



# DAYBREAK with **BIBLE READING**

**OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024**

**"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work"**  
**(2 Timothy 3:16-17, ESV).**

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English Standard Version (ESV)

New King James Version (NKJV)

Life Application Study Bible (LASB)

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*“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work”*

*(2 Timothy 3:16-17, ESV).*

# PREAMBLE

All Saints' Cathedral, Kampala's (ASCK) theme for this year, 2024 is: *"Conforming to the truth of God's Word, not the patterns of the world"* [Romans 12:1-2]. *The theme is calling us, the children of God, to be sure that our mind-set is shaped and controlled by the knowledge of the gospel, by the power of the Holy Spirit and by the concerns of the second coming of Christ (8:5-9; 13:11-14). The pattern of this world that we should avoid, include temporal fashion of the present time [2 Cor.4:18; 1 John 2:17]. The theme is calling us to be rooted in the Word.* Therefore, let us endeavor to study and apply the Word of God; it is the weapon with which we shall defeat the thief, the tempter, the devil (Matthew 4:4-10), the flesh and the world. We will benefit from the Word only when we apply it in our lives! The Word will turn us into humble persons, encourage us to serve God effectively and make us heroes/heroines for Christ! The Church is admonished not to be swayed by all kinds of false teachings that are common these days, by being faithful to the Bible. As a believer engages daily in the discipline of Bible reading and study, she or he gets spiritual nourishment and hope. We encourage parishioners to read the Bible daily - that way, they may be rooted in the Word of God (Psalm 119:7-8, 11) in order to be fruitful wherever they are, and gain hope beyond difficulties.

"Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway" (Proverbs 8:34, NIV). Nothing is more blissfully profitable than "spending time with God", daily. You do not have to spend hours studying the Word of God and praying, just set aside 15 to 30 minutes every day, at an appointed time, preferably in the morning. Then, He will guard and guide you throughout the day. It is a cardinal error to go anywhere without talking to God. It is like setting out on a journey without fuel. "...If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here" (Exodus 33:15, NKJV).

So, every day, sit somewhere in inner silence and let God talk to you, through devotionals such as contained in this booklet, as you study His Word. Then pray about what is going on in your life and around you; in the lives of those you care about in your nation and the world as a whole. In your prayer talk to God like a friend, because He is, and let Him speak to you as well. Learn to listen to God and recognise His call, like Samuel eventually did (1 Samuel 3.4-10), by reading and studying His Word

Dear Reader, we praise God for this far He has brought us this year! We shall, this last quarter of the year 2024, focus on the topics: **God Desires Transformed Lives; Agents of Transformation; and Celebrating Jesus Christ.**

For each sub-theme, we will pick excerpts from all over the Bible; Genesis to Revelation. Equip yourself with a good Bible, preferably NIV, ESV, NKJV, or LASB, a pen and a note book. If you can, please acquire a good Bible dictionary, commentary and a concordance. But central to all these, is the BIBLE as the critical authoritative reference. Let it be known to all that the entire Bible is about God's redemptive plan for mankind. Jesus Christ Himself told His disciples that, *"...These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled"* (Luke 24:44-ESV). Therefore, as you read the Bible every day, figure out what the passage teaches about the Person or work of Jesus Christ and apply that teaching to your own life.

As you read the Bible, look out for a **command to obey, a promise to claim, a rebuke to heed, a sin to repent of** and an opportunity to share with another person. Most importantly, the essence of this publication is to facilitate godly transformation by applying the Word of God in your life. Be expectant to hear your loving Father tenderly give you direction every day, telling you: *"...This is the way, walk in it..."* (Isaiah 30:21).



The Very Rev. Canon Dr. Rebecca Nyegenye

**The Provost**

**All Saints' Cathedral, Kampala.**



# READERS' GUIDE

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*In this daily guide, the Bible Study for believers, each day's portion is structured as below:*

- (i) Referential indication of the reading for the day, with a summative statement of what it is about,*
- (ii) Brief notes for the day's text,*
- (iii) A meditation verse for the day, and*
- (iv) A suggested prayer.*

*It is advised/urged that you acquire and maintain a notebook for your Bible study. It is further recommended that (i) You start off your quiet time with a short prayer; confess your sins and seek God's forgiveness, invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you listen to God through His Word; (ii) read the text slowly and meditatively.*

*As you read and meditate: (i) take notes of any important convictions you encounter, including but not limited to: (ii) the pick for the day as italicized in the notes, and (iii) your own picks as per the final paragraph of the preamble.*

*Structure your notebook into your daily notes with dates and the relevant reading. At the end of the study of each theme, you may read through all the notes you have taken on the theme in order to "gather the sheaves" you have harvested from the Book, noting in particular, the holiness and goodness of God.*

*May the Lord bless you as He speaks to you through His Word.*



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# THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2024

## GOD DESIRES TRANSFORMED LIVES

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*God desires transformed lives (Jhn 3:16). A transformed life is one that is saved by the grace of God. It encompasses guiding one's belief, relationship, thoughts, behaviour and overall well-being. It also makes lasting changes in one's words and actions. Transformed life facilitates personal growth and empowerment; affecting the way one lives. The surest way to human transformation is through receiving and believing in Jesus Christ (Jhn 1:12). A transformed life is a higher calling well over the state of the old life, like a new birth.*

## Tuesday, 1st October 2024. A transformed life bears a new heart and a new spirit. Text: Ezekiel 36:22-27

In the text above, God promises to restore Israel, not only physically, but spiritually too. That He would give them a new heart and new spirit to follow Him (vv.25-27). It is important to note that a new heart and a new spirit are obtained by God's initiative, not human achievements. A transformed life is empowered to do the Will of God.

*You receive a new heart and a new spirit in Christ alone (Jhn 14:6).* It is when you are in Christ, that God gives you the Holy Spirit. As you obey Him moment by moment, the Holy Spirit enables you to live a transformed life.



*Meditate on verses 26-27. What is God teaching you in these verses?*

**Our heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray You remove the heart of stone from me, and give me the heart of flesh and Your Spirit. Amen.**

## Wednesday, 2nd October 2024. A transformed life has one heart and purpose of worshiping God forever. Text: Jeremiah 32:36-40

A transformed life has one heart; to serve God (v.39). There is nothing impossible with God (Luk.1:37). He uses His power to accomplish His purposes through transformed lives. A transformed life has power to be what God wants it to be, not to be all it wants to be. Jesus said one cannot serve two masters; God and money (Mat.6:24). It is only when you are in Christ that the Holy Spirit enables you to have a heart of serving only the Living God of the Bible. The trouble we are in, today, is that most people do not truly worship God, they worship other gods; money and power. This has resulted in the tyranny we are witnessing in society today. Some of the believers are living defeated lives, sometimes worse off than non-believers.



*Meditate on verse 39. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give us one heart and one way to serve only You. Amen.**

## Thursday, 3rd October 2024. A transformed life has everlasting life. Text: Daniel 12:1-4

In Daniel's days, teaching about the resurrection was not common. However, we see Daniel clearly saying that there will be bodily resurrection of both the righteous (*transformed*) and the wicked (v.2). And that the transformed lives shall awake to eternal life!



Jesus Christ said those who love and obey Him, will be hated, but the one who endures to the end will be saved (*Mat.10:22*). Living a transformed life can be a challenge, however, the good news is *that you are not alone*; Jesus Christ is with you always as He promised (*Mat.28:20*). Therefore, as a transformed person, persevere under the banner of Christ, as you look forward to receiving the eternal life!



*Meditate on verse 2. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for giving me the eternal life in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Friday, 4th October 2024. God equips a transformed life for life challenges.**

**Text: Isaiah 40:26-31**

All human strength fails, even at its best, namely; the youthful stage *t* However, God is able to provide the requisite strength for the transformed life to face challenges of life. Remember as a child of God your *“struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world...”* (*Eph.6:12*).

Jesus Christ encourages His own that it is only in Him that , a transformed life overcomes the World (*Jhn 16:33*). It is only in Jesus Christ that you will be able to overcome all evil thoughts, desires and actions that you are facing in your society today.



*Mediate on verse 31. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, renew my strength that I shall not grow weary of worshipping You! Amen.**

**Saturday, 5th October 2024. A transformed life has nothing to do with sexual immorality. Text: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

During the time of Paul in Corinth, sex was an integral part of the ritual in worshipping the love goddess, Aphrodite. Paul then urges the Christians in the area that as transformed children of God, they should have no part in sexual immorality (*vv.15-18*). A transformed life, that is yielding to Jesus Christ in love and obedience has nothing to do with sexual sin. *Any sexual act outside marriage is sexual sin*. Biblical or true marriage is between one man and one woman, witnessed by God, and is for life (*Mat.19:5*). Are you part of those who are in sexual sin? Repent and the Lord will forgive and enable you to live a transformed life in Jesus Christ!



*Meditate on verses 15-18. How are you going to apply them to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, forgive us as a nation for the sexual sin that goes on unchecked in our society. Amen.**

### **Sunday, 6th October 2024. All believers are being transformed into the image of God. Text: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18**

A child of God sees Him through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and is being transformed into the image of God that was distorted at the fall of man (v.18). *The image of God depicts all ways in which humans are like God.* They include their moral character, their knowledge, their rule over creation and their many God-given abilities. All these are genuinely established in a transformed life that has received and believed in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. You are transformed to the image of God as you yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit moment by moment! If you have trusted Jesus Christ to be your Saviour, it is because you have the Holy Spirit. Submit to Him.



*Meditate on verse 18. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to yield to Your glory always. Amen.**

### **Monday, 7th October 2024. A transformed life is renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:13-18**

That the *“outer self is wasting away”* (v.16), Paul is not contrasting between outward and inward as of the body and soul, but between the old fallen nature and the renewed humanity. A transformed life is not discouraged because of several challenges. Instead, it concentrates on inner strength that comes from the Holy Spirit (Eph.3:16).

You receive the Holy Spirit at a point you receive and believe in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord (Jhn 1:12).



*Meditate on verse 16. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, renew our inner selves day by day. Amen.**

**Tuesday, 8th October 2024. A transformed life is a new creation. Text: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

Transformed lives are brand new people on the inside as the Holy Spirit gives new life (v.17). At conversion, a Christian begins a new life under a new master. And everything becomes new; new covenant, new perspective, new body and new Church. It becomes an entirely new order of all creation under the authority of Christ.



*Meditate on verse 17. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for making me a new creation in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Wednesday, 9th October 2024. A transformed life uses spiritual weapons. Text: 2 Corinthians 10:1-7**

Lives that are transformed use the spiritual weapons of prayer and the Word, not of the flesh (v.4). A life that is transformed does not involve itself in physical fights, revenge and quarrels. *A transformed life fights on its knees.* You fight on your knees with the help of the Holy Spirit who calms you down and guides your steps and gives you victory in the end.



*Meditate on verse 4. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, release Your divine power and destroy strongholds in my family. Amen.**

**Thursday, 10th October 2024. A transformed life submits to God. Text: James 4:1-10**

When a life is transformed, there is a willingness to accept the authority of God (v.7). When we are submitting, then we are obeying. A transformed life, wearing the armor of God will resist the devil because he is not equal in *the power or authority of God.* Never compare the devil to God. God is the Creator of everything, seen and unseen. The devil / Satan is a creature.

As a child of God you must submit to His Will all the time, even when situations may not seem to make sense to you.



