannot focus on both sides at the same time. Therefore, do not focus on yourself and your own problems. Our problems often seem big and endless, and impossible to solve. This brings hopelessness. It is hard to experience God's miracles when we are too fixated on ourselves. Don't you know that God can work in the midst of your issue so that we can experience His promises? The problem that we face can be a stepping stone for us to raise up and find our calling in our personal life, family and career.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, I believe what the Bible says, that all the work of the evil has been destroyed through our testimonies and Your blood. Allow me to experience the goodness of God when I choose to focus on You. Help me to see a continuously miracles and experience Your goodness in my life. Problem is an opportunity for me to have more testimonies to be shared with others to glorify Your name. Thank you Jesus for your loving kindness, I receive it in Jesus' name. Amen.

21. THE LORD IS MY BANNER

When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the Lord your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you. He shall say: "Hear, Israel: Today you are going into battle against your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not panic or be terrified by them. For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory." (Deuteronomy 20:1,3,4 NIV)

The war in this present time is a spiritual war and a war against our daily struggles. Our enemy is not against the flesh and blood, yet God tells us to not be afraid, worry, and flinch when we face the enemy. God is with us and will fight for us.

To not be afraid means we trust completely in Him. We believe that His plan is powerful and wonderful for us. To not flinch means we stand firm and believe in what God will do in the process, that through challenges God has a big plan for us.

We need to learn from King David. When he received word that the Philistine army was planning an attack on Israel, the first thing he did was go to the Cave of Adullam and wait on the Lord until he received specific instructions for dealing with the enemy. Then he would lead the army of Israel into battle. In fact, careful reading will reveal that is exactly how King David handled every battle with the enemy. He would wait on God for the instructions from on high. Then He would lead the army of Israel into battle.

Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause. Make me to know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day. (Psalm 25:3-5 KJV)

God is always with us through all seasons, in joy and in sorrow. He accompanies, strengthens, gives wisdom and a way out for us. Thus, we can testify for His glory and bring honour to His name.

Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, this is our prayer: let Your grace work in us. Give us the courage to face all challenges and war in front of us with faith and firm believe in Your word. You will guide us in the path of victory. In the name of Jesus, amen.