



# DayBreak with **BIBLE READING**

**JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025**

"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)

New International Version (NIV)

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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, 2025 is: *"Imitating God's goodness by doing good"* [Galatians 6:9-10; 3 John 11]. **The theme is calling us not to grow weary in doing good. As a body of Christ, we have the responsibility to do good and help mankind, especially those in Christ and in need. We should imitate God who does good to us so that we do good to others. Let us avoid tyranny and resist the temptation to respond in kind.** 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, but to keep 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 (*Psalms 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 into this year 2025! This third quarter we shall focus on three topics: **1. Growing in the Grace of Doing Good; 2. Jesus Christ: The Hope of All; 3. The Unmerited Favour**

For each topic, 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 the Word** 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 giving 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**

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# 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, question or challenge for the day, and*
- (iv) A suggested prayer.*

*It is suggested 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; confessing your sins and seeking 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 day's take home as italicized in the notes, and (iii) your take home 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 JULY 2025

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## GROWING IN THE GRACE OF DOING GOOD

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*In nature, there is a basic principle, which is: living things grow, and if a living thing is not growing, then it is dying. This principle is part of God's created order. Growth also applies to the spiritual realm. Spiritual growth means maturing in our love for, trust in, and obedience to, the Lord Jesus Christ, according to the Bible. Therefore, it is necessary that we grow in our knowledge of Scripture. As you mature, you must also grow in doing the good things that God requires in His Word. That is what we will be considering in this month's meditations.*



**Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025. God saves us for good works. Text: Ephesians 2:8-10**

This passage is a great place to start thinking about Christians doing good works. Apostle Paul begins this chapter with strong words – “*You were dead ...*”. In other words, all human beings are born spiritually dead toward God. We all know what death is; there is nothing a dead person can do and nothing a dead person desires. Because of sin, which is our nature, we all are dead toward God. There are so many religions in the world teaching and doing what *they* think will make God accept them. However, only God determines how a person is accepted, which is, by His *grace* (v.8) in Christ. ‘Jesus said..., “*I am the way ... No one comes to the Father except through me*” (Jhn.14:6).

To speak of grace necessarily, means there is nothing a person contributes. If there is something we do, then we cannot speak about grace. Only believing in Jesus (*trusting that Jesus lived a perfect righteous life for you, that He paid your death penalty on the cross, and that He rose back to life to bring you into life*) will give you eternal life. Even your trust is given to you from God (v.8)! Therefore, no matter what you do, whether religious duties or good deeds for others, your deeds contribute *nothing* to salvation. What a relief! Now that you belong to God by grace, show your gratitude to Him by obedience (v.10) to His will (*found in Scripture*), including kindness to others.



**Challenge:** *Understand your deeds not as purchasing your salvation, but as the fruit of salvation.*



**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, please increase my trust in Your grace so that I can trust Jesus more each day and do good, to please You and help others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025. Suffering for doing good. Text: 1 Peter 3:10-17**

Apostle Peter is writing to believers who are living in different parts of the Roman world (*and to us*). This chapter speaks about practical Christian living and experience, as well as about theology. In *verses 10-12*, Peter quotes from *Psalms 34*, which is a call to live righteously. This will bring blessing from Yahweh (v.12), and sinful living will bring God's curse. This does not mean that doing good will buy an entrance into eternal life with God (*heaven*). David and Peter are writing to people who are already in the visible aspect of God's covenant. These writers are encouraging us to live properly before God. However, consistent, unrepentant, sinful living only proves that a person was never part of God's grace, and condemnation is deserved.

Peter lived in a generally immoral society as we do today; so, Christians should



have expected that others would notice. While some mocked, some others persecuted believers. A few of the disciples likely quit following Jesus (*Mrk.4:16-17*), so Peter encourages his readers not to fear but to persevere and be prepared to give the reason for their good behaviour. Instead of fearing others, in our hearts we are to “...honour Christ the Lord as holy...” (v.15). That means we are to acknowledge Jesus as the only Master over us, and we are to serve Him and only be concerned about what He thinks about our behaviour. *As you mature in your love for the Lord Jesus, your good deeds will grow with you.*



**Question:** *Do you fear, or are you embarrassed by, what others think about your faith in Christ? You are only accountable to Jesus, so live for Him alone.*



**Prayer:** Our Father, please grant to us Your grace to persevere in my service to my Lord Jesus, just as He persevered in His service to You. In His name, I pray. Amen.

### Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025. Trust in Yahweh, and do good. Text: Psalm 37:1-8

King David wrote this *Psalm*, but we are not told the specific circumstances. But that information is not necessary for a proper application. *Psalm 37* is about how believers should handle the natural warfare between the righteous (*those who belong to God's grace in Christ*) and the unrighteous (*those without God*). Ever since Adam's sin, that battle is an ever-present part of this life. God promised to put enmity (*hostility*) between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent (*Gen.3:15*). For the ungodly person, this life and this earth are all they have, they know it instinctively, so they do whatever it takes to cleave to whatever they can get. That includes mistreating or overturning the righteous, if necessary.

In today's passage, God is giving us eleven actions to do when we face opposition. Approximately six of those things deal with the spiritual heart, which means they are God-ward. The heart things are: Do not fret; Do not be envious; Trust Yahweh; Delight in Him; Commit to Him; Be Still. Because the heart is a driving force in our actions, difficulties with unrighteousness means that we must first turn our hearts toward God. The greatest example of that is when Jesus entrusted Himself into His Father's loving hands for the purpose of accomplishing redemption. The Father then put Jesus into the wicked hands of unrighteous men. Regarding the command we are given to do good, we must always begin by entrusting ourselves to God.



**Challenge question:** *When you are faced with trouble of any kind, do you first go to God or do you first trust your own strength or some other source? Waiting upon God is commanded, is Christ-like, is wise, and avoids more difficulties.*



**Prayer:** Father in Heaven, please teach me to trust in You at all times, which is the greatest good to do. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

**Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Control what you say. Text: Psalm 34:11-13**

The first verse in our reading today connects “fear” with doing good, particularly regarding what a person says. To fear the LORD (*Yahweh*) is more than just being afraid, which is true and applicable; but the meaning can also include trust and service (*obedience*). In our verses there is a definite connection between what one says and what one does. That is because our words are from our hearts, and our hearts reflect our character. Jesus said, “...*For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks*” (*Mat. 12:34*). So, for today’s reading, to fear (*obey*) *Yahweh* means to control one’s words, which simultaneously means to control one’s behaviour.

Much can be expected from a person by what they say, because speech reveals what is in a person’s heart; reveals a person’s character, loves, motives, etc. If a person’s words are unwholesome, worldly minded, perverse, etc., the person will not be interested in doing things that are pleasing to God. The opposite is also true about good words. When the people of Judea heard Jesus teach, they said, no one ever spoke like this man (*Jhn. 7:46*). We, the followers of Christ, should be known for good words and works. Controlling what we say is a matter of self-control, which is also necessary for doing what is good. Growing in good works is directly tied to controlling speech (*Ps. 34:13-14*). Believer, grow in good speech!



**Question:** *Do your words glorify God? Are your words a blessing to others? Do your words prove that you belong to Christ? What are your words when you are alone; when you are angry, etc.? Will your words please God when He judges them (Mat. 12:36-37)?*



**Prayer:** Good Father, I know my words are often displeasing to You. Please increase in me what is necessary to speak what is right. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

**Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Trust in the LORD with all your heart.****Text: Proverbs 3:1-8**

We learn in *verse 1* that this section is written by a father writing to his son. The father is giving wise and godly instruction about life so that the son’s life will be profitable, both materially and spiritually. But all of us must see these thoughts as the Word of God, the Father to us, His sons and daughters. Wisdom begins with the fear of *Yahweh* (*v. 7 and 9:10*). Therefore, to go through life without God is foolishness. We are also told to keep love and faithfulness close to us (*v. 3*), not only as a part of our character, but because that is a description of God’s covenantal relationship with us – love, faithfulness. So, we must be in covenant with God.

To be in covenant with God is to be in an eternal loving and saving relationship with Him. When we confess our sins to Him and repent, God the Holy Spirit has

united us to Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection delivers us from sin. Thus, for us to grow in good works, the best good work we can do is to mature in the fear of God, in His wisdom, and in knowledge of Him. Jesus is our wisdom (*1 Cor. 1:30*), and the Father gives us the Holy Spirit of wisdom (*Eph. 1:17*). From this will flow all other good things to do; whatever we do will be formed by God's wisdom. If we keep close to God, then success is guaranteed, as God defines success.