*Meditate on verse 7. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me to always resist the devil so that he flees from me. Amen.**

### Friday, 11th October 2024. A transformed life is not a slave to sin. Text: John 8:31-38

*The only way to know the truth is to believe and obey the Word of God, which sets you free from the guilt and enslaving power of sin (v.32). Salvation is obtained by a vital relationship with Jesus Christ and commitment to His truth. In Christ, there is the perfect standard of what is right. Jesus Christ gives us the freedom to follow God, and not to do as we please. A transformed life is freed through Christ to be all that God meant it to be.*



*Meditate on verse 32. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, let the knowledge of Your truth set us free. Amen.**

### Saturday, 12th October 2024. A transformed life is a sanctified life. Text: John 17:8-19

As a child of God you become pure and holy through believing and obeying the Word of God. The Scripture points out sin, motivates one to confess, renews one's fellowship with Christ and guides one back to God (v.17). *Sanctification is a lifelong process.* It involves separation from evil and growth in moral purity of attitudes, thoughts and actions. A transformed life should think, believe and live according to the truth of God.



*Meditate on verse 17. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Our loving Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, sanctify us in the truth of Your Word. Amen.**

### Sunday, 13th October 2024. A transformed life perseveres persecution. Text: James 1:1-4

A transformed life views struggles and challenges as opportunities for growth (vv. 2-4). In the midst of such struggles, a transformed life remembers the promises of God; that He will never leave him / her alone. A believer is tested to make his faith genuine (1 Peter 1:7). The moment the trials are acknowledged that the Lord has designed them for a purpose, then they become pure joy. You cannot know *the depth of your character until you see how you respond under pressure.* You get to know that the trials you are going through are being designed by God for His purpose only when you are in Christ, because then, the Holy Spirit reveals this to you.



*Meditate you verses 2-4. How are you going to apply them to your life?*



**Our Father in heaven, the Lord of heaven and earth, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me to stand firm in the face of challenges. Amen.**

### **Monday, 14th October 2024. Transformed lives are united for Christ. Text: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17**

Lives that are transformed are united for Christ (*v.10*). They focus on Jesus Christ as their Coach and on His purpose. *They strive for harmony and keep various arguments off the team.* Do you have unnecessary disagreements on your team? Then repent because such undermine the effectiveness of the message you carry to the lost World.



*Meditate on verse 10. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray against divisions in the body of Christ. Amen.**

### **Tuesday, 15th October 2024. A transformed life puts evil to death. Text: Colossians 3:1-5**

A transformed life is one that has died with Christ. Therefore, such life should overcome sinful practices (*Rom. 6:11*). Every kind of sexual activity outside marriage is sexual immorality (*v.5*). Sexual sin, greed and all other vices become idolatry because they take God's place as the focus of devotion. All those vices, including sexual sin and perversion, drains your energy and turns your heart away from God. Therefore, a transformed life should be alert and respond appropriately to the leading of the Holy Spirit.



*Meditate on verse 5. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me put to death the sinful and earthly things within me and lurking around me. Amen.**

### **Wednesday, 16th October 2024. Do not lie to one another. Text: Colossians 3:6-11**

Lying to another disengages unity and destroys trust (*v.9*). Lies have torn down relationships, leading to serious conflicts in marriages and Churches. Many exaggerate statistics, others pass on rumors which they cannot

substantiate. *A transformed life is committed to telling the truth.* Therefore, obey the leading of the Holy Spirit. Many people, including believers, lie a lot these days. Even some preachers lie at the pulpit! They manipulate altar calls. This should not be the case. They should repent and God will forgive them all their lies.



*Meditate on verse 9. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, forgive me for all the lies I have uttered. Amen.**

### Thursday, 17th October 2024. Live for God day by day. Text: Colossians 3:12-17

A transformed child of God should live to imitate Jesus Christ in being compassionate and forgiving (v.12-13). Love should guide such a life (v.14); *the peace of Christ should rule the heart* (v.15), you should live a life of gratitude (v.15). Should keep and apply the Word of God at all times (v.16) and live as an ambassador for Jesus Christ on earth (v.17). All these will be possible as you yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit, whom you receive at the point you receive and believe in Jesus Christ.



*Meditate on verses 12-17. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me to live for Your glory. Amen.**

### Friday, 18th October 2024. A transformed life is a repentant life. Text: Acts 2: 37-41

To be a believer in Christ, one must repent of one's sins and turn to God (v.38), in the name of Jesus Christ alone. Repentance means turning from sin, changing the direction of your life from selfishness and rebellion against God. It calls you to turn to Christ and depend on Him alone for the forgiveness of your sins, mercy and guidance. *There is nothing you can do to save yourself*, only God can save you through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Repentance results in trusting God.



*Meditate on verse 38. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, forgive me for all the sins I have committed. Amen.**

**Saturday, 19th October 2024. Christ directs and empowers all that is done. Text: Galatians 2:17-21**

When Paul says that he no longer lives, it means he no longer controls his own life (v.20), not that he has no personality of his own. Jesus Christ should direct and empower all that the transformed life does. Such a life should trust Jesus Christ moment by moment. Christ should be its power for living and its hope for the future.



*Meditate on verse 20. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Almighty Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me to crucify my old-self. Amen.**

**Sunday, 20th October 2024. Live by the Holy Spirit. Text: Galatians 5:16-18**

A transformed life should live by the Holy Spirit. Such a life should *make decisions and choices based on the leading of the Holy Spirit (v.16)*. The desires of the flesh, which are bodily cravings and the desires of the fallen, human nature, should be done away with.

You can only live by the Holy Spirit if Christ is in your life. You receive Christ by faith through prayer.



*Meditate on verse 16. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray You enable me to live by the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Monday, 21st October 2024. A transformed life shows the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23**

The Holy Spirit in a transformed life defends such a life against sin, as He produces positive traits of godly character (vv.22-23), which are found in the nature of Christ. The fruits are the by-products of Christ's control of a believer. *Without Christ you cannot bear such genuine fruit.* Therefore, you must receive and believe Him, love Him, remember and imitate Him.



*Meditate on verses 22-23. What is God teaching you in these verses?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Tuesday, 22nd October 2024. A transformed life continues to grow in Christ. Text: Philippians 1:3-6

The good work that God began in you is a lifelong process. The work of God in your life began when you first believed, and *God will help you grow in that grace until He completes it in your life*. When you are discouraged, always remember God's promises and provisions for your life time. Trust the Lord and continue to grow in your faith.



*Meditate on verse 6. What encouragement do you get from this verse?*



**Our heavenly loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the good work You began in me. Amen.**

## Wednesday, 23rd October 2024. A transformed life should persevere suffering. Text: 1 Peter 4:1-3

Jesus Christ suffered a lot for His elect. Therefore, our suffering helps us to be like Him (vv.1-2). As a believer you should be prepared to do God's will, and if necessary, suffer for it. The pain and danger you go through, as you execute God's will, reveals your true values. When you suffer for doing the Will of God, and continue to obey Him faithfully, then you are able to break away from sin properly.



*Meditate on verse 1. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me to be firm in the face of adversity. Amen.**

## Thursday, 24th October 2024. Transformation is by God's grace. Text: Titus 3:1-7

One is transformed by only God (v.5). Baptism (*"washing"*) does not cause salvation. "Washing" means spiritual cleansing which is symbolized outwardly by baptism. *Salvation is by the grace of God alone (Eph.2:8-9)*, not by works; no one deserves it. The three Persons (Triune God) are mentioned here (vv.4-6) because all three participate in the salvation of man. This is why salvation is a special miracle, because the Godhead work together to save man, who does not deserve it. A person cannot save himself, it takes God's grace to achieve it.



*Meditate on verse 5. What are you learning from this verse?*



**Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for saving me by Your own grace. Amen.**



**Friday, 25th October 2024. The Lord directs your heart to the love of God. Text: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5**

It is God who directs the love for Him and resolve for Christ. It is only the life that is transformed by God that can do that. A transformed life loves and obeys God.



*Meditate on verse 5. What is God teaching you in this verse?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, may You direct our hearts to Your love. Amen.**

**Saturday, 26th October 2024. A transformed life shall see Christ. Text: 1 John 3:1-3**

When Christ returns, transformed lives will have bodies that cannot fall sick, grow old or die (v.2). To be “like Him” does not mean that believers will be identical with Christ; this is not so because He is both God and man. Instead, *a believer's perfect humanity will match that of Jesus Christ*. Only the transformed lives will match that of Jesus Christ.



*Meditate on verse 2. What encouragement do you get from this verse?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for saving me by Your own grace. Amen.**

**Sunday, 27th October 2024. A transformed life is a renewed life. Text: Ephesians 4:17-24**

If you are transformed, meaning the spirit of God is working in you, then you must *repudiate the old life and embrace the new one (vv.22-24)*. While we get saved once in one's lifetime, we should also have a daily conscious commitment. Worldly desires and impulses should not drive us. Instead, put on new nature, choose the new direction and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. A genuine transformed life trusts in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.



*Meditate on verses 22-24. How are you going to apply them to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me to always put on the new nature I have received by Your grace. Amen.**

### Monday, 28th October 2024. A transformed life is a forgiven life. Text: 1 John 1:5-10

Every Christian must confess his/her sins, in order to be saved. This marks the beginning of the journey of transformation. *He/she also must confess as the Spirit leads him/her in order to stay in fellowship with God and one another (v.9).* A transformed life will always walk in light with God and people. God's forgiveness is given to you when you admit you need it, not by any act to earn it. You are forgiven because of the grace of God, when the Holy Spirit causes you to trust that Jesus Christ saves you from God's condemnation against your sin. It is through Jesus Christ alone.



*Meditate on verse 9. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, forgive me for all my sins. Amen.**

### Tuesday, 29th October 2024. A transformed life turns to God; Text. Acts 3:11-21

From today's Scripture, we see two sides of repentance; turning aside from sin in sorrow and turning to God in faith (v.19). Therefore, the elements of repentance and faith are key to a transformed life. It is *the repentance of sin and faith in God and forgiveness from God that removes sin from a person* and transformation takes place. If you put faith in God and repent your sins, then your life is transformed. Remember God is the one who gives that regenerating faith to a believer because salvation comes from God not man.



*Meditate on verse 19. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray for the many who are lost in sin that they may repent of their sins and seek forgiveness from You. Amen.**

### Wednesday, 30th October 2024. A transformed life witnesses for Christ. Text: Matthew 4:12-17

Jesus' message of repentance is the same message John the Baptist preached. This is the same message that a transformed life should preach (v.17). Today, we are witnessing fake and manipulative messages, including deliverances. The true and authentic message that God instructs us to preach is *the message of repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ.* Any other message is a creation of man, and the devil uses such to

divert people from the truth. A transformed life is a delivered, saved and redeemed life.



*Meditate on verse 17. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me to preach, the authentic message of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Thursday, 31st October 2024. A transformed life never thirsts again.  
Text: John 4:10-15**

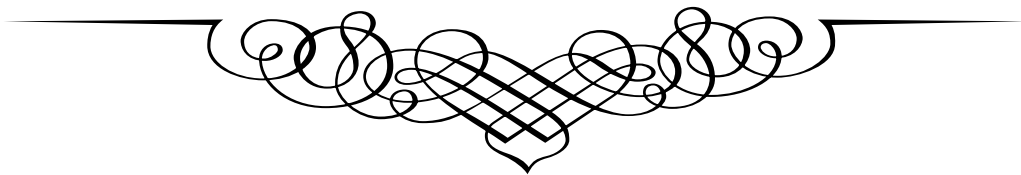
A transformed life has Jesus Christ, the Living Word and Bible, the written Word. As such, satisfies its hunger and quenches its thirst (v.14). A transformed life should not hunger and thirst for sin. It should be a life of repentance moment by moment and a constant fellowship with God and, as far as it depends on you, at peace with man.



*Meditate on verse 14. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray that You remove my thirst for sin, and fortify me to a transformed life, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



# THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024

## AGENTS OF TRANSFORMATION



*The meditations for this month will be focused on the Agents of Transformation. The “trans” means movement from one place or thing to a different one, and the “form” refers to the shape, appearance, or essence of something. Transformation, then, is when something is changed from one form to a very different form. An excellent example of transformation is when a caterpillar morphs into a butterfly. For our meditations, transformation is spiritual – conversion, new birth, regeneration. Those who belong to Christ might physically look the same as before they believed, but their nature has genuinely been changed from spiritual death to spiritual life; from being an enemy of God to being a beloved citizen of His Kingdom. It is not just a change of attitude or philosophy or behaviour. Spiritual transformation is an actual change of nature. Sadly, we still battle with remaining sin; but we are in fact born again and are now children of God. There is a lot to be said about spiritual transformation, and our meditations this month will be considering that.*

**Friday, 1st November 2024. Transformation from life into sin and death.****Text: Genesis 3:1-7**

This month, as we consider the topic of spiritual transformation, it is appropriate to begin at the beginning. When the LORD (*Yahweh*) created Adam, He was created as righteous, but also with the ability to sin, to disobey God. When God created Adam, He commanded Adam not to eat of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (*Gen.2:17*). If he disobeyed, he would die; not simply a physical death; but he would be separated forever from the blessed relationship with His Creator. God regularly spent time with Adam and Eve (*v.8*), which surely would have been extremely blessed and wonderful times. But when the couple listened to the tempter and ate the fruit, chose death, they were transformed from their righteous nature and took on a new nature of sin and enmity with God.

Because Adam sinned, all humanity has a fallen nature (*1 Cor.15:22*), a nature of death and sin, and there is nothing the dead can do to transform back into life. A pig cannot change itself into a different animal, but the Creator can change it (*Num.22:28*). Humans cannot change themselves from death into life, but Yahweh can change them (*Luk.7:14-15*). When God transforms a person out of spiritual death, He gives the person the gift of faith so that s/he will naturally trust in Jesus for deliverance. Jesus did this by living a perfect righteous life for His chosen people, and by paying the death penalty for their guilt, and by rising from the dead, which proves He finished doing everything necessary for our transformation into the new life with God.



**Question:** *Have you been transformed? If yes, are you living like it? If not, or if you are unsure, please trust Jesus to be your Saviour from God's condemnation. You cannot do it yourself.*



**Heavenly Father, transform me into Your child. Please give me Your grace. Keep me in Your grace, so that I will live to honour Your Son, Jesus the Saviour. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

**Saturday, 2nd November 2024. Made alive with Christ. Text: Ephesians 2:1-10**

Yesterday we considered how the entire human race was transformed from life to death, from Adam's original righteous nature into the nature of sin and anti-God-ness. Today's passage tells us how God has chosen some people to be transformed back into an estate of righteousness.

Apostle Paul begins by reminding us that *believers were once dead in trespasses and sins*, like the rest of the world, and that we once followed the “prince of the power of the air” (Satan). Thus, we were justly objects of God’s wrath. Paul then says that, by the mercy and grace of God, we were made alive with Christ (v.5) and raised up with Him (v.6). This is a reference to the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

So how does Christ’s resurrection deliver us from our sins? His resurrection proves that He was not a sinner deserving death. Rather He was righteous. Jesus lived a life of perfect obedience to the laws of God in thoughts, affections, words, deeds, etc. Christ’s righteous life allowed Him to pay the death penalty for the sin of His people, since He did not have sin of His own that needed punishment. The resurrection also proves that Jesus completely finished the death penalty. Therefore, believers no longer have a sin penalty to pay. So, Christ’s righteousness is put to our accounts, His death removed our guilt from sin, and we are now accepted by God. What amazing grace!



**Question:** *Are you trusting your religious deeds and good life to make yourself acceptable to God? It will not work. Only trust what Jesus did.*



**Heavenly Father, thank You for Your grace to me in Christ. Give me increasing grace each day to trust in Him alone and to honour Him by my life. In His name, I pray. Amen.**

**Sunday, 3rd November 2024. Jesus brings a dead man back to life. Text: Luke 7:11-17**

Early in our study about transformation, let us illustrate spiritual transformation and point to the One who transforms. We should keep this illustration in mind throughout the month. In the passage before today’s, Jesus healed a sick person who was nearly dead, but in today’s passage Jesus gives life to a person who was dead. As Jesus approached the town of Nain, a crowd was carrying a dead man to the burial place. This encounter was not planned by Jesus (*as in Jhn.11*), though God does plan everything. When Jesus met the mourners, He stopped them and spoke to the dead man, commanding him to come back to life, and immediately the man came back to life.

There are two lessons to glean from this story. *First*, a dead person cannot desire nor do anything. The same is true for spiritual transformation. Jesus

spoke life into death; transformed death into life. A similar thing happened at creation, God spoke and all things came into existence. No mere human can create life; only God can. *Second*, this story provides a view to the future in two ways; Jesus Himself will die to pay the death penalty for the sins of His people, and, on the third day, He will break the power of death and come back to life – as He promised (*Jhn.2:19,21*). Also, those who are united to Jesus Christ, by grace, will one day rise to eternal life with Him.



**Challenge:** *Someday, you will die and you will enter eternity, either with God or away from Him. The only way to rise to eternal life is by trusting Jesus to be your Saviour from your sin.*



**Heavenly Father, I pray You give me the grace to trust Jesus to be my Saviour. Transform me from death to life, and make me live a resurrected life now, for the honour of Christ. Amen.**

### Monday, 4th November 2024. God gives new hearts. Text: Ezekiel 36:22-28

The Prophet Ezekiel wrote while in exile. When the Babylonian kingdom conquered Judah and Jerusalem and the Temple, between 605-586BC, a great many people were taken captive, including Ezekiel. Exile was God's punishment of Israel for their idolatry. Before today's passage, Yahweh promises His people that He will restore what He destroyed and return Israel to their land (*v.17*). But restoration will not be a return to their idolatry. Yahweh must first change His people's hearts, which is described as a removal of the heart of stone and putting in a heart of flesh, meaning a spiritual heart of love for Yahweh alone. Yahweh did return His people, as promised (*Jer.29:10*), but they were never the converted people that readers would expect.

God was looking to the era of Christianity and the transformation of those from around the world whom He would unite to Christ. *No human is able to do the spiritual heart-transplant that Yahweh requires*, because we do not have the ability to convert our souls, and human nature has no desire to love God as He requires. Only the Creator can transform the human heart from God-hating to God-loving. The new spirit Yahweh will give (*v.26*) is God the Holy Spirit, who will dwell within His people and create the new heart from within each of them.



**Challenge:** *No matter how well you think you live a godly, obedient life, it is impossible for you to change your spiritual heart. Please, trust Jesus to save you from your sins and transform your soul.*



**Heavenly Father, remove my hard heart and, give me a new heart, make my heart warm towards You, make me to be someone who brings You glory. In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray, Amen.**

**Tuesday, 5th November 2024. Faith comes by hearing God's Word. Text: Romans 10:13-17**

Apostle Paul was a Jewish religious scholar (*Pharisee*), an expert in the Scriptures, but called by Jesus Christ to bring the good message of God's grace to people who were not Jews (*gentiles*). Jews thought this was a sacrilege, because they believed God was only interested in Israel, the nation He created. Jews believed only those who are born into Israel were the ones chosen for salvation (*with very few exceptions, like Rahab or Ruth*). But Paul is saying, No! Jesus told us *to make disciples in all the nations*. Anyone who trusts the message of God's grace in Christ will be saved. In fact, the message itself is the very agent God uses to bring salvation and transformation.

It is often thought that a person is converted when his objections about God, the Bible, Christianity, etc., are answered clearly. But even if all his questions and doubts are effectively answered, he will still not believe. This is because the only thing that converts is the Gospel, the good message of Christ. When the message of God's grace in Christ is properly presented, the Holy Spirit uses the message to transform the listener from spiritual death to life. Jesus said of Himself, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life"* (*Jhn.14:6*). So, speak to others about Jesus, simply and clearly, and let the Holy Spirit do what He will with your faithful, correct message.



***Challenge: Not having to answer a person's objections removes a burden from your shoulders. So, do not worry about objections. Just relax and speak the truth about Jesus.***



**Heavenly Father, please give me courage, and use me, to speak the truth about Your grace in Christ. In His name I pray. Amen**

**Wednesday, 6th November 2024. The Word of God cleanses. Text: Ephesians 5:25-28**

This month, as we discuss transformation, it might seem odd that we are reading a passage that deals with husbands loving their wives. However, in the section for today, Apostle Paul compares that relationship to Christ and His Church, and that is now our focus. Before a bride is presented to her husband, she bathes herself and washes her garments. Christ's bride



is the Church. But before He marries her, which is still a long way in the future, she *must be spiritually cleansed*, be without a moral blemish. The cleansing of Christ's bride is a transformation from moral and spiritual filth to purity in God's sight.

The cleansing of Christ's bride is done by washing with the Word of God (v.26). It is not the act of reading but the content of Scripture's message of grace that washes and cleanses. When the Good Message is in the hands of God the Holy Spirit, the necessary cleansing is brought upon the soul, which is transformation from death to life and growth in Christ. God's Word informs our consciences that we are guilty of breaking God's Law and deserve condemnation. God's Law also informs us that trusting Christ's life, death, and resurrection provides the only way of receiving forgiveness of sins and escaping condemnation. God's Word is also the only source of food for our continued spiritual maturity.



**Question:** *Have you been washed by the word of God? Are you being daily washed by the word of God? Are you maturing by spending time each day in the word of God?*



**Heavenly Father, I thank You for cleansing me in Your Word. Please keep me daily in it. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

#### **Thursday, 7th November 2024. The cleansing blood of Christ. Text: Hebrews 9:11-14**

Scripture teaches that cleansing from sin is accomplished by blood, meaning death. Before Jesus Christ entered into our world, the Temple sacrificial system was established to instruct us about atonement, about how God and sinners are reconciled. God is life, and sinners (*those who broke God's Law*) were to be justly condemned to death. However, God graciously provided substitutes. In the Temple system, God made provision for animals to be put to death instead of sinners. Even though an animal could not really take away the sins of a human, if a sinner trusted God's promise to do it, then the sinner really did receive God's forgiveness.

God could grant forgiveness through the animals of the Temple system because those sacrifices looked forward to, and prepared the way for Jesus Christ, who would fulfill the sacrificial system as the Lamb of God (*Jhn.1:29*). Only the death of Jesus could wholesomely take away the sins of humans because Jesus was a real, perfect human sacrifice. When a sinner trusts in Jesus to pay his/her sin penalty, then *the penalty is really paid*, the guilt

is really removed, the sinner is really reconciled to God. In fact, the same cleansing we receive from Christ today is applied to those who had faith before Christ came to earth. The cleansing blood of Christ is for all time.