**Question:** *In your heart, do you want wisdom from God, and do you want to do good works that will be pleasing to God? That can only happen if you are in union with Jesus Christ.*



**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, I want to do good deeds that please You. Please, grant me Your wisdom. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

### **Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Be slow to anger. Text: Proverbs 14:29**

There is a literary “tool” used in this verse, which is common in the book of Proverbs, called *antithetical parallelism*. It means, the first half of a verse and the second half are saying the same thing (*parallel*) about a theme (*thetical*), but using opposite wording (*anti-*). It is a helpful method in teaching and emphasizing a theme. In this verse, the theme is about the wisdom of controlling anger. In a bad situation, being slow to get angry (*being patient*) will prove that a person has wisdom that will lead to understanding a disappointing situation. However, if a person is quick to “explode” when angry, then there will be no understanding of the cause and effect of a disappointment.

This does not mean anger is wrong. Every day God is angry about unrighteousness (*Ps. 7:11*); Jesus was justly angry with those who turned God's temple into a market, and He was right to respond violently (*Jhn. 2:13-16*). The wisdom about anger is seen in how one handles it; namely: do you blow-up or are you patient? When something bad happens to you, especially if it involves another person, blowing-up shows a disinterest in facts and truth, and it dishonours Jesus Christ, who is Transforming you. When you are in a situation that could anger you greatly, but you respond calmly, you have clear thinking with godliness. When you understand that God has planned all things, even bad ones, *waiting patiently for Him to act is a good work that honours Him*.



**Challenge question:** *Apostle James writes, man's anger does not produce the righteousness of God. Is that true of how you handle anger?*



**Prayer:** Father in Heaven, as You know I usually do not handle anger well. Please give me the grace I need to honour You in the way I respond to disappointing situations. For the honour of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



**Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025. You are salt and light to the world.****Text: Matthew 5:13-16**

Chapters 5, 6, and 7 together are called the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is sitting on a mountain side, teaching His disciples. In today's passage, Jesus is telling them how essential they are to the world because of their discipleship to Him. As those who belong to Christ, we are salt and light to the world. We know salt can be used as a kind of spice to enhance the flavor of foods, but salt can also preserve meat and can prevent infection. Light allows people to see. Without light there is only darkness, which prevents people from seeing. In this sermon, Jesus did not explain His symbolic language, but He used these common things to illustrate spiritual truth.

Christ's disciples are spiritually united to Him, so that His life, death, and resurrection work in them and through them by the power of God the Holy Spirit. In our interactions with the world, we must be salt. We have the message of the Gospel of Christ, a message which, if received, will kill sin and save people from domination to eternal life, by the grace of God. When the Gospel light shines, people will see; meaning, they will understand their need for the Redeemer. We should note *verse 16*, the world will detect a believer's light by what he does. The message of peace with God in Christ is magnificent. There is no greater good work to do than to bring people to Jesus Christ.



**Question:** *Jesus said light is not to be hidden. Are you hiding the light of Christ in your life so that others will know nothing from you about redemption?*



**Prayer:** Our Father, please give me grace and courage to shine the light of Jesus Christ. In His name, I pray. Amen.

**Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Give offerings and alms secretly. Text: Matthew 6:1-4**

This chapter is the second in the Sermon on the Mount. In the previous passage Jesus teaches us to love our enemies. God the Father does that, when He brings the sunshine and rain to those who are evil, just as He does to those who belong to His grace. Jesus now speaks about giving. God gives because He loves. Love is concerned about the well-being of others, so giving must *not* be for the purpose of receiving praise from others, as Jesus said (6:1). It is always appropriate to give glory to God (5:16) but not to self. Proper love and giving never seek some benefit in return. Giving from love is only concerned about the other person.

In *Mat. 5:45,48*, Jesus tells us we must be like our Heavenly Father. Therefore, our giving must be from hearts of love, which means that we must give for the well-being of others. There are also things we must *not* do in our giving. We must not give for the purpose of receiving praise from others, nor for getting anything in

return. Also, we must not give because we are trying to buy our way into heaven, nor should we give simply because Scripture commands us to. We must give from transformed hearts that love God and others. Our motives must be right. Just as Jesus gave His all for His Father and His people, let us grow in the grace of giving.



**Challenge:** *You might find giving very difficult, perhaps because you have little income. God has unlimited resources, and you can be assured that He loves you and will meet your needs.*



**Prayer:** Father in heaven, giving can be difficult. Please give me the grace to give from a heart of love for You and for others. Amen.

### Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Do what Jesus says. Text: Matthew 7:24-27

This *chapter* is the last *chapter* of Christ's "Sermon on the Mount." Today's passage closes the Sermon with the exhortation to Jesus' listeners to *do* what He just said to them. There will be people, like the ones in *verses 21-23*, who think they know Jesus, but Jesus will say they do not! That is because *they did not do what He taught*. Jesus began this Sermon (5:3) by saying that the poor in spirit (*those who know they have nothing to give to God*) *are the very ones who will receive blessing (please note Luk.18:13-14)*. Those who understood that would have opened their ears, minds, and hearts to receive blessing and salvation from God.

Jesus is not speaking literally about stormy weather (v.24). There are different storms that come against believers. Generally, as for all people, there are the difficulties of health, finances, relationships, etc. Those who trust Jesus for salvation will move through them with Him and with peace of mind. There are also the storms of Christians, particularly as they live in a world with people and systems that are against them, but they are safe in God's hands. Then there is the storm of judgment day. Those who are fixed upon Christ will not be disturbed by the judgment, because Jesus already took that for them. One of the best good things you can do is trust, love, and obey Jesus Christ.



**Question:** *Are you trusting Jesus for salvation. Are you fixed upon Him so that you are safe from being condemned on the day of judgment?*



**Prayer:** Father God, please fix me upon Jesus and save me on the day of judgment. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

### Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025. What I do have I give you. Text: Acts 3:1-8

Peter and John were going to the Temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour, which is 3 pm. They were not going because Jewish worship was still true. Once

Jesus resurrected, everything about the Temple worship ended. Peter and John were going to the Temple because they knew many God-fearing people would be there, and *the apostles were there for evangelism*. When they arrived, they saw a man born lame. He was hoping to beg some small bit of money from them; but, instead, he received something much greater, a healing. The purpose of this miracle was not to establish a pattern for Christ's Church throughout the ages. God healed the man because it would authenticate the apostles as true messengers of Christ.

The healing of the lame man was not just physical but spiritual – the man gave praise to God, not to the apostles (3:8-9). The healing also symbolizes healing the soul. We all are spiritually lame, unable to go to God for salvation. Indeed, we naturally have no desire to. But when the Holy Spirit gives a person birth from spiritual death to life, the person *will* trust Jesus as Saviour. The world is suffering under the bondage of sin, and Christians are the *only* ones who know the escape. All other religions are false, because they make the person the worker of salvation. You possess the greatest good to do for others, bringing them to Jesus Christ through the message of who He is and what He did.



**Question:** *As you mature as a Christian, are you also increasing in telling others about salvation in Christ?*



**Prayer:** Our Father, we love growing closer to You. Please use me to bring others to Your salvation and love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025. We have hope, certainty. Text: Romans 5:3-6**

In the previous chapter, Apostle Paul has been explaining how Abraham exemplifies salvation by faith. There were some important times in Abraham's life when God made promises to him, promises difficult to believe; but Abraham had faith, trusted, believed in God's promises. Sometimes, Abraham had to wait long; but Scripture records that Abraham's faith was put to his credit as righteousness. That brings Paul to our passage today, and he begins by emphasizing that justification is by *faith, trust* in what Jesus *alone* has accomplished for us. Faith, belief, trust in the salvation that God provides is what justifies us, is what makes us acceptable to God. It is *not* the good things we do that justify us before God.

Apostle Paul also mentions "hope." *Our hope in eternal life with God is not based on our good deeds but on Christ*. Faith alone provides hope, but what is hope? Hope, as it is used in the Bible, is not a wish. Hope is a *sure* and *certain* trust in God's promises; hope is *confidence* that God will do what He said He will do. And we know this to be true because God's love, by the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, has been poured out upon us. He dwells within us. We live in a world that has no hope to give. As you mature in hope, the greatest good you can do is to



glorify God by bringing true hope to others.



***Do you know:*** Jesus Christ lived a perfect life for you, died to pay the penalty for your sins, and returned to life to give you the confidence of entering heaven.



**Prayer:** God our Father, thank You for the hope You have given me in Christ, through the Holy Spirit. Strengthen me to share this hope with others. Amen.

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Think with sober judgment. Text: Romans 12:1-3**

Apostle Paul has just finished writing three chapters about the nation of Israel and their standing in God's plan of salvation. He then gives a doxology, words of glory and praise to God, because of His greatness (11:33-36). We are then commanded and encouraged not to think according to the world's pattern. Interestingly, Paul commands us not to think more highly of self and to think soberly about one's self. In other words, we are commanded to be humble. Choosing humility is very much contrary to the world's thinking. The world's view is that a person must serve self-first, before anyone else; must put self-interests first and push to have those desires achieved.

When we consider giving doxology to God, or living contrary to the world's way, or living a humble life of service to others, the Lord Jesus Christ is the only Person who has lived that way. Everything He did was for the well-being of others and for the glory of His Father. Jesus sent His Holy Spirit to make us more like Christ. There cannot be a better life for a person than to live humbly, like Christ, for God's glory. Though we will never reach that level of humility, being humble is something believers are able to do. It is not easy, and we will fail daily. Nonetheless, *choosing humility is a constant effort that must be decided and applied many times each day.*



***Challenge:*** As you read the four Gospel books, take note of Christ's humility and apply His example into your life.



**Prayer:** Father in Heaven, please give me grace every day to live humbly, as Jesus did. Amen.

**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Do not take vengeance. Text: Romans 12:18-21**

You will notice that this passage is from the same chapter as yesterday's meditation. Apostle Paul is continuing his instruction about transformed thinking, which is to have a transforming influence on the lives of believers. In today's passage,

Paul's focus is on vengeance. Vengeance means punishment against someone who acts wrongly. Vengeance is proper when it is executed through legal channels by the appropriate authority. However, the problem Paul is addressing is when an individual tries to hurt someone who has caused an injury. We know in ancient Israel such acts of revenge were common (e.g., *Num.35:12*). But God, through Moses, and now Paul, puts in place commands against improper vengeance. In fact, for personal vengeance, God is the One who will bring justice (*Rom.12:19*).

Jesus is our great example in this. He always entrusted Himself to His Father's will, whatever it might be, even when opposed by enemies. Even when Jesus knew He was going to be falsely arrested, accused, and executed, Jesus prayed, "...not my will but yours be done" (*Luk.22:42*), and "...Father forgive them..." (*Luk.23:34*). Everyone knows what it is like to be wronged, and we all know the feeling of wanting to return harm, to "get even." But that is not the way a child of God behaves or thinks. *Our desires and judgments can be very wrong*, so, we must put in God's hands justice and vengeance against our personal wrongs. This is a great good deed, because it fulfills the second great command of loving others.



**Challenge:** *If you really believe that God and His promises are real, then give to Him the injustices you received. One day you will be vindicated.*



**Prayer:** Our Father, please give us grace to wait upon You to provide justice in Your perfect time. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025. We have the Spirit of God. Text: 1 Corinthians 2:6-13**

Paul's first letter to the Corinthian believers (*perhaps the second, cf. 5:9*) is very practical, which makes it a helpful book for our theme of growing in doing good. In the passage today, the focus is on wisdom. Without the wisdom of or/from God, doing the good that God accepts is not possible. Paul is teaching that godly wisdom is gotten only from the Holy Spirit (v.12), and the Spirit of God knows what pleases God. Here Paul is saying, *a saving relationship with God is gotten only by trusting the message of Jesus Christ being crucified to pay our sin penalty*. Such a plan is foolish to unbelievers, but for us, who have wisdom from the Holy Spirit, it is the power for salvation.

Wisdom from the Holy Spirit can also be applied to doing the good things that God requires of us. Worldly wisdom rejects biblical revelation in its thinking. This is foolish because God in Christ is the Designer, Creator, and Sustainer of everything. Therefore, worldly wisdom is shallow because it is concerned about how a good deed will serve self-interest – "How will this deed help me," or "What will others think of me if I do this?," etc. That is not the way the people of God live. *As we mature, we increasingly do everything with the aim of pleasing God,*

with the aim of doing good for others, and less and less are we concerned with what pleases self.



**Challenge:** *When you do anything, remember to think first if it is something that will please God, which can only be known from His Word.*



**Prayer:** Father in heaven, please give me more grace each day, so that I will honour Christ my Saviour. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## **Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Abounding in the work of the Lord.**

### **Text: 1 Corinthians 15:58**

This chapter has often been called the Resurrection chapter because that is Paul's focus – explaining the importance of the resurrection. If Jesus Christ had not been raised from the dead, then we would have no possibility of gaining eternal life. If Jesus was still in the grave, then He was not righteous and would not provide righteousness for us. This would also mean He did not pay our death penalty, which means we will be condemned. But Jesus did rise, just as He promised (*Jhn.2:19, 21*). His righteousness is put to our accounts, and our sin-penalty is paid. That gives us complete certainty that we will rise with Him (*1 Cor.15:23; Jhn.11:25; 14:2-3*). But resurrection is not only about the future. *We are raised now (Eph.2:6).*

Because those who belong to Christ are raised now, our lives should be resurrected lives, lives that are no longer according to this worldly standard. Paul writes that we should be “abounding in the work of the Lord.” That does not mean we all must be full-time evangelists, pastors, etc., although telling others about the Gospel is necessary (*Rom.10:17*). Doing the work of the Lord means we must submit to Christ's Lordship and obey His commands, especially the greatest command of love – loving God and loving others, which touches every aspect and every moment of our lives. *We are to grow and improve in loving.* Also, generally, the work of the Lord means to obey Scripture, so the maturing believer must be reading and applying God's Word every day.



**Challenge:** *Are you making a good effort to read God's Word every day? If not, you cannot know God's will, so you cannot submit to Christ's Lordship.*



**Prayer:** Gracious Father, please give me the strength to make time to read Your Word each day, so that I can know and obey Christ the Lord. In His name I pray. Amen.

## **Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Christ lives in me. Text: Galatians 2:19-20**

Apostle Paul planted the church in Galatia, but soon afterward, they began to move away from what Paul taught. Paul's message is about salvation by God's



grace alone, accomplished by Jesus Christ alone, which a person receives by faith alone, a faith that God has to give. *There is nothing a person can do to make himself acceptable to God.* When Paul left the Galatian region, false Christian teachers came in and contradicted what Paul had taught. They taught the error that a person must first be circumcised and obey the ceremonial laws of Moses (*i.e. become a Jew first*) and then become a disciple of Christ. The Apostle writes this letter to re-fit the readers back on the right course.

Verse 20 has strong implications for how Christians are to live a life of doing good, which is defined by God in Scripture. If we have been “crucified with Christ” (*spiritually, but also in actual reality*), then we are no longer to live as we did before. The life we now live is according to our union with Jesus Christ, “*Christ lives in me.*” The deeds we now do in the body must reflect that union, must show Jesus working through us. Jesus said, “...*believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me...*” (Jhn.10:38). So, we who belong to Christ must do good works that show the world that He is in us and we are in Him.



**Challenge:** *There is a proverb about computers: garbage in, garbage out. In other words, the information that comes out depends on the data that goes in. If Jesus Christ lives in a person, He will be seen in that person's life. Is that true of you?*



**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, Your Word says that Jesus lives in me. I want to live that way. Please strengthen me to do that. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025. The fruit of the Spirit. Text: Galatians 5:19-26**

As in all his letters, Apostle Paul adds practical living to the Galatian letter that is full of theology. In any belief system, what a person does is based on what he believes. Paul has been teaching faith, trusting *only* Jesus *alone* for salvation, which does not mean a believer is free to live any way he wants. *We are expected and commanded to live as the Lord Jesus Christ lived.* We should note that Paul describes proper Christian living as “*fruit of the Spirit*”. If a person is united to Jesus Christ, then the person has been given the Holy Spirit, who dwells within, and the Spirit will produce “*fruit*” (*not fruits*), which is God-like character, thinking, living, etc.

For this month of meditations about doing good, and while considering a passage about living right before God, we must remember that our right living does **not** earn salvation. The righteous accomplishments of Jesus Christ are put to our accounts, and that is what makes us acceptable to God. As followers of Jesus Christ, our deeds are works of love and gratitude, which are empowered by God. The items which Paul lists are not a complete list, but he has written for us two

main categories: **a heart** converted by God (*love, joy, peace*); and **life toward others** (*patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*). Of course, all of life, all the fruit of the Spirit and more, is toward God.