**Challenge:** *Since the death of a substitute is needed to cleanse you from your sin, you have no other option but to trust Jesus for your forgiveness. Please do that.*



**Heavenly Father, I trust Jesus to be my Saviour, my Substitute, the Sacrifice for my cleansing. Thank You for providing Him for me. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

### Friday, 8th November 2024. Born of the Spirit. Text: John 3:1-8

The religious leader Nicodemus went to Jesus at night, probably for secrecy. He begins by admitting that Jesus is from God; but Jesus responds by going right to the question of the man's heart, and says, *if a person wants to enter the Kingdom of God, he must be born again*. Nicodemus understands the concept of birth, and his response (v.4), though strange, proves that. So, Jesus speaks more clearly about spiritual birth. Just as a person must be born into the human kingdom, so a person must be born into God's Kingdom. Also, birth by the Spirit is a mysterious event, not obvious by human reasoning, just as the movement of the wind cannot be observed, except by results.

Generally, people think entering God's Kingdom is by obedience to God's Law. But that is impossible because we are all naturally law-breakers. Even though all Christians know that a person enters God's Kingdom by spiritual birth, most Christians believe they were born again because they asked God to give them new birth. But that is not how birth works. Having a child is entirely a decision of the parents, and a person born into God's Kingdom enters only by God's decision. *The person being born spiritually has absolutely nothing to do with that decision*. The transformation from non-existence (spiritually) into a child of God is entirely the gracious work of God the Holy Spirit.



**Challenge:** *Being born again is entirely by God's grace. If you believe God gave you birth because you asked Him for it, then you are robbing God of His full glory.*



**Heavenly Father, please forgive me for thinking that I had wisdom to ask for salvation. Thank You for giving me grace. Please increase Your grace so that my life will glorify You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

**Saturday, 9th November 2024. Sanctifying power of God's Word. Text: John 17:6-19**

This chapter is referred to as Jesus' High Priestly Prayer, because Jesus, acting in His office of Priest, as Priest above all Priests, intercedes for His people. In the section we just read He is praying particularly for the disciples who followed Him in His earthly ministry, though much of this prayer can also apply to us. Jesus especially asks His Father to sanctify them. The meanings of sanctify are: to set apart a person from a common use to God's use; to purify/ cleanse a person spiritually; to protect a person; to change a person's nature. *The transforming means of sanctification is the truth*, and God's Word is truth, and Scripture is the only place where we learn of God's work of covenant grace, of redemption in Christ, etc.

When Jesus prays, His requests are always granted because His will and the will of the Father are one. Because He is about to leave His disciples, He prays to His Father to protect them (v.15), to sanctify them by the truth. In this life we are under constant spiritual assault by the world, the flesh (*our remaining sin nature*), and the devil, all of which advance by anti-truth to draw us away from God. We are not able to protect ourselves from spiritual danger by human abilities. God's Word is the truth, and it will protect against spiritual danger. Jesus said of Himself that he is the truth (Jhn.14:6). Therefore, for our spiritual safety, we must stay close to Christ, only as He is revealed to us in the Word of God.



**Challenge:** Do your best to spend time each day reading God's word. It is the only source of spiritual life, health, and safety. If you read three chapters each day, you can read the entire Bible in about 15 months.



**Heavenly Father, I want to be sanctified by the truth of Your Word. I pray that You grant it. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Sunday, 10th November 2024. Gentiles sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Text: Romans 15:14-21**

We turn again to Paul's letter to the believers in Rome. Many of the disciples there are ethnic Jews, and Paul had to convince them that God always planned to include gentiles in His Kingdom. In today's reading, we see that the gentiles are sanctified by the work of God the Holy Spirit. *To be sanctified in this passage means to be set apart, to be taken out of one situation and brought into another.* For the gentiles, they are brought out of their natural condition as enemies of God and transformed into a

people who are at peace with God and accepted by Him into an estate of obedience to God's Law.

In previous meditations we saw how transformation came by the work of God generally, by Christ, by blood, by faith, and by the Word of God. Today, we read that transformation comes by the work of the Holy Spirit. Transformation is always and only by God; but sometimes Scripture speaks of the different persons of the triune God or of the different means used; but there is never a contradiction. The four Gospel books (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*) are like that because there are four different accounts of Jesus Christ's one earthly ministry, but there is no contradiction. In the next few lessons, we will continue to look at God's transformational work of sanctification.



**Question:** *If you trust Jesus as your Saviour from condemnation, then you have been transformed. Are you responding to God's grace by living in obedience to God's Law?*



**Heavenly Father, thank You for having Your Holy Spirit transform me from being Your enemy. Please strengthen me to live obediently to Your law. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **Monday, 11th November 2024. Sanctification through the body of Jesus. Text: Hebrews 10:1-10**

The book of Hebrews compares and contrasts the work of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry with the Temple worship before Christ. Our reading for today looks specifically at Christ's one time sacrifice of Himself as being superior to the daily and yearly sacrifices of animals by priests. They were not bad sacrifices; but they were not sufficient, and they were only shadows of the reality of Christ's sacrifice. God's Law required the animal sacrifices, but their frequency showed that they were only symbols of the reality to come. Animal deaths cannot pay the human sin penalty, but Christ's pure human death really did pay the penalty for human sin, and so it only had to be done once.

Some have taught that the animal sacrifices offered by priests were intended to be permanent; but since they were not effective, God had to make a plan B, which was Jesus Christ. That is insulting to God's Sovereignty, His eternal decree, and His infallible providence, and it fails to understand what the Scriptures were teaching. The writer of Hebrews

quotes the passage that shows the animal sacrifices to be according to God's Law (v.8), but also expecting Jesus to fulfill them (v.7; Ps.40:6-8). Messiah, speaking in Ps.40, "I have come to do your will", implying that the animal sacrifices (*established by God's Law*) were not satisfactory. Of course animals were not satisfactory; but they did prepare the people's understanding of, and desire for, the Saviour, who was planned.



**Challenge:** *When reading the Scriptures before Christ, always have in mind that they are about Christ and are working toward His fulfillment.*



**Heavenly Father, thank You for the death of Christ on my behalf. Strengthen me to live like someone who belongs to Him. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

**Tuesday, 12th November 2024. You were washed, sanctified, justified.**  
**Text: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

The believers in Corinth were taking their legal problems to the Roman courts to be settled by pagans according to Roman law. Paul was disappointed, and he writes that believers should settle their problems among themselves. They should realize that pagans will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Paul then lists some of the sins committed by unbelievers who persist in their ungodly ways (vv.9-10). He reminds the disciples that they once were involved in that kind of conduct, but they have been transformed. Paul is asking them indirectly: "Do you want those people to be your judges?"

Apostle Paul now reminds them (v.11) of how their transformation happened; of their status in Christ Jesus. These next three items are not in chronological order. He mentions first that they/we were washed, meaning we were cleansed by the blood of Christ's self-sacrifice, meaning His death was substituted for the death we deserved, because in Scripture nearly everything is cleansed with blood (*Heb.9:22; see also Act.22:16*). Also, we were sanctified, meaning made holy, removed from the world's ownership and placed in the Kingdom of Christ Jesus. Lastly, we are justified, meaning God accepts us as righteous in His sight because of the righteous accomplishments of Christ, which were put to our heavenly accounts.



**Challenge:** *read Mat.18:15-20. That is how discipline is executed in Christ's Church. We are no longer products of this world, so we*

*must not go quickly to the secular courts.*



**Heavenly Father, give Your Church and me grace to live in this world with discernment, for the glory of Christ our Head. Amen.**

### **Wednesday, 13th November 2024. Sanctified by faith. Text: Acts 26:12-18**

In *Acts 21*, Apostle Paul was arrested at the Jerusalem Temple because he was the cause of a riot. In our reading today, he is explaining his conversion to King Agrippa and how that led to the trouble. As Paul was travelling to Damascus to arrest Christians, Jesus appeared to him and commissioned him to be the apostle to the gentiles, so that they, too, could obtain salvation. As Jesus states it in this passage, “... *so the gentiles may be turned from darkness to light, from Satan to God, from sin and estrangement to forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified.*” That is conversion, transformation, and we are moved from one status to another – *sanctification*.

In this passage, sanctification and spiritual transformation are gotten by faith. The faith of believers is not from their own religious wisdom, it is from God’s grace; faith is God’s gift (*Eph.2:8*). Our faith is not a leap into the unknown. Faith has an object. Jesus said, “... *faith in me.*” Faith is based on who Jesus is and what He did, according to the Scripture. Jesus is God the eternal Son, and He lived a perfect righteous life for His people. He died on the cross to pay our sin penalty, and He rose back to life on the third day. We are to put our faith in that, and one day He will bring us into that inheritance where we will be with Him forever.



***Question: When Paul was converted from darkness to light, his entire life changed. Has yours? Each day pray for grace to live more like Christ.***



**Heavenly Father, thank You for delivering me from Satan and darkness. Please give me the grace to live like those who belong to the light of Christ, for His honour. Amen.**

### **Thursday, 14th November 2024. The gift of God is eternal life in Christ. Text: Romans 6:20-23**

The previous chapter emphasizes God’s grace for salvation. In today’s chapter, Paul begins with the question that some people ask, “*If salvation is only by God’s grace and not by our obedience to God’s Law, does that mean it is okay to disobey God’s Law?*” The answer is, “Of course not!”

Indeed, Paul says our sinning was not just bad behaviour. We sinned because we were slaves to sin; sin was the master. Human slaves hate their masters, and slaves are forced to do what the master commands. But when sin was our original nature, we loved our master and we loved to sin, and we had no interest in living righteously for God.

Now, by God's grace, we have been delivered from that malevolent master of evil who hates us. But that does not mean we are wandering freely. *We have been delivered into enslavement to God (v.22)*. God is a benevolent master of righteousness who loves His slaves, and we are being sanctified, transformed, renewed in every facet of our being after the image of Christ. The end result will be eternal life with God. Again, we must see that all of this is a free gift from God. Believers did nothing to get it, God just gave us birth into His Kingdom. It really is a gift, a free gift, in the full, absolute sense of the word.



**Challenge:** *Gifts are meant to be used and enjoyed. Go out and live joyously with Christ. You are no longer under the bondage of sin.*



**Heavenly Father, thank You so much for the gift of eternal life. Give me the grace to live like someone who is already there. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

### **Friday, 15th November 2024. I have been crucified with Christ. Text: Galatians 2:19-21**

In our studies of transformation, we should notice that there are two transformations mentioned in these three verses. *First*, when believers die to God's Law, and the *second* is when we live, spiritually, in Christ. God's Law is good and righteous, and all humanity is obligated to obey it **perfectly**, heart, mind, and soul. However, obedience to God's Law cannot give spiritual life, because it is not possible for humans to obey it; we are naturally law-breakers. Dying to the Law, as Paul says (*v.19*), means that believers are not obligated to obey God's Law for the purpose of making themselves acceptable to God. Because believers are united to Jesus Christ, His obedience is put to our accounts.

Also, we are united to Christ's death. His death is our death. When we die with Christ, the Law no longer has authority over us. *We are also buried with Him and are raised with Him (Col.2:12)*. So, we are transformed by being united to Christ's death and life. Now that we have been raised with Christ, we live before God by faith/trust, not by law obedience. This

does not mean God's Law no longer has a place in the lives of believers. God's Law instructs us about who He is and about everything He wants us to believe and do. We will not obey perfectly, but we are safe from condemnation, because we are united to Christ's obedience.