**Challenge:** *The fruit of the Spirit is one whole piece, but some parts will be stronger than others. Pray for grace to mature in all areas that are pleasing to God.*



**Prayer:** O God our Father, please grant to us increasing grace to produce the fruit of Your Holy Spirit, in every way that pleases You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025. God will complete His work in you.**

**Text: Philippians 1:1-6**

Apostle Paul writes this letter while he is in prison (v.7), and yet this letter has been called a letter of joy (4:4). In spite of the difficult circumstances; the general mood is joyful, and the introduction of this letter sets a joyful tone. Paul begins by speaking a benediction (*good word*), a blessing from God upon his readers (1:2). Paul then tells the Philippian believers that he prays for them regularly. They do not have a particular troublesome situation that needs prayer. Rather he tells them his prayers for them are made with joy. The reason for Paul's joy is that the Christians have partnered with him. Paul means the Philippians have given him financial help for his church planting work.

Paul now tells the readers of his confidence that *God will complete His work in them; bring them to maturity*. This implies that God will never leave His people (Heb.13:5), because maturity is a life-long process. Another implication (*an obvious one*) is that believers still *need* to grow, to maturity; that we are still sinners and must be strengthened by grace to put away sin. Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection have made us acceptable to God to guarantee eternal life to us. But then, the Father gave His Holy Spirit to mature us in Christ. Maturing in the faith includes growth in doing what God requires of us, which is to love Him and to love others.



**Challenge:** *Does it seem like you are **not** maturing? Perhaps it is because you are not living obediently. Live like a person who is mature and you will likely discover that God has been maturing you.*



**Prayer:** Our Father, I do want to mature as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Please give me grace to live as a spiritual adult. Amen.

**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Rejoice in the Lord; Do not be anxious.****Text: Philippians 4:6-8**

Here, at the end of Paul's letter, we get some very practical instruction, as always, but this is particularly about our relationship with the Lord. We are first to "*rejoice in the Lord.*" There are so many people and circumstances that will cause sadness; cause our spiritual hearts and our faith to waver and weaken, perhaps even to fail. The evil in the world gives us no reason to rejoice. But we are called to rejoice in the Lord *always*, and He gives us every reason to rejoice. When we consider what God in Christ has done for us, nothing in this world can stop us from rejoicing. Whatever difficulty comes our way, if our thoughts and affections are focused on Christ, we will rejoice.

We are also encouraged **not** to be anxious. As was just mentioned, there are so many things in this world to cause us anxiety. But, again, our focus must then turn to the Lord. God is the Creator and Sustainer of absolutely everything, and everything that happens in our lives come to us because He has ordained them (e.g., *Isa.45:7; Act.4:27-28*). So, when something bad happens to you, or you find yourself in a bad situation, remember that God, since before creation, had decided that circumstance for you, so you do not need to fear nor weaken in faith. *If Jesus took care of the greatest problem for you (your condemnation), you have every reason to rejoice and never be anxious.*



**Challenge:** *When any trouble comes to you, you can either be anxious or be bold. The difference is in your understanding of who God is.*



**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, You are great indeed. When trouble comes to me, turn my heart and eyes to You and help me rejoice. For the honour of Christ. Amen.

**Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Bearing fruit and increasing in the knowledge of God.****Text: Colossians 1:9-13**

This letter to the believers in Colossae is written by Apostle Paul; but the church was started by Epaphras, Paul's associate (1:7). Epaphras gave an encouraging report to Paul about the new church. And Paul now writes to them about certain false doctrines that must be refuted. The false teachers will try to convince them that salvation is gotten by being circumcised, by following the dietary laws of Judaism, by beating the body into submission, as well as other false philosophies. Paul reminds them that there is nothing a person can do to make himself acceptable to God, because humanity is naturally anti-God. Salvation is only by God's grace through Jesus Christ (1:19; 2:13-14).

Paul informs the readers that he is praying for them, and he specifically mentions

the purpose of his prayers: "...knowledge of His (**God's**) will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding". (v.9). This is so that they will be able to discern the true doctrines from false teachings they were receiving. This knowledge will then influence them to right living, "...bearing fruit..." (v.10). God wants us to live properly before Him, but false teaching will naturally result in wrong living for God. Closely tied to that is "...increasing in the knowledge of God" (v.10). God is infinite and eternal, and our knowledge of Him will grow eternally. Knowing God and increasing in our intimacy with Him is the greatest good we can do.



**Challenge:** *Even in marriage husbands and wives are always learning something new about each other. So, it is with increased knowledge of God. Are you growing in that area by daily reading and studying His Word?*



**Prayer:** Almighty God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I want to know You more. Give me grace to spend time each day in Your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025. Bearing with one another, forgiving each other.**

**Text: Colossians 3:12-14**

Apostle Paul has been teaching some very important doctrines, especially that there is nothing we can do to become acceptable to God. Salvation is only by God's grace alone. In our passage today the general overarching theme is love (v.14), but there are two specifics he mentions. *First*, we are to bear with one another. This is connected to the word "patience" in *verse 12*. There will always be people in our lives who are difficult to associate with (*and each of us at times are difficult to others*). Such people are not to be avoided, especially fellow Christians. Imagine what an annoyance the disciples were to Jesus, with all their sin and character flaws. But He graciously bore with them, and we must bear with others too.

*Second*, we are commanded to forgive. Forgiveness means that we do not exact punishment on, nor hold resentment against someone who has sinned against us. This is very difficult for everyone, but Apostle Paul reminds us that *believers must forgive, because God has forgiven us*. In fact, Jesus even paid the punishment for us so that we could be forgiven by God. Jesus taught that if we refuse to forgive others, God will not forgive us (*Mat.6:15*). That does not mean that salvation depends on forgiving others, but when we forgive, it is proof of our salvation. Two of the great deeds of maturing in faith are: bearing with the weaknesses of others; and forgiving those who sin against us.



**Challenge:** *God's forgiveness of you is perfect. You must forgive others, not just in word, but from the heart. You need grace to do this! Pray for it.*



**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, I am most grateful for Your forgiveness in Jesus. Please give me grace to forgive others from the heart. In Jesus' name. Amen.



**Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025. Supplications, prayers, intercessions.****Text: 1 Timothy 2:1-6**

Timothy was one of Apostle Paul's spiritual sons, a close intimate disciple (1:2), whom Paul left in Ephesus (1:3) to serve there as a gospel minister and pastor. In our passage today, our emphasis will be on prayer. At its most basic level, prayer means talking with God. In prayer we want to worship Him, confess our sins and ask for forgiveness, and express our gratitude for His many gifts and grace to us, His people in Christ. Also in prayer, according to the focus verse, we want to pray for others: "*supplications, prayers, intercessions.*" God has planned all things since before the creation of anything, but He carries out His work through the prayers of His saints – believers in Christ.

The three words; supplications, prayers, and intercessions, are synonyms, but there are also differences. "Prayers" is the more general term, which is mentioned in the paragraph above. "Supplications" are requests a person makes about specific concerns or needs, as when Jesus was in the garden requesting that His Father remove from Him the necessity of crucifixion. The term "intercessions" is when a Christian stands (*spiritually*) with someone and pleads with God about that person's concerns. All forms of prayer are difficult. Prayer requires a believer regularly put away distractions, even proper activities, and *be alone in the presence of God, having God's full attention*. A great good work of maturing Christians is to go to their Heavenly Father in prayer every day.



**Challenge:** *When you pray, God gives you His full attention. However, do you give God your full attention?*



**Prayer:** Father God, I want to develop a strong pray-er habit, so that I give You my full attention. Please give me grace to that end. Amen.

**Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025. Godliness is of value in every way.****Text: 1 Timothy 4:7-8**

There are many things a pastor, especially a new, young pastor, must know and do before such things become automatic for him. Apostle Paul has been giving Timothy (*the new, young pastor in Ephesus*) some very important advice on what to do and teach. Today's reading emphasizes godliness in every way, in all things. Godliness means that deeds (*including words, thoughts, affections, etc.*) are done the way God Himself would do them, done so that God is glorified by them. It is very easy to "*compartmentalize*" spirituality/godliness, meaning some things are for God and some things are not. But godliness is for every aspect of life, even as God is the Lord over every aspect of life.

As those who are saved by God's grace in Jesus Christ, we are now called to live a life that reflects Christ in everything. We are followers of Jesus, so we do what He would do, according to Scripture. Paul compares spiritual discipline to physical training (1.8), which we all understand. When a person's body is not exercised, it becomes weak, prone to illness, even an early death. The same is true of spiritual exercise. If a person continues to do things without thinking about the Lord and what He expects of us, then we become spiritually weaker and weaker. As Christians mature, they should be getting stronger so that every part of life is lived for the glory of God and for His pleasure.