**Question:** *What is your relationship to God's Law? Are you trying to obey it for salvation (impossible!), or are you obeying it because you want to live a grateful, loving life to God, as a response to His gift of salvation.*



**Heavenly Father, thank You for delivering me from the curse of disobeying Your Law. Please give me the grace to obey Your Law so that I can show You my love and gratitude for what You have done for me in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

**Saturday, 16th November 2024. No condemnation for those in Christ.**

**Text: Romans 8:1-4**

It is always important to know what is written before and after a passage being studied. In *chapter seven*, Apostle Paul, speaking as someone who tries to obey the law (*for the purpose of being accepted by God*), honestly discovers that such "obedience" only shows that he is a law-breaker. So, he cries out: *Who will save me?* The answer is in *7:25* and *8:1* – Christ Jesus. The person who seeks God's approval by obedience will only have condemnation, but the person who trusts in Jesus has assurance that he will not be condemned. That is because Jesus Christ accomplished perfection, while human effort only accomplishes failure. When you trust Jesus' perfect law-obedience to be applied to yourself, then you have God's promise of eternal life.

Paul now mentions the law of the Spirit of life. *Question:* if we are no longer obligated to obey God's Law, then to what law is Paul referring? In this verse, law means an operating principle, like the "law" of gravity; gravity unfailingly operates in a certain way. The Law of the Spirit of life refers to the work of the Holy Spirit. God the Spirit is the one who joins a person to Jesus Christ and applies Christ's work to the person. When that happens, nothing can reverse it, and the believer is set free from enslavement to sin, a transformation out of death and into life.



**Question:** *Before you trusted Jesus for your salvation, you were a slave to sin, but now you are Christ's slave. Are you living as the Master commands? The Master is Love, and His commands are*



*loving, freeing.*



**Heavenly Father, please strengthen me to live as my Master Jesus commands. In His name I pray. Amen.**

### **Sunday, 17th November 2024. New creatures in Christ. Text: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17**

Apostle Paul begins this passage by stating that it is Christ's love that obligates and motivates him to do whatever he does for the Gospel. When Paul says that Christ died for all, he does not mean that every human being has had their sin penalty paid and removed. It means that Christ is the only Saviour there is for anyone. When Paul says "all", he refers to everyone for whom Christ actually died. We who belong to Christ benefit from His death (v.14), and we are now to live no longer for self but for Christ. Jesus Christ's self-giving, self-sacrifice for us not only reconciled us to God, but there is now the expectation for us to give ourselves to Him.

This is God's call upon the lives of all disciples of Christ (v.15). Giving our entire selves to Christ is an impossible task for us to do in our natural strength; so, Paul instructs us that *we who belong to Christ are new creatures*. Though we look and feel the same, we are now part of Christ's body. We are not who we used to be; we have been transformed, and we are new. We have a new life-style with new desires, new abilities, new associations, etc. **ALL** things have become new. There will even be new difficulties and temptations, as well as blessings. But the greatest newness is that believers are now children of the triune God, and we will be with Him forever.



***Challenge: God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. Being His child is the greatest privilege. Now live like it.***



**Heavenly Father, please grant to me the sense that I am a new creature in Christ. Please give me the grace to honour Him in the way I live. Amen.**

### **Monday, 18th November 2024. We are God's workmanship. Text: Ephesians 2:1-10**

Read the final verses of chapter one, where Paul speaks of the exalted Christ. Then in today's passage, he immediately speaks of believers in exact opposite terms: spiritually dead in sin, living according to the world and the devil. We all understand death. There is neither ability nor desire

from dead people. Spiritual death means no interest in God and no ability to serve Him as He requires. And yet, for His own reasons, God gave mercy to some. He has now raised them with Christ, and sat them with Christ on the throne of heaven. All this was done by God's grace (v.8), which is His un-obligated favor toward them with no contribution required from them.

The word "grace", by its very nature, removes any notion that a person must contribute to salvation. If a person had to contribute in any way, then Paul would not have written, "by grace you are saved." If a person contributes anything, then the word "grace" becomes redundant. Grace also means no one can say, "*I contributed something*". Salvation is not something we have purchased, earned, or deserved; it is a gift from God (v.9). After God saves us, He then transforms us, He re-works us into people who will serve Him by doing good works, doing things that are pleasing to Him rather than things that please the world, Satan, and self.



**Question:** *Are you trusting anything that you have done or are doing to make yourself acceptable to God? Please, stop looking to self and trust Jesus Christ entirely.*



**Heavenly Father, please increase my love for You and my trust in Jesus, and make me see more clearly that on my own I have nothing to give You that is acceptable. in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

### **Tuesday, 19th November 2024. He washed us. Text: Titus 3:3-7**

This part of Paul's letter to Titus tells us that all believers were once ungodly. Many people see themselves as basically good; but that is not what God says in His Word (Ps.14:3). Paul especially emphasizes the hatred humans have for one another. Then, he compares that with the love and goodness of God. In spite of our sin, God gives mercy and saves. Transformation is depicted here as "*washing of regeneration*". We can wash ourselves physically, but only God can wash us spiritually. A person is spiritually washed when the Holy Spirit re-generates him; brings him out of spiritual death and gives him life. When a person is brought out of death, all the spiritual and moral filth is removed.

There are two other important things to note in this passage. *First*, in verse 4, God is said to be "*our Saviour*", and then in verse 6 Jesus Christ is called "*our Saviour*". If Jesus is a created being, it would be blasphemy to give Him the same title used for God. The Lord Jesus Christ is not a created

being. Jesus is a divine person, Jesus is God. Second, we are washed when the Lord “pours out” the Holy Spirit upon us. This is a picture of baptism. When the minister pours water on a person at baptism, it is a picture of God pouring out His Spirit. *(Please read Acts 22:16 where baptism and washing are connected).*



**Challenge:** *Another verse to show that baptism is by pouring can be found in Acts 10:44-47. If you have been baptized, it symbolized God pouring out His Holy Spirit upon you. Walk by the Spirit!*



**Our Father, thank You for cleansing me with Your Holy Spirit. Please give me the grace to live as one cleansed and no longer in the filth of the world and of sin. in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Wednesday, 20th November 2024. Jesus is water and light. Text: John 7:37-39 and 8:12**

In *chapter seven*, Israel was celebrating the festival of booths, remembering how their ancestors were wandering in the wilderness, especially how Yahweh provided water from a rock (*Ex.17:6*). During that festival Jesus, shouted to the crowd in Jerusalem that He is the one who provides living water. The next day, Jesus was at the Temple and said of Himself that He is *the light of the world*. The lamp in the Temple, which burned continuously, was symbolic of Yahweh’s presence with His people and the One who gives spiritual understanding. Jesus is saying of Himself that He is God, He is the one who guides people out of spiritual darkness and provides the water of eternal life.

All of Scripture before Jesus points to the person/work of Jesus and is fulfilled by Him (*Luk.24:27*). Human beings are naturally living in spiritual darkness and are spiritually parched (*dying of spiritual thirst*). But the Holy Spirit transforms a person out of darkness and deadness and into light and life, when He unites the person to Jesus. People without Christ do not have proper understanding of God. All their religious efforts cannot satisfy the thirsty soul, because they do not have Jesus. They will die of spiritual hunger and thirst in the midst of spiritual darkness. Jesus Christ, who is the only way to God (*as He is revealed to us in Scripture*) is the only food and drink for the soul.



**Question:** *Are you trusting Jesus as the only food for your soul, as the only way to eternal life? Is there anything else you are trusting? If there is, remove it! It will prevent you from being with God.*



**My Father, I am trusting Jesus for my salvation. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

**Thursday, 21st November 2024. The righteous and the wicked. Text: Psalm 1:1-6**

This psalm is well suited for the start of the wisdom literature of Scripture (*Psalms - Song of Solomon*). Much of that literature contrasts the righteous and the wicked, which is what Psalm one does. Verse three compares a righteous man with a tree planted by a stream, which will provide an unending supply of necessary water so that the tree is always healthy, always producing fruit. Some scholars think the phrase "planted by streams" means the tree started its life at a different location. Then, at a later time the farmer uprooted the tree, brought it near the stream, and planted it there so the tree could undergo a transformation.

If that insight is correct, then it is a beautiful picture of the Good Message of God's grace in Christ toward His people. Staying with the insight of the re-located tree, it illustrates to us how a believer (*the tree*) does nothing and God (the farmer) does all the work. The farmer decides what to do about the fruit tree. He removes the tree from a bad place, and he plants the tree in a good place. The Gospel is all about what God does for a sinner, and the sinner is absolutely passive in the entire process. That is the meaning of salvation by God's grace alone, and the sinner has nothing to do with it.



**Question:** Please notice, the righteous man is devoted to the word of God. The Bible is his delight and he meditates on Scripture daily, fruitfulness results. Is that true for you?



**Heavenly Father, thank You for your absolute grace. I do believe that You have done all. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

**Friday, 22nd November 2024. Conformed to the image of Christ. Text: Romans 8:26-30**

This small passage includes one of the most comforting verses for Christians, *verse 28*. In the verses before, we learn about the Holy Spirit interceding for believers, praying for them. Therefore, Paul can say confidently that no matter what happens in life, no matter how bad things might be, they will be worked out by God for the good of His people. There is also another blessing that comes to us through the work of the Holy Spirit, *verse 29*: *we are conformed to the image of Christ*. All human beings are created in the

image of God, but sin has caused that image to be ruined. However, those in Christ are being conformed to the image of the Saviour.

What does it mean to be created in the image of God and conformed to the image of Christ? *This does not refer to physical appearance but to the spiritual qualities derived from true knowledge of God*, the ability to live before Him according to His commands, and of being set apart by God for a special relationship to, and of service to, the Creator. But sin ruined that image. Believers are now being conformed to the image of Christ, which means to be united to Christ and to His perfect knowledge, righteousness, and holiness. This is also part of the sanctification process, by which those who are united to Christ will actually become like Him spiritually, morally, which is the ongoing work of God the Holy Spirit.



**Challenge:** *The work of sanctification is the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, and by His power we must live cooperatively with Him.*



**Our Father, thank You for the promise that I will be like Christ. Please give me grace to live with and according to the Holy Spirit's working in me. For the honour of Christ. Amen.**

### **Saturday, 23rd November 2024. The man of God may be complete. Text: 2 Timothy 3:14-17**

Timothy was a disciple of Apostle Paul and one of his spiritual sons in the faith. Paul placed Timothy in the city of Ephesus to do the work of teaching, preaching, and pastoring the believers there. Timothy was raised in a godly family. His grandmother and mother trained him well in Scripture (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15). Paul then emphasizes the importance of Scripture for ministry (v.16). In fact, the Scriptures are essential for “*the man of God*” to be complete and equipped. That title refers to the pastor. Pastoral ministry is spiritual work, and it can only be done with God's Word, the Bible.

Scripture is absolutely necessary for pastoral ministry, but the Bible is equally necessary for the daily life of all believers. Church leaders are examples to those in the Church, and we must follow their example of dependence on God's Word for faith and life. Proper understanding of what is taught in Scripture, especially because it instructs us about Jesus Christ, is our only source of spiritual nourishment. Transformation will only come through that. Spiritual maturity and service to God's Kingdom require the Word of God.



**Question:** *If the Scriptures are the soul's food, are you feeding your soul, spending time each day reading God's word? By reading only one chapter each day you can read the entire Bible in less than 3½ years.*



Heavenly Father, it is a great blessing to have a copy of your word. Please increase my desire to spend time in reading and prayer each day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

### Sunday, 24th November 2024. Walk in newness of life. Text: Romans 6:1-11

When the full extent of grace is understood, when the absoluteness of its nature is comprehended, a person could honestly think, I can live like the devil and still be saved if I trust God's grace in Christ (v.1). Yes, God's grace is that extreme, *but salvation also means that a person is delivered out of sin and death and into righteousness and life.* A saved person is united to Christ (v.5); so that, Christ's death and resurrection is applied to the believer. But there is more. The believer is also raised to "*newness of life*"; a real transformation has occurred in the person.