**Challenge:** *We usually live in **ungodly** ways because we do not want to feel the pain that often comes with obedience. Pray for grace to push through the pain, for God's glory.*



**Prayer:** *Father in Heaven, I do want to live in a godly way in all things. Please give me the grace to desire and do that. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.*

**Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025. All Scripture is breathed out by God.**

**Text: 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

This statement by Apostle Paul is one of the most important passages in the Bible about the nature of Scripture. Some scholars will say that not everything in the Bible is God's Word; but genuine believers know otherwise. The Holy Spirit, through Paul (2 Pet. 1:21; 3:15-16), says **ALL** of Scripture is God's Word, all of it is God breathed, God's very breathe. Jesus said, even the least stroke of the pen is God's Law (Mat. 5:18). The Holy Spirit used the different writers according to their personalities, cultures, geography, etc., but all of it is the Word of God. It should be noted that the Bible is not Scripture because the church said it is. God's people recognize Scripture as being God's Word.

Let us see how the Scripture is profitable to us, and not just profitable but absolutely necessary. *First* is teaching, which is the giving of knowledge about God, humanity, salvation by grace in Christ alone, etc. *Second* is reproof, meaning Scripture is the only source for proper warnings and confrontations about error and truth concerning God and His Will. *Third* is correction. When a person has been shown his error, Scripture is the source for putting him in the right place for knowing God and His Will, especially about salvation. *Fourth* is training in righteousness, which means Scripture is the standard for living all of life as God requires (*refer again to yesterday's meditation*). *The good work of the maturing believer is understanding God's Word.*



**Challenge:** *You must believe every Word of the Bible is God's Word. If not, then none of it is, because who decides what parts are or are not?*



**Prayer:** God our Father, we do believe Your Bible is entirely Your Word. Please strengthen me in that knowledge. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

**Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Solid doctrine is for the mature. Text: Hebrews 5:11-14**

The writer of Hebrews (*identity not given*) is communicating with Christians who were converted from Judaism, but who are considering returning to Judaism. Therefore, this letter is about examining Judaism and the Temple worship and comparing it to the superiority of Jesus Christ's person and work. In today's passage, the writer scolds his readers for being sluggish of hearing, meaning they are slow to understand these important things, especially since these things are about salvation. The readers have not yet fully grasped the basic principle that the *Temple and its requirements were only symbols pointing to the reality, which is Jesus Christ* – who He is and what He did. Those old things provide no true benefit.

So, what are some of the doctrines a mature believer will understand? In this letter we learn that Jesus is a divine Person, who created and sustains all things; that everything has been put under His authority; and that He took upon Himself human flesh, so that He could die as the perfect human sacrifice for His people's sin. While Moses was God's faithful servant, Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son, and He owns all things. Lastly, Jesus is our real Great High Priest, who brings His real human sacrificial blood into the real heavenly Tabernacle, blood which really cleanses away human sin. These are some of the good things a mature Christian will believe.



**Question:** *Examine your faith. Are you trusting the real Jesus Christ to be your Saviour, or are you trusting your participation in outward religious actions and things?*



**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, by Your grace, I am trusting Your eternal Son, Jesus, to be my Saviour. In His name I pray. Amen.

**Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Stir up one another to love and good works.**

**Text: Hebrews 10:19-25**

We look again at the letter to the Hebrews. What is especially important to learn from this chapter is the frequency of Jewish sacrifices. Specifically animal sacrifices were made every year (vv.1-2) to “*cleanse*” the people from sin. There were daily sacrifices as well (v.11), but the writer here is pointing to the annual

Day of Atonement sacrifice. The annual frequency proves that it was not effective, only symbolic of the perfect sacrifice to come at some future day. But when Jesus, the real and perfect human sacrifice, completed His work on the cross, He did it once, truly effectively, and then sat down on the throne (v.12). *We can now draw near to God with real confidence* (v.22).

In the midst of this discussion about the true cleansing from Christ's sacrifice, believers are commanded "*to stir up one another to love and good works.*" Considering the context, the love and good works must pertain to the particular doctrine about Jesus Christ. Love is concerned with another's well-being, and ensuring that fellow Christians are genuinely believing the Gospel is loving. And the good works mentioned here are the works for keeping fellow believers living the Christian life, living as true disciples of Jesus Christ. Bringing people to believe in Jesus is very important, but believers helping one another to continue in the faith is a difficult but good life-long process.



**Question:** Read again 10:25. Are you encouraging other believers to be in worship each Lord's Day? It is the loving and good thing to do. Are you in worship each Lord's Day?



**Prayer:** Dear God, my Father, thank You for what Jesus has done for me. Please give me grace to encourage fellow believers in the faith, especially in meeting together to worship You. Amen.

**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2025. The testing of your faith produces steadfastness.**

**Text: James 1:2-4**

The Apostle James (*whose Greek name is Jacob*) is the human half-brother of Jesus. James is writing this epistle (*letter*) to several different groups of Jews who are also disciples of Jesus Christ and are scattered around the Roman Empire. Because they are Christians, they are not readily accepted by the Jews in Jerusalem; and since they were Jewish, they are having difficulty in some parts of the Empire. James writes to them not only to encourage them to persevere in the faith, but also to improve upon their sanctification (*the process of becoming more like Jesus*). James will write to them about the dangers of wealth, their lack of love, holy deeds that prove the genuineness of faith, etc.

In the passage we read today, James encourages them to persevere, because steadfastness is a means (*a tool*) by which God will cause spiritual maturity. Strength, whether physical or spiritual, cannot be gotten when there is nothing pushing back. Physical strength is gained through exercise and work. *Spiritual strength is gained by standing against opposition, by resisting temptation, by*

*living obediently to God.* This is contrary to the way the world lives. The result of following Jesus, who withstood all opposition, even death on the cross, is spiritual steadfastness, spiritual perfection and completion, which is another way of saying maturity. Maturing in God's grace is a great good deed we all must pursue.



**Challenge:** *No one likes to feel the pain that comes with steadfastness. It is easier not to resist. Jesus will never leave you. Stay close to Him and push through the challenges for your good and for His glory.*



**Prayer:** Father God, please give me grace to persevere in spite of the pain. Strengthen me to go through the challenges so that I will honour the One who freely gave me eternal life. Amen.

**Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.**

**Text: James 1:19-20**

In the verse before our reading today, James writes that humanity was created by the Word of God. The spoken Word is very important in our theology about God. God created everything by His Word, by speaking all things into being (*Heb. 11:3*); He sustains creation by His Word (*Heb. 1:3*); His Scriptures are the Word of God (*2 Tim. 3:16*); saving faith comes to us by the Word of God (*Jam. 1:21*); Jesus Christ is the incarnate Word of God (*Jn. 1:1*; *Rev. 19:13*). Since it is the Word of God that brings us to faith and matures us (*2 Tim. 3:17*), we must be “*quick to hear*” but also “*slow to speak*” what we think our doctrines should be. *Everything about our beliefs must be based on Scripture alone.*

Adam and Eve refused to listen to God's Word, and they disobeyed His command. As a result, the natural inclination to listening to God was lost. That disobedience also damaged the ability for people to listen to one another. Rather, people are quick to speak and quick to get angry, which usually causes others not to hear what is being said. Such behaviour cannot produce righteousness; it cannot result in pleasing God nor produce anything of good within us. As a Christian matures, his/her ability to do the good work of listening well and speaking less must be increased, but it requires practice. When you are with others, consciously make the effort to listen carefully and speak more appropriately.



**Challenge:** *Because listening and speaking with wisdom is not in our nature, you must ask God for the grace to those ends.*



**Prayer:** Father God, open my ears to hear You and others, and give me words for the good of others and Your glory. In Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.



**Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Undefined religion. Text: James 1:27**

Today's reading is only one verse, but it is part of a letter that has a lot to say about godly living. This is important because it is very easy to think that religion (*our relationship with God*) is only a spiritual thing that does not affect our behaviour in the rest of life. Of course, our relationship with God is a spiritual thing, and we must be careful about what we believe and how we worship. But God is the Creator and Lord over *everything*, and He requires that we live *every* part of our lives according to His Law. In fact, religion that is "*pure and undefiled before God*" includes our relationships with other people, and not just our regular friends.