Therefore, it is wrong to think that a believer is permitted to continue in a life of sin. To continue in sin shows in reality, that the person's conversion is false, and the person is self-deceived. By being united to Jesus Christ the disciple not only has Jesus' accomplishments applied to his account, but the person has been given new desires and abilities. The believer now desires to love and obey God, and he has new abilities to do that, new abilities to walk in newness of life and to live a transformed life.



**Challenge:** *No Christian lives a perfect life, so do not be worried if you struggle with temptation and still sin. You will not be condemned; you are safe in Christ. Each day pray for grace, love God, be grateful, and obedience will flow from that.*



Heavenly Father, increase my love for You so that I can live in grateful obedience to Your commands. For the honour of Christ I pray. Amen.

### Monday, 25th November 2024. Renewing your mind.

**Text: Romans 12:1-2**

The book of Romans is heavily theological, but Paul now moves to some practical thoughts. "Therefore" implies that practical living is built on the

sound theology, Paul wrote in the previous chapters. There is much that the believer must now do. Because of the mercy of God, the Christian must present himself back to God (*sacrifice*) for God's purposes. We must put self-interest and self-service to death and live to, and for, God. *We are no longer our own.* We have been purchased by God (*1 Cor.6:20*); He owns us; we are His slaves. Everything we do or think or love, etc., is to be according to God's word for His glory. It is easy to give an animal to God. True worship gives self to God.

These verses are related to the doctrine of sanctification, which is the work of God the Holy Spirit, by which the believer is renewed in the image of God and is enabled to put away sin and live righteously. However, this is also something in which the believer is commanded to participate intentionally, diligently. The Christian must fight against temptation and must walk obediently to the Lord. Jesus Christ and His Kingdom are different from the world, and His disciples must be also. We are to live self-imposed transformed lives by renewing our minds, meaning, we must think according to God's Word. Our work of renewing our minds does not gain salvation, but it is the proper response to God's free gift of salvation.



**Challenge:** *No one does this renewal perfectly; we fail daily. But by God's grace we are improving. Do not quit, persevere, and keep your heart fixed on Jesus.*



**Our Father, please give me Your grace so that I can live a transformed life, according to Your Word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

**Tuesday, 26th November 2024. Put off and put on. Text: Ephesians 4:17-24**

Yesterday, we read about the importance of Christians renewing their minds. In today's passage, the Apostle Paul commands that we must not think as the gentiles do. Gentiles are people who do not belong to God's grace in Christ. They think with minds that have no place for God or His Word. Gentiles live as if God did not exist. Their *"minds are darkened"*, meaning they have no intimate nor saving knowledge of God. Their hearts are hard, meaning they have no love for God. They are spiritually dead. They are controlled by sensuality, living for their lusts, their appetites. But we, who belong to Christ, are to be controlled by God's Word.

Believers are to be renewed in the spirit of their minds (*v.23, please refer to yesterday's meditation*). Like getting dressed, we are to "put off" the former way of life and "put on" the new. The old self operates like the world, but

the new self is already re-created in the likeness of God. Nonetheless, we must intentionally put on what we are in Christ. “True righteousness” means our entire being is to be lived according to what God says is right (Scripture). “Holiness” means that we are to live differently from how the worldly people live. We must live with unbelievers, but we must not live the way they do. Everything about us is to be for the glory of God.



**Challenge:** *Whenever you put off old or dirty clothes and whenever you put on fresh clean clothes, remember and pray about putting on the new self, which is in Christ.*



**Heavenly Father, I want to be like Jesus Christ. Please give me grace to put on and live the righteousness I have in Him, for the glory of God. Amen.**

### Wednesday, 27th November 2024. The discipline of the Lord. Text: Hebrews 12:5-11

In today’s passage, the unknown writer of Hebrews is starting a new topic, which is discipline. Discipline can be thought of as similar to sport training for the believer’s spiritual maturity and well-being. In *chapter 11*, the writer reminded us of the struggles believers faced in previous generations, and he then encouraged us to follow their example of perseverance in faith. They faced many challenges, and some even died for the faith! Discipline weans us from our love for the world. We are the children of God, our Heavenly Father. Like our earthly fathers, God will discipline us because He loves us and does not want us to remain as we were.

Discipline has a *positive side*, up-building, and a negative side, something like “punishment” for correcting error. Discipline is a transformational process that comes after conversion. It brings a person from spiritual infancy to maturity, under God’s loving, fatherly hand. The process often includes hardships and disappointments of many kinds. Somewhat like refining gold, spiritual discipline is designed to remove the bad and build what is good. Discipline causes strength of character and love for, and trust in, the Lord. Like sanctification, the ultimate purpose of discipline is to conform us to the image of Christ, for the glory of God.



**Challenge:** *Discipline is often unpleasant. However, if you want to be like Christ, then persevere in the difficulties your Heavenly Father brings into your life.*



**Heavenly Father, I want to be like Jesus. Please give me grace to**



**understand and endure the discipline You bring to me, for my good, to the glory of Christ. Amen.**

**Thursday, 28th November 2024. God began a good work in you. Text: Philippians 1:3-6**

Apostle Paul is commending and encouraging the believers of Philippi because of their generous financial support to him for his Gospel ministry. Paul refers to them as partners because of that support. If people did not help the Apostle financially, then he would have to get a job (*Act.18:3*), and the ministry would be slowed. But Paul, the one who brought the Gospel to Philippi, is himself encouraged because their contribution shows that God is working in their lives. The good work Paul mentions is the salvation and the sanctification from God, who will bring it to full completion, into eternal life.

This theme is related to the one we considered in yesterday's message about discipline. *Discipline is a life-long process, a good work which is done within each believer for their spiritual growth and for the glory of Jesus Christ.* Paul's words in verse six; "*He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion*", implies there is no possibility that He will not bring it to completion. God's transforming work cannot be thwarted. When you are in the midst of a difficult situation and it feels like God has abandoned you, fear not. God is working Christ-likeness in you. The day of Jesus Christ means the future day when He returns to bring His people to Himself forever.



**Challenge:** *In difficult times, fix your thoughts and affections on the Lord Jesus, persevere in prayer and trust. When the difficulty is past, you will be a stronger disciple of Christ.*



**Our Father, I trust that You love me and are always doing good for me. Please give me Your grace to remember that during trying times. In Jesus name. Amen.**

**Friday, 29th November 2024. He will transform our lowly bodies. Text: Philippians 3:14-21**

Paul begins this chapter by warning his readers about those who trust their religious deeds to make themselves acceptable to God. They are dangerous, because their logic about good deeds seems correct and their lives look godly, which can easily influence others. Paul tells the readers of his own religious accomplishments he thought would make him

righteous before God. But since his conversion, *Paul has considered all those efforts as rubbish. He only wants to belong to Christ*, to have Christ's righteousness be his by trusting only what Jesus did for him. Paul is eager to put away self-righteousness so that he can know Christ, meaning, gain an intimate connection to all that is the Lord's, thus attaining eternal life.

Transformation from death to life and into eternal life with God can happen only by being united to Jesus by faith; believing and trusting. Paul abandons all he did in self-righteousness and *"presses on toward the goal of the upward call"*, which is eternal life. This does not mean he has a new set of religious deeds to earn salvation, nor does it mean he must keep himself saved and bring himself into eternal life. His strength is the Lord's (*Php.2:13*). Paul is referring to his passion as a follower of Christ. At the end of this life, those who belong to Jesus will be transformed into the full likeness of Christ, not only the spiritual likeness, but we will also receive glorious bodies like Christ's.



**Challenge:** *Are you pressing toward Christ and eternal life, or are you just coasting through life lifelessly? Make it your passion to serve Jesus, His Kingdom, and eternal life with God.*



**Our Father, please make me increasingly passionate in my discipleship to Christ. Amen.**

**Saturday, 30th November 2024. They washed their robes. Text: Revelation 22:14-15**

The Scripture has reached its high point – Jesus Christ brings His people into eternal life; they are safe with God forevermore. The tree of life was first mentioned in *Gen.2:9*. When Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the tree from which God said not to eat, God graciously expelled him and Eve from the garden so that they would not eat from the tree of life, which would have locked them into their sin condition forever. Here at the end of the Bible, God's people who have washed their robes, are now welcomed by the Lord to eat from the tree of life and, thus, be locked into eternal life.

What brought about this great transformation, from being prevented by God from eating of the tree of life to now being invited by God to eat? The cause of this change is the washed robes, a spiritual washing. The robes are a symbolic way of referring to their spiritual condition. The washing is not because the people are wise and good, nor because they lived

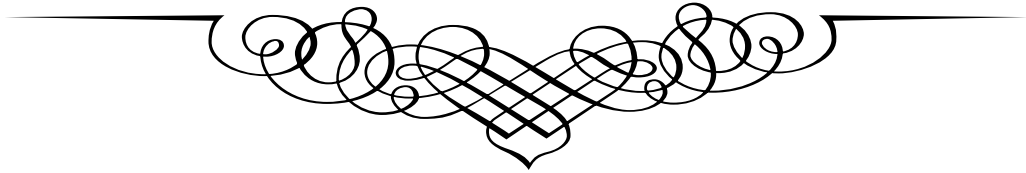
righteously. Please look at *Rev.7:14*. These people were spiritually cleansed in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid their death penalty. They are now free from sin, they have been cleansed to perfect purity in God's sight, and they may eat from the tree of life and be locked into eternal life!



**Question:** *Are you trusting Jesus as your Saviour, trusting that He lived a perfect life for you, that He died to pay your sin penalty, and that He was raised to break death's hold on you and to bring you into eternal life?*



**Heavenly Father, please give me daily grace to trust that Jesus did all that for me so that I may have eternal life. In His name I pray. Amen.**



## THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2024

# CELEBRATING JESUS



*During this month of Advent,  
we will celebrate and reflect  
on the hope that Jesus gives,  
the peace He brings, and the  
sacrificial love He shows.*

**Sunday, 1st December 2024. Celebrating Jesus regardless of our human deficiencies. Text: Luke 1:5-7**

Today, we are going to focus on celebrating Jesus irrespective of our own inadequacies. Luke, the historian, begins in Jerusalem with an old priestly couple who were living lives of faith in godless times. They were the lamp of God, burning in a dark world. They had a secret challenge, that they were childless. But they did not despair or become bitter. They were called upright in the sight of God; for they lived according to the Bible; and they prayed.

Today, purpose that you will be among the few people in the Bible and in our time, who are described as “...righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.”



**Key verse(s) 1:6:** *“And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.”*



**Dear Lord, I pray that you will graciously enable me to have the honor of obeying Your Word. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

**Monday, 2nd December 2024. God uses Prayerful people. Text: Luke 1:8-17**

Once Zechariah was chosen to go into the temple and burn incense, it was an opportunity for intercessory prayer for himself, the people and the nation. God’s angel appeared to announce the birth of John the Baptist. Zechariah and Elizabeth must raise him to be a man of God. Through him, God would bless many people to repent. He would prepare the way for the Messiah--God’s greatest blessing for all people of all time. If we commit ourselves to the purposes of God, He will use us for his glory.