James says that we must befriend those who are weak. In this case he mentions orphans and widows. These two kinds of people have no one to support them or protect them. Jesus demonstrated this kind of concern (e.g., *Luk.7:11-15*), and we must also be concerned for them. Jesus was especially concerned that our sin kept us away from God, making us to be spiritual orphans. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin so that we were reconciled to our Heavenly Father. Befriending people in need is not an easy thing to do. It requires that we live outside of our comforts. Maturing in doing good requires that. Also, you will find that helping others brings a blessing to you.



**Challenge:** *There are probably opportunities for you to help those who cannot help themselves. Look for those opportunities and be a blessing to others.*



**Prayer:** Merciful Father, as You gave me mercy and aid in Jesus, please give me grace to assist others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Long for the pure spiritual milk. Text: 1 Peter 2:2**

In the verses before today's reading, Peter is talking about God's Word, and he continues that thought now, referring to Scripture as "*pure spiritual milk*." Peter encourages his readers to desire the pure spiritual milk of Scripture in the same way an infant desires the milk of his mother. You have probably seen a baby with that kind of longing. It is a full-strength, passionate desire. Everything the infant needs nutritionally is in the mother's breast milk, and the child longs for it, instinctively, according to God's design. That is how strong our desire must be for God's Word. *It is only from God's Word that we receive spiritual nourishment*, not just at the infant beginnings of salvation but throughout life.

Jesus said something interesting about Himself: My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink (*Jhn.6:55*), remembered in the Lord's Supper (*Mat.26:26-28*). Jesus Christ is the only food for our souls and for our salvation. Is there a contradiction

between Peter's exhortation and what Jesus said? No! Both are perfectly true. Everything we need to know about Jesus Christ is found only in God's Word, the Bible. Peter wants his readers to grow, and he prayed for that when he wrote that we should grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:18). Maturing in grace and in the good things we do for God can only be gotten when we continue to feed on Jesus Christ in Scripture.



**Challenge:** A baby does not lick a drop of milk and feel satisfied. Do not be satisfied with reading a single verse per day. Crave and go after more of God's Word every day.



**Prayer:** O God, please give me grace to crave Your Word every day. Please increase my longing for You every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025. Be devoted to good works. Text: 31. Titus 3:4-8

We are going to end this month's devotional messages in a way that is very similar to how we began. The theme for today is the proper relationship of good deeds and salvation. Apostle Paul states clearly that a person is saved only by the mercy and grace of God (vv.5,7); which means, salvation is *entirely* the work and gift of God. There is *nothing* a person can do to earn or deserve or buy God's blessing of salvation. God is *not* obligated to save anyone. It has to be that way, because people are naturally anti-God and unable to do or desire anything pleasing to God. Almighty God will not share with anyone the credit for salvation (Isa.48:9-11).

So, what is the place of good works, good deeds, in the Christian life? They have a very important place. Paul writes that those *who belong to Jesus Christ are to devote themselves to good works* (v.8). Once a person is brought out of spiritual death and into spiritual life, they are expected to live like the author of life, Jesus Christ. Jesus gave Himself to the love and service of God and others. Therefore, the disciples of Christ will demonstrate their salvation and love by exhibiting the fruit and proof of salvation – good deeds. No one is perfect, but there must be evidence. If there are no good deeds, then perhaps there is no salvation.



**Challenge:** Please note: good deeds do not lead to salvation. **Salvation leads to good deeds.** Please do not get that order reversed in your thinking!



**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for Your free gift of salvation. Please give me grace to live in a way that will honour You and Your Son, Jesus Christ, through whom I pray. Amen.

# THE MONTH OF **AUGUST 2025**

## **JESUS CHRIST: THE HOPE OF ALL**



*Jesus Christ is the true God (Mat: 14:33; Jhn 1:34; 11:27) and true man (Jhn 1:14). He is the Messiah, the Son of God (Mat 16:16) who was crucified and physically died on the cross and on the third day he physically rose from the dead. (1 Cor. 15:3-4) Through Jesus Christ, all who trust in Him are saved (Act. 16:31).*

*The Bible is all about Jesus Christ (Luk. 24:44), through who God planned to redeem sinful man. All prophets of Old Testament were pointing to Jesus Christ (Luk. 24:44). Jesus Christ is the only name given to man by which we must be saved (Act. 4:12).*

*Hope is the desire accompanied by expectation of or relief in fulfilment. It is the optimistic state of mind based on the expectation of positive outcomes (courtesy of internet).*

*According to the Bible dictionary, hope is not mere expectation and desire, it includes trust, confidence and refuge in the God of hope (Rom. 15:13). Jesus Christ is our hope (1Tim. 1:1).*

**Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025. Our hope is in Jesus Christ. Text: Hebrews 6:13-20**

Your hope is in the person and saving grace of Jesus Christ (vv.19-20). Just like an anchor holds a ship safely in position, your hope in Christ guarantees your safety. While the anchor of the ship goes down to the sea bed, your anchor (*Jesus Christ*) goes up into the true heavenly sanctuary. The High priest entered the most holy place once a year to stand in God's presence and atone for the sins of the people, *Jesus Christ is in God's presence at all times interceding* for us, not just once a year as it were. Put your faith in Jesus Christ and you shall not be lost.



*Meditate on verses 19-20. What encouragement do you get from these verses?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank You for being our High Priest who intercedes for us. Amen.**

**Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025. In the midst of suffering, Jesus Christ is our hope. Text: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

Despite the frequent suffering mentioned in this letter, your hope in Christ is not just wishful thinking, but a firm conviction, just like faith directed towards the future. (v.3). My hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a promise that I shall resurrect in future. *The resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us hope that in Him alone we will resurrect in future.*



*Meditate on verse 3. How are you going to respond to it?*



**Heavenly Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, I bless You because of Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025. Our hope in Christ motivates us to remain pure. Text: 1 John 3:1-3**

As a Christian, I'm in the process of becoming more and more like Christ, and this process will continue until I see Christ face to face on His second coming. Therefore, this hope of seeing Jesus Christ should motivate me to purify myself (v.3). To remain pure means to keep focused and free from the corruption of sin. Our hope in Christ is no mere wish, but unshakable confidence about our future in Christ. *Much as God purifies us, there is an action we must take to remain morally pure (1Tim. 5:22): turning away from sin.*



*Meditate on verse 3. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Our loving Father in heaven, the Lord of heaven and earth, in the name of Jesus Christ, keep me pure as You are pure. Amen.**

**Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Our hope is in God. Text: Romans 15 :7-13**

Any hope we have comes from God, it is received as a gift of God being enabled by the Holy Spirit (v.13). It is important to note that salvation from God is attributed to the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit. As a child of God, *desire for supernatural hopefulness as directed by the Holy Spirit.*



*Meditate on verse 13. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, may You fill us with all joy and peace and bind us in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Without Christ you have no hope of seeing God. Text: Ephesians 2:11-22**

In your former natural unclean condition, you did not have any hope of ever fellowshiping with the eternal God (v.12). You were a stranger to the covenant of promise. Much as God had revealed Himself to all humanity in nature and the conscience, you as a Gentile had suppressed the truth you knew, instead, worshipped idols. You were without God in this world. But in Christ, *you can now fellowship with God and have hope of eternal life* and be in the presence of the Almighty God forever!



*Meditate on verses 12-13. What is God teaching you in these verses?*



**Our loving Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank You for giving us hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Amen**

**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Jesus Christ is the hope of glory of God. Text: Romans 5:1-5**

Our hope is the assurance of something not yet fully experienced, but quite different from uncertain, wishful thinking (v.2). *Through Christ, we have peace with God* and the promise that we will be glorified and perfected at the last day. Therefore, our hope in Jesus Christ is not in vain.



*Meditate on verse 2. What are you learning from this verse?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank You for Jesus Christ through whom we obtained access by faith into grace. Amen.**



**Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Salvation gives us things to hope for.****Text: Romans 8:18-25**

While we are saved by faith in Christ, our salvation should be accompanied by hope (v.24). And our hope in God through Jesus Christ cannot be frustrated or fail to keep His promise. We hope for new bodies, new heaven and new earth, eternal family, rest and rewards. All these and many more are hoped for through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



*Meditate on verse 24. What are you learning from this verse?*



**Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank You for the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025. We are victorious in Jesus Christ.****Text: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58**

We have victory through Jesus Christ; victory over condemnation for sin and over death and grave through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (v.57). Sin brings death and the law is the power of sin; but *God has given us victory over death by forgiving our sin through faith in Jesus Christ and grace.* Law does not create sin; it reveals that every human being is sinful. Therefore, Jesus Christ is our hope in salvation.