**Key verse(s) 1:13:** *“...Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.”*



**Lord, help me to be a small candle light burning in dark times. In the name of Jesus Christ I have prayed. Amen.**

**Tuesday, 3rd December 2024. God disciplines those he loves. Text: Luke 1:18-22**

When the angel Gabriel who stands in the presence of God, told Zechariah

that he would have a son, he could not believe it - even though he had prayed for a son. He lived an upright life; he prayed and studied the Bible and never missed worship service. He thought he had faith, but in fact, he had become resigned to his situation. He did not believe that God could change his situation. So, God made him unable to speak for the entirety of Elizabeth's pregnancy. Even committed men and women of God sometimes need to be disciplined in faith.



**Key verse(s) 1:20:** *“And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.”*



**Lord, I praise You for disciplining me in times when my faith wavers. Teach me to full trust You even when it is beyond my understanding. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

### **Wednesday, 4th, December 2024. Praise God for His grace to work through you. Text: Luke 1:23-25**

By faith, Elizabeth had accepted her barrenness; and she lived as though she had no problems. But when she became pregnant with John, “*God’s gift,*” she revealed how deeply this problem had affected her. She praised God for his favour and for taking away her disgrace. God’s blessing changed her from a barren woman to a fruitful woman.



**Key verse(s) 1:25:** *“...The Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to taken away my reproach among people.”*



**Dear Lord, thank You for Your grace and favour, which still makes me fruitful everyday. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

### **Thursday, 5th, December 2024. Revere God’s favour! Text: Luke 1:26-33**

When Mary heard that she had found favour with God, she was afraid and troubled. She must have known that God’s unmerited favour though beautiful, is costly. She was just a simple country girl who was engaged to a young man named Joseph. Joseph was a humble carpenter, but the blood of kings flowed in his veins, for he was a descendant of David. Mary was looking forward to their sweet home. But God had a mission for her. He had chosen her to be the mother of His Son Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah who would rule over an eternal kingdom. God was sending his Son, Mary’s Son, to be the Saviour of the world. God chooses us to be stewards of different things. We must, with reverence steward God’s gifts in our lives.



**Key verse(s) 1:29:** *“But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.”*



**Dear Lord, thank You for all You have done through me. Teach me to count the cost of stewarding Your gifts for my life. In the name of Jesus Christ I have prayed. Amen.**

### **Friday, 6th, December 2024. I am the Lord’s servant! Text: Luke 1:34-38**

Mary did not hesitate because of the personal sacrifice involved; she hesitated because what God asked of her defied her human reason: It seemed impossible. But nothing is impossible with God. The angel told her about Elizabeth. And Mary made a decision of faith to give up her possible human dreams with her future husband Joseph and be totally available to God--to be the Lord’s servant. God desires uncompromised devotion to Him and His purposes. We all like Mary, have our unique God given assignments. May we *purpose to serve the Lord unwaveringly*.



**Key verse(s) 1:38:** *“...Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” and the angel departed from her.”*



**Lord, let me serve You in any way You choose. Teach me to bear Your costly grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

### **Saturday, 7th, December 2024. Seek spiritual encouragement! Text: Luke 1:39-41**

Mary realized that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit according to verse 35. She might have felt terribly alone or even vulnerable to misunderstanding by the community. To whom could she turn? She could have sought human sympathy from Joseph or her parents or some friend; but she remembered the angel’s message and decided to go to Elizabeth, her relative who lived in Judea. God had done great work in Elizabeth. Mary sought spiritual encouragement rather than human sympathy. Even when it is God’s purpose we are doing, we need encouragement from men and women of faith who trust God just like us to walk with us.



**Key verse(s) 1:39-40:** *“In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.”*



**Lord, help me to seek the council and advice of Your people rather than that of worldly people. In the name of Jesus Christ I have prayed. Amen.**

## Sunday, 8th, December 2024. Blessed are they that believe! Text: Luke 1:42-45

When Mary arrived at the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth in the hill country of Judea, Elizabeth greeted her joyfully. She did not need to be told what had happened. Mary was a younger cousin, but Elizabeth greeted her humbly as the *“mother of my Lord.”* Baby John in her womb recognized baby Jesus in Mary’s womb. Elizabeth blessed Mary because Mary believed God and she believed God’s Word of promise. Joy and praise come from faith. Mary stayed until the time came for John to be born.



**Key verse(s) 1:45:** *“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”*



**Almighty God, help me to trust that You are more than able to fulfill all Your promises. By faith may I be filled with joy and praise for Your work. Amen.**

## Monday, 9th, December 2024. Rejoice in the Lord! Text: Luke 1:46-49

When Mary heard Elizabeth’s blessing, praise flowed from her heart. She was an ordinary country girl, but God had chosen her. She was a sinner who rejoiced in God her Saviour. He is the Mighty One--holy is His name! He had done great things for her. God’s mighty work of sending His Son into the world was being done because one humble woman trusted and obeyed Him. She recognized His grace in her life, and she praised Him for calling her to be His servant.



**Key verse(s) 1:47:** *“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour”*



**Prayer: Lord, help me to obey You so that I may know Your love and find my place in Your history. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

## Tuesday, 10th, December 2024. God’s mighty deeds are for the sake of all nations. Text: Luke 1:50-56

God’s great work in Mary was not for her sake alone. She found her place in the stream of God’s redemptive history. God’s mercy and *forgiveness extend down through all generations to those who fear him.* A quiet revolution was beginning. Rulers would be brought down and humble people exalted. The hungry would be filled and the rich sent away empty. The proud in heart would be scattered. God was keeping his promise to Abraham, to bless the world through his descendant, Jesus Christ. God



works in us and through us for his own glory.



**Key verse(s) 1:50:** *“And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.”*



**Almighty God help me prioritize Your redemptive purposes than my own comfort and personal ambition. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

### **Wednesday, 11th, December 2024. Acknowledge God through obedience to His Word. Text: Luke 1:57-66**

When a son was born to Zechariah and Elizabeth, all the neighbours and relatives rejoiced. Now, God had filled their home with joy--and everyone rejoiced with them.

Naming the baby “John” was an act of faith for Zechariah and Elizabeth. No one could understand why they did not name him after his father. But “John” was the name given him by the angel. To affirm this name was to acknowledge that their baby was God’s gift--and that he belonged to God. So, Zechariah’s silence training ended as soon as he wrote the words, *“His name is John.”* The Lord’s hand was with baby John, for God had a very special mission for him.



**Key verse(s) 1:60:** *“But his mother answered, No; he shall be called John.”*



**Lord, all I am and have are Yours. Help me to obey Your Word--not follow my human reason or feelings. In the name of Jesus Christ I have prayed. Amen.**

### **Thursday, 12th, December 2024. Jesus, the horn of salvation. Text: Luke 1:67-73**

Zechariah’s dumb lips opened when his son John was born. He sang a song of praise to the God of Israel who had come to redeem his people. He praised Jesus, the mighty horn of salvation. “Horn” represents power and authority (*Deut. 33:17; Ps. 22:21*). Jesus, born in the royal line of David, is the Mighty God who came to save his people. Satan also has a horn--in fact, he has 10 horns (*Rev 13:1*). Jesus is powerful enough to break Satan’s horn, powerful enough to break the yoke of sin and save us from the strong grip of Satan.



**Key verse(s) 1:69:** *“and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in*

*the house of his servant David."*



Lord, I am weak, and I cannot save myself. Praise Jesus, the Horn of Salvation, who pierced Satan and set me free. Help me to serve You in holiness and righteousness, without fear, all my days. In the name of Jesus Christ I have prayed. Amen.

**Friday, 13th, December 2024. Serve the Lord without fear. Text: Luke 1:74-75**

God sent Jesus to fulfil the oath he swore to our father Abraham. He sent him to rescue us from the hand of our enemy Satan. He saves us so that we can serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness all our days.



**Key verse(s) 1:74-75:** *"that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days."*



Almighty father, thank You for Your great faithfulness to Your promises. Help me everyday to be faithful to You as I serve and live in holiness and righteousness. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

**Saturday, 14th, December 2024. Be a herald for Jesus. Text: Luke 1:76-78**

Zechariah's son was not the Christ. He was John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah. He was sent by God to prepare the way for Christ's coming. How does one prepare for the coming of the Lord? John's ministry called people to repentance. He proclaimed forgiveness of sin. Our great human problem is sin. Jesus came to solve this problem by dying for our sins and rising from death. John made people aware of sin and he heralded Jesus the Saviour.



**Key verse(s) 1:76:** *"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways."*



Lord, help me to be a herald of Jesus. Help me to prepare a way for Him to come into the dark lives of the people of my time. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

**Sunday, 15th, December 2024. Jesus turns darkness into light. Text: Luke 1:78-80**

At the time of Jesus' coming, the world was clothed in the dark night of

sin. My life was also dark and meaningless before Jesus came to me. Many people do not believe it when those who are now saved share their dark side of life before they received Jesus in their lives. Jesus' coming is like the rising sun. He shines his light of salvation and life on those living in the darkness of sin and fear, under the shadow of death.



**Key verse(s) 1:78-79:** *"because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sun rise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."*



**Almighty God help us turn the darkness away from around us as we shine the light of Christ like John did. In the name of Jesus Christ I have prayed. Amen.**

### **Monday, 16th, December 2024. The baby in the manger is the ruler of all things. Text: Luke 2:1-3**

Rome ruled the world; she enforced "Pax Romana"...Roman peace. She exacted taxes from all her colonial possessions. Caesar Augustus' word was law. When he ordered a census of the entire Roman world, everyone had to go and register -irrespective of personal circumstances. Caesar represents worldly power. His palace represents a selfish, pleasure-seeking lifestyle. *We must be careful not to compromise our faith because of the glamour in the world.* We also ought to know how to respect authority even when we do not agree.



**Key verse(s) 2:1,3:** *"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. And all went to be registered, each to his own town."*



**Lord, teach me to know that the world even when it seems to be in control, that You alone have the final say. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

### **Tuesday, 17th, December 2024. Jesus and not Caesar is the ruler of all things. Text: Luke 2:1-7**

Caesar Augustus' word was law. When he ordered a census of the entire Roman world, everyone had to go and register irrespective of personal circumstances. Joseph and Mary also had to register. They had to go to Bethlehem, even though Mary had reached the full term of her pregnancy. In Bethlehem, everything was crowded and everybody was busy. Joseph was poor and had no clout; he could not get a room in the inn. Just like,

there is no room in a sinful world and no room in crooked hearts for the Savior. Though born in a stable and laid in a manger, Jesus, not Caesar, is the ruler of the world. Only Jesus' kingdom is eternal. Caesar represents worldly power. His palace represents a selfish, pleasure-seeking lifestyle. We must not lose focus that *Jesus went through all he did to save us from sin*. As his followers we must remember to emulate his humility.



**Key verse(s) 2:7:** *“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”*



**Lord, help me to love Jesus' humble lifestyle; give me eyes to see things as they really are; so that I may have compassion on Caesar but not envy him. In the name of Jesus Christ I have prayed. Amen.**

**Wednesday, 18th, December 2024. The sign of the savior. Text: Luke 2:8-20**

Jesus' birth was good news of great joy for all people of all times. God sent him to bring salvation from sin, eternal life and the kingdom of God to all who trust him. The baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger was God's sign. Jesus' coming means glory to God and peace to men who receive his grace. *He brings joy and peace that no one else can give and no one can take away*. This world-changing announcement was made to some humble shepherds on night duty. God chose the shepherd as a symbol of the Messiah; he himself is the shepherd of his people. The shepherds heard the good news and went to see what had happened. When they saw the baby in the manger, they recognized God's sign and believed God's word; they rejoiced and praised God. This Christmas, may God help us accept the good news of great joy that Jesus was born to be our Saviour.