*Meditate on verse 57. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank You for the victory we have in Jesus Christ alone. Amen.**

**Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The new covenant has greater glory than the old covenant. Text: 2 Corinthians 3:7-11**

The new covenant, established through Jesus Christ has greater glory than the old covenant (v.11). The old covenant as represented by the law of Moses was temporary, while the new covenant is enduring and more glorious. It offers forgiveness of sins, direct fellowship with God and eternal life through faith in Christ. The glory is not based on human performance, but on God's mercy and grace, and, therefore, it is permanent. The new covenant offers the glory of God to people for free through faith in Christ. It should also be noted that the Old Covenant offered forgiveness; forgiveness by grace alone, not by works; fellowship with God; eternal life with Jesus Christ, all presented with symbols that pointed to Christ.



*Meditate on verse 11. What are you learning from this verse?*



Heavenly father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the new covenant through Jesus Christ, full of grace and mercy. Amen.

**Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Your hope in Christ shields you from spiritual harm. Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

*Faith, love and hope are essential Christian traits (v.8).* You as a child of God should live in a state of alertness as you exercise faith and love as your protection and hope in Jesus Christ as a shield from all plans of the enemy against you. If your hope is in Jesus Christ, then you will not succumb to the devil's attacks on your thoughts as you put on the helmet of salvation.



*Meditate on verse 8. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



Heavenly father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to exercise faith, love and hope under the Banner of Christ. Amen.

**Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Your hope in the Lord strengthens you.**

**Text: Isaiah 40:27-31**

As you look expectantly to the Lord through Jesus Christ, you will renew your strength and give way to God's strength (v.31). If you *trust and hope in God through Jesus Christ*, you will overcome weariness and challenges of life and walk with unwavering faith.



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



Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to trust You in all circumstances. Amen.

**Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Put your hope in God. Text: Psalm 33:20-22**

God is our defender and source of joy with the power of the Holy Spirit and through faith in Jesus Christ. He inspires us to hope in His unfailing love. Our hope in Him is firm. *We trust in Jesus Christ as our advocate and defender.* Receive and trust in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



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



Heavenly father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to wait in hope for You Lord. Amen.

**Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Challenges give us confidence about the future.**

**Text: Romans 5:1-5**

To rejoice in suffering does not advocate a morbid view of life, but a joyful and victorious one. You can rejoice in suffering because you know it is not meaningless; God purposes it to provide character and character produces hope (vv.3-4). This is transformative power of suffering to you as a believer. Does this mean that we should feel happy when things are hard? No! Instead, for those in Christ, *suffering is an opportunity to move closer to God* than before, and hence grow in faith. This happens effectively when you are in Christ.



*Meditate on verses 3-4. How are you going to apply them to your life?*



**Our Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me unwavering hope in the midst of suffering. Amen.**

**Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for.**

**Text: Hebrews 11:1-3**

Faith is a confident expectation of God's promises and certainly about realities beyond our current perception (v.1). It is not wishful thinking, but acting in full confidence that *God will do as He had promised*. The true faith in God should be through His Son, and our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



*Meditate on verse 1. What is God teaching you in this verse?*



**Our loving Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to have unwavering faith in You. Amen.**

**Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The faithful love of God should give you hope.**

**Text: Lamentations 3:21-24**

In the midst of all sin and sorrow surrounding Jeremiah, he saw the faithful love of the Lord (v.21) and repented of his attitude in *verse 18*. The contentment he remembers renews the hope he had lost. *Let the faithful love of God through Jesus Christ renew your hope in God.*



*Meditate on verses 21-24. How are you going to apply them to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for Your love that endures forever. Amen.**

**Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Your living hope is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

**Text: 1 Peter 1:1-12**

You as a child of God, have a living hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ because *it is a promise for your own future resurrection* (v.3). You are united to God, our Almighty Father, through the resurrection of Christ. The new life in Christ is as a result of the abundant mercy of God, not any merit on your part. “Grace” is when someone gives something positive to an undeserving, and “mercy” is when someone withholds a negative consequence another deserves.



*Meditate on verse 3. How is this prayer encouraging you?*



**Our heavenly Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, be blessed because of the living hope we have in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Pleasing the Lord is your true hope for the future.**

**Text: Proverbs 23:17-22**

It is easy to envy those who seem to be doing well without godliness. Even some servants of God, like *Jeremiah 12.1*, were bothered by this and prayerfully enquired of God as to why! However, God promises hope and wonderful future if you remain in Him (v.18). *You remain in God only when you are in Christ*. As a believer, you should trust in the promises of God and not to despair, even in hard times.



*Meditate on verse 18. What encouragement do you get from this verse?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for Your promise that I have a long and full life. Amen.**

**Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Christ is your hope of glory. Text: Colossians 1:24-29**

Christ is your hope of glory in the sense that His presence assures you of a future life with Him on His second coming (v.27). God’s plan for redemption of man was revealed in Jesus Christ and was opened to all. God’s plan was to have Jesus Christ live in the hearts of those who believe in Him, including Gentiles. Receive Jesus Christ today if you have not yet. He is not hidden from you, if you seek Him.



*Meditate on verse 27. What is God teaching you in this verse?*



**Our loving Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank You for revealing the mystery of salvation to us. Amen.**

**Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Be strong in the Lord. Text: Psalm 31:21-24**

When we put our hope in God, He gives us strength, encouraging us to be firm in our faith (v.24). You can *effectively put your hope in God only when you are in Jesus Christ and you are obeying His Lordship.*



*Meditate on verse 24. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Almighty Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I choose to have strength in You as I wait for Your victory. Amen.**

**Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Look on to God. Text: Micah 7:7-9**

In times of trouble, have faith in God (v.7). *Wait expectantly for God, being assured that he hears and responds to your needs.* Wait on God through His Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



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



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, teach me how to totally trust You. Amen.**

**Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025. In Christ we have hope and blessings.****Text: Ephesians 1:15-23**

In Christ, we have blessings and hope from God (v.18). God is able to open our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit and have hope in Christ alone. While salvation is by grace through faith in Christ, and it happened when Jesus Christ died at the cross, eternity with God is a future gift that each believer hopes for, but will experience it in the next life. Therefore, in Christ we have the blessing of salvation and hope for eternity.



*Meditate on verse 18. What is God teaching you in this verse?*



**Almighty Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for enlightening the eyes of my heart. Amen.**

**Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025. Jesus Christ is our blessed hope. Text: Titus 2:11-15**

*The grace of God trains a Christian to live a godly life as he/she eagerly awaits the return of Jesus Christ, our blessed hope (v.13).* As a child of God, you should live in this evil world while looking forward with hope of being with Jesus Christ. These two aspects of living and looking forward are essential for any child of God living in this evil present age. You should live for God as you build His kingdom in the hearts of men and women with whatever gifts He has given you.





*Meditate on verses 11-13. How are you going to apply them to your life?*



**Heavenly father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank You for Jesus Christ, our blessed hope, Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

**Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025. In Christ you are renewed.**

**Text: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

The steadfast love of God that is a trait of His character, guarantees that He rejoices with gladness when you experience victory over sin. This establishes a loving relationship between you and God (v.17). When God purges and transforms you by His grace, then as a renewed person you acknowledge His rule and trust His name. You will effectively acknowledge and trust God through His Son and our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.



*Meditate on verse 17. What encouragement do you get from this verse?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, please quieten the wars that surround us. Give us victory. Amen.**

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The present affliction prepares us for eternal greater glory. Text: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.**

Our afflictions should not deter our faith or disillusion us. Instead, we should figure out the purpose of our suffering. It reminds us of Christ's suffering for us, keep us from pride, and give us an opportunity to prove our faith to others. When you are in Christ, and know that you will live forever with God in a place without suffering, this gives you hope to live above the pain you face in this life.