**Key verse(s) 2:11:** *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.”*



**Dear Lord, may I experience anew Jesus' saving power from my sorrows and all my sins and tell others, so His joy may spread to all the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

**Thursday, 19th, December 2024. God's Word requires our obedience. Text: Luke 2:21-24**

Jesus' parents were godly people who wanted to raise their son according to God's law. They believed what the angel told them about their son, so

they named him “Jesus,” as the angel had commanded. His name meant “*salvation*.”

According to Leviticus 12, a woman who gave birth to a son must bring him to the temple after 40 days and offer sacrifices. A wealthy family might offer a lamb; a poor family, two doves or two young pigeons. Mary brought the pigeons. Jesus’ human family was poor by worldly material standards; *but they were rich in love for God* and in love for his laws.



**Key verse(s) 2:21:** “*.. he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*”



**Lord, teach me to humbly submit to Your law and honour You with my offerings. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

### Friday, 20th, Dec 2024. Eagerly waiting on God. Text: Luke 2:25-35

Simeon was one of the “*waiting people for the Messiah*.” He believed God’s promise and prayed for his oppressed and suffering people. God promised him that he would see the Christ before he died. He took the baby in his arms and praised God, for his eyes saw God’s salvation. He saw beyond his own people to the Gentile world, and prophesied that this baby would not only be a Savior for Israel, but also a light for all the people of the world. Simeon realized that redemption for the world meant pain and suffering for Jesus and for His mother. *Though costly, our salvation is sure*. In life we wait for various things, like graduation, marriage etc. May we look beyond these and wait on God for all we need in life.



**Key verse(s) 2:30:** “*for my eyes have seen your salvation.*”



**Lord, let me set my hope fully on You, and help me to pray for the salvation of the world.**

### Saturday, 21st Dec 2024. Eagerly waiting all our lives. Text: Luke 2:36-40

Luke introduces a prophetess named Anna. Her husband died after only 7 years in their marriage. She did not remarry even though she could have. Rather, she dedicated the rest of her life to God, staying at the temple night and day, fasting and praying. She also gave thanks to God and spoke about the child Jesus to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. *Her only hope was in God*; for she was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. God blessed her prayerful life; she saw Jesus.



**Key verse(s) 2:37:** *“and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.”*



**Father in heaven, yesterday is gone, today is here, let me set my hope fully on You. In the name of Jesus Christ I have prayed. Amen.**

### Sunday, 22nd Dec 2024. Keep on growing. Text: Luke 2:41-52

When Jesus was 12 years old, his parents took him with them to Jerusalem when they made their annual trip to celebrate the Passover. Jesus was so eager to study the Bible that he stayed in the temple, asking questions and listening to the Bible teachers there. In his eager desire to learn, he forgot about his parents. Jesus' parents were concerned when they found Him missing from the company of pilgrims from Nazareth. They finally found Him in the temple, and rebuked Him for causing them so much anxiety. He revealed to them that he knew His identity as God's Son. But even God's Son had to learn obedience (*Heb. 5:8*). God's work for Jesus as a child was to study and grow. And he learned obedience, for this is essential to growth (*Heb. 5:8*).



**Key verse(s) 2:49:** *“...Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?”*



**Lord, give me spiritual and intellectual desire, and an obedient heart. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

### Monday, 23rd Dec 2024. Produce the fruit of repentance. Text: Luke 3:1-14

The Word of God came to John in the desert when the times were dark, both politically and spiritually (*vv.1,2*). The economic burden imposed by the Empire was too heavy. But people did not need sympathy; they needed forgiveness; so, he called them to repent. By this, he prepared the way for Jesus. Jesus can come into hearts prepared by repentance. Repentance humbles our proud hearts and straightens our crooked thinking; it lifts up our feelings of inferiority. When we look away from ourselves to Jesus, we can see God's salvation for all mankind. *Repentance is not just words or feelings; it is turning from our selfish lives and worldly thinking to God.* The fruit of repentance is seen in a changed life. One who was greedy begins to share; one who used his position for his own profit, now serves others.



**Key verse(s) 3:8:** *“Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’”*

*For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.”*



**Lord, straighten out my crooked heart and let me bear fruit of repentance. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

**Tuesday, 24th Dec 2024. Believe the good news. Text: Luke 3:15-22**

In those dark times people were eagerly waiting for the Messiah. John baptized those who repented of their sins, and he announced the coming of one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit drives out evil; he purifies and indwells repentant sinners. *Jesus will come again to baptize unrepentant sinners with the fire of judgment.* Herod did not repent. Jesus was baptized by John, and the Holy Spirit descended on him. It was his inauguration as the Messiah. Jesus accepted his mission, and God was pleased.

**Key verse(s) 3:22:** *“and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”*

**Lord, thank You for Your Spirit, who cleanses us and empowers us. In the name of Jesus Christ I have prayed. Amen.**



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!**

**Wednesday, 25th Dec 2024. Seek and follow Jesus at all costs. Text Matthew 2:1-2**

Many dignitaries travelled in those days (vacation). The Magi's journey was so special. Matthew tells us that they were men with a unique purpose: (1). Following a star. (2). Wanted to find the Child, born to be *King of the Jews*. How did they know? They must have been familiar with the Jewish

Scriptures. But consider at what cost. These were men of eminence and wealth, privileged with all the comfort of life. With family responsibilities. They did not know how long their journey would be! The cost of taking such a journey would be great, the sacrifices enormous! Yet no cost was high enough for them, no sacrifice big enough to make. They were *ready to find God at any cost.*



**Key verse(s) 1-2:** *“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the King, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’”*



**Almighty God, help me seek You as the deer that thirsts for water after running in a desert. In the name of Jesus Christ I have prayed. Amen.**

#### Thursday, 26th Dec 2024. The reason for seeking Jesus the Incarnate God is Worship. Text Matthew 2:1-2

The Magi were willing to pay such a high price to make the journey because, *“... We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”* It was their heart’s desire to Find God and worship Him. Why? Because we are all created by God to worship Him, even if we do not acknowledge it. Every one of us worships one thing or another (*science, technology, ancestors etc*). God did for them what God does for anyone who genuinely seeks to worship Him. God opened their eyes to see the Star where it rose, and gave them wisdom to follow *its guiding light to Christ, who alone is the worthy recipient of our worship.*



**Key verse(s) 2:2:** *“...For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”*



**God open my eyes that I may see You in every detail of my life to worship You. In the name of Jesus Christ I have prayed. Amen.**

#### Friday, 27th Dec 2024. Seeking God requires us to totally depend on His guidance. Text Mathew 2:3-8

It could be that in their excitement, they stopped following God’s guidance and made a wrong turn to Herod. Human reasoning figured that a prince would be born in a palace. What a mistake! King Herod heard the best news the world had ever heard. The long-awaited Messiah had been born. But the news deeply disturbed him. ***Be wary of where you go to seek the***



**Saviour.** It is unfortunate that the Magi lost sight of their heavenly guiding star for a time and found themselves in the palace of Herod. Look at verses 7-8. *“Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him’”*. In some places, people pretend to worship God but are really self-centered, they are enemies of the gospel, beware!



**Key verse(s) 2:3:** *“When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.”*



Dear Lord, help us keep our eyes fixed on You the author and perfecter of our faith. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.

### Saturday, 28th Dec 2024. Finding God comes with Joy and worship. Text Matthew 2:9-10

When the Magi left Herod, the Star appeared again -they came to the place where the child was! In spite of their mistake, God intervened. To the end, he guided them because they were sincere worshipers. Jesus tells us: *“I am ... the bright Morning Star.”* (Rev. 22:16). And the Apostle Peter tells us to pay attention to the Word of God because it is the light shining in a dark place and can lead us to Jesus the Morning Star (2 Peter 1:19). The Bible describes humanity like people living in darkness and in the land of the shadow of death (Mat. 4:16). But for those who seek God, God never leaves us to wander in the darkness of this world.

When the star had led them to the Christ child, the Magi did something utterly unexpected. Dignified men of honor and wealth entered a shabby house, beheld a child with his poor mother, bowed down their knees and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



**Key verse(s) 2:9-10:** *“After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”*



Lord teach me that I may humbly recognize You as the King of the Jews— the Messiah— the Saviour of all mankind and worship You. Amen.

**Sunday, 29th Dec 2024. God protects His own. Text Matthew 2:13-23**

God was at work even in the evil of times. An angel warned Joseph to go to Egypt. He got up in the middle of the night and did so. His obedience came from his faith. God used him to protect Mary and Jesus. The family stayed in Egypt until Herod died, thus fulfilling a prophecy in *Hosea 11:1*. God was in control, working through faithful men. But the devil was also pouring out his rage through Herod's evil action. After Herod died, the Lord told Joseph to go back to Israel. Again, he did so. They went to Galilee, to the town of Nazareth, where the angel had first appeared to Mary—and to Joseph. There they raised Jesus.



**Key verse(s) 2:13:** *“Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”*



**Lord, thank You for quietly working out Your purposes in the worst of times. Help me to be an obedient instrument of Your work as Joseph was. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

**Monday, 30th Dec 2024. We exist to please the Father. Text Matthew 3:13-17**

Jesus came to be baptized by John. From a human point of view, Jesus should have baptized John. But Jesus did not come to “do his own thing.” He came to fulfill God's promises and accomplish God's redemptive work. John was his forerunner; so he asked John to baptize Him. He had come to do His Father's will. God loved His Son. He also loved helpless, sinful mankind; so, He sent His Son to die for the sins of the world. At his baptism, He accepted His Messianic mission and God was pleased. God poured out His Spirit on Jesus. *The Spirit of God empowers God's servants to do God's work.* God is pleased when His children take up the mission He gives them to do.



**Key verse(s) 3:15:** *“But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”*



**Lord, help me to find my small place in the story of redemption and obey Your will for my life by doing the work You give me. In the name of Jesus Christ I have prayed. Amen.**

**Tuesday 31st Dec 2024. Obey God not Satan. Text Matthew 4:1-4**

Just after accepting his mission and hearing God's declaration of love

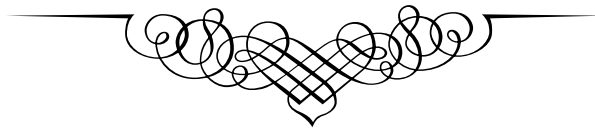
and approval, Jesus was tempted by the devil. God led Him to meet his adversary, because he needed hard training before He began His work. This was the first of many attempts Satan would make. This first temptation was on the physical level. Jesus had not eaten for 40 days, and he was hungry. The tempter asked him to prove his Sonship by making bread from the stones. This sounds reasonable. Why should one starve when he can make bread so easily? God gave Him the power; why not use it in an emergency? Jesus' answer came from the Bible (*Deut 8:3*). Man must not live as a slave to physical desire. He cannot depend on his feelings and reason. *He must live by God's Word*. God's children must listen to God and never listen to Satan.



**Key verse(s) 4:4:** *"But he answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*



Lord, I pray that You plant Your Word in my heart; and teach me to follow it; so that I may defeat the Tempter, throughout this forthcoming Year 2025, and always. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.



**MAY THE LORD GOD GRANT YOU  
A FRUITFUL, SPIRIT-FILLED AND  
CHRIST-CENTRED NEW YEAR, 2025!**

*Happy New Year!*  
**2025**



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