*Meditate on verses 17-18. How are you going to apply them to your life?*



**Our Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me the grace to live beyond today's affliction. Amen.**

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Stand firm in the midst of persecution. Text: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-7**

St. Paul commended young Christians of Thessalonica for their faithful work, loving deeds and anticipation of Christ's return (v.3). these three attributes should be marks of any effective Christian in this hostile environment. Your hope in Christ's return should produce steadfast endurance through persecution. Therefore, *stand firm in the midst of hardship under the Banner of Christ.*



*Meditate on verses 2-3. What encouragement do you get from this prayer?*

**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to always remember to pray for my fellow believers in Christ. Amen.**

**Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Your hope in Christ will make you stronger.**

**Text: Isaiah 43:1-4**

When you go through rivers of challenges, they can cause you either to be drowned or force you to grow stronger (v.2). If you rely on your own strength, you are likely to be drowned, but if you trust Jesus Christ to go with you, He will protect you. "Waters and flames" are afflictions through which God will bring children to safety. *In Christ alone, stand firm, the Lord will affirm and save you.*



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

**Our Almighty Father in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank you for the promise of helping us pass through the waters and flame. Amen.**

**Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Rejoice in hope. Text: Romans 12:9-16**

As a child of God, rejoice in hope, be patient in affliction, be constantly in prayer (v.12); in both joyful and difficult times. *Maintain a positive attitude as you rely on God.* The hope marks the redemption of our bodies and being united with our Father forever in heaven. As you suffer, while waiting for what you are hoping for, it is important that you keep in prayer. Prayer connects you with your Father through the Holy Spirit. Our God hears, understands and responds to even our clumsiest efforts to talk with Him through our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.



*Meditate on verse 12. How are you going to apply it to your life*

**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to be patient in affliction and constant in prayer. Amen**

**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2025. In Christ you are secure. Text: Job 11:13-20**

There are promises of a future state of peace and assurance rooted in hope of mercy of God pointing to a better future (v.18). Security will be as a result of peace and confidence. There will be hope as you expect God's mercy, salvation in future. This verse is pointing to Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:3). *Receive and believe in Jesus Christ and your eternity is guaranteed.*



*Meditate on verse 18. What is God teaching you in this verse?*

**Our Father in Heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ give me courage and protection and rest in safety. Amen.**

**Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Your salvation in Christ is secured.****Text: 1 Peter 5:6-11**

You as a child of God, your salvation is restored, confirmed, strengthened and established in Jesus Christ (v.10). As a child of God, you are assured of an eternal life with Jesus Christ where there will be no suffering (Rev.21:4). Your hope in Jesus Christ is solid, not redundant.

In suffering, God transforms a believer in Christ assuring him/her of his/her given foundation in Jesus Christ. You may be suffering now, but with your faith in Christ, it will end, and you shall be restored.



*Meditate on verse 10. What is God teaching you in this verse?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ restore, support and strengthen us as we face challenges of this life. Amen.**

**Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025. In Christ there is God's grace and comfort.****Text: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17**

Paul is emphasizing God 's love, eternal consolation and ultimately good works and words (v.16). God loved you while you were still sinners (Rom.5:8). He still loves you. His comfort to you outlasts this life into eternity out of His love. *In Christ, you have a bright future.* Afflictions and challenges cannot dim the good hope God has given you in Jesus Christ.



*Meditate on verse 16. What is God teaching you in this verse?*



**Heavenly father, in the name of Jesus Christ, may You comfort our hearts and establish them in every good work and word. Amen.**

**Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025. God delights in those who trust in Him.****Text: Psalm 147:1-14**

The pleasure of God is in those who demonstrate reverence and trust in His character and promises, not in physical might or worldly achievements. (v.11). *As a child of God, you need to recognise God's authority and holiness.* You must trust in God's grace and loving kindness. All these are possible when you have Jesus Christ as your Saviour and you are under His Lordship. You receive Jesus Christ by faith alone, then the Holy Spirit begins to help you live a Christian life.



*Meditate on verse 11. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Our Father in Heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me have reverence for and trust in You. Amen.**

# THE MONTH OF **SEPTEMBER 2025**

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## **THE UNMERITED FAVOUR**



*The word “unmerited favour” comes from a Greek word “charis.” It is also called “grace”. It means undeserved blessings and gifts that God provides to humanity. For example, the gift of salvation (**Eph.2:8-9**). God gives people good things they do not deserve. It is something they have not earned or deserve through their own merit. God, through His own character, bestows it onto them.*

**Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025. You are saved by the grace of God.****Text: Ephesians 2:1-10**

Your salvation and even faith are gifts from God. You cannot work for them and even you do not deserve them. *The grace of God gives* and secures salvation. It is by God's unmerited favour that you are delivered from God's wrath at the final judgement. Your salvation is not as a result of any effort, intelligence, choice, ability, or act of service on your part. Therefore, respond to God with praise, gratitude and joy.



*Meditate on verse 8-9. How are you going to respond to them?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for the gift of salvation. Amen.**

**Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025. Salvation is by the grace of God only.****Text: Romans 11:1-6**

Salvation is a gift from God, you do not earn it through your own efforts. (v.6). The verse highlights the incompatibility of works and grace in the area of salvation. Grace is receiving an unearned gift. You came to God by faith in Christ alone. Therefore, any dependence on works by keeping the law, rituals, performing sacraments and good deeds is a rejection of grace. This is a clear teaching of Scripture. If works contribute to salvation, then that salvation is no longer by grace, and is therefore false! Works have no part to play in securing your salvation.



*Meditate on verse 6. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for teaching me the truth that salvation is by grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025. God does not treat us as our sins deserve.****Text: Psalm 103:1-10**

Because of the mercy and grace of God, He does not subject us to the full punishment that we deserve for our sins (v.10). Rather, the *actions of God towards us sinners are guided by His love and compassion*, not by our wrong doing. (Ezr. 9:13). Otherwise, if God was to punish every sinner as the sinner deserves, no sinner would be allowed to go to heaven. Jesus Christ took our full punishment for our sins on the Cross (Rom.5:6,8).



*Meditate on verse 10. How are you going to respond to it?*





**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for not treating me as my sins deserve. Amen.**

**Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025. It was the grace of God that Mary became the mother of Jesus Christ. Text: Luke 1:26-37**

Under normal circumstances, Mary being young, poor and a female; characteristics that people of the day would disqualify her not be used by God for a major task. But God chose her, by His grace, to most important role, to be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. (vv.27,28). *Sometimes, God's favour does not automatically bring success or fame.* God's favour upon Mary to be the mother of the Messiah brought her much pain: Her fiancé came close to leaving her, her peers ridiculed her, and her Son was rejected and murdered. (vv.30,31). However, her Son would become the redeemer of the world.



*Meditate on verse 28. What are you learning from this verse?*



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

**Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025. It is the grace of God that He works through you. Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

St. Paul admits that his current state and ministry as an apostle was by the grace of God, not through his own effort (v.10). The grace of God does not only save and transform an individual, it also empowers him/her for ministry and service, even after working hard, *your success is by the grace of God not your own strength.* Paul was commissioned to preach the gospel by the grace of God not that he had earned it; otherwise, he had proved himself to oppose Christ and to persecute all who followed Him.



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



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for enabling me to do what I do. Amen.**

**Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025. We should live by the grace of God. Text: 2 Timothy 2:1-7**

Just as we are saved by the grace of God, we should also live by it (v.1), (Col.2:6). This means that we should put our trust wholly in Jesus Christ and His power and not try to live for Christ in our own strength. You should rely on the grace of God

for strength, rather than your own ability. *The grace of God is the power for your daily life.* You start in grace, stand in grace (Rom. 5:2) and you are strengthened in grace.



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



**Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ, strengthen me through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The grace of God is sufficient. Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

St. Paul says that the grace of God is sufficient (*in the present tense*), stressing the constant availability of God (v.9) not only for Paul, but for every believer. The weakness in you demonstrates God's power working in you. While Paul is having a thorn that seems to hinder him, God will accomplish His purpose without taking away that thorn. God's grace attains His purpose in this fallen world, despite our human weaknesses. You need to consciously hinge all your efforts on Christ because in Him alone His power is at work in you and in all believers in Him. God's strength is clearly demonstrated when you acknowledge and accept your limitation, as you trust in His power to overcome these challenges.

In this passage, the Bible is teaching us that life on earth can involve hardship even to those who are faithful. We learn now that God can use Satan and his demons to accomplish His own purpose. *God answers prayers according to His overall will* and that God's goal is for us to trust Him, not having a mortal life of ease and leisure.



*Meditate on verse 9. What is God teaching you in this verse?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me the grace to stand firm in the midst of challenges. Amen.**

**Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025. It is by the grace of God that you are declared righteous. Text: Romans 3:21-26**

God declares you righteous by His own grace. This is possible through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, not because of any good deeds you have done (v.24), for we all have sinned and separated from God, (v.23). However, by the grace of God, He declares us righteous and sinless. *You cannot be justified by following the works of the Law* because none can do so without breaking the law. This is the reason we are justified by the grace of God through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



*Meditate on verse 24. How are you going to apply it your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for declaring me righteous through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Your position in Christ is secured by grace.**

**Text: Romans 5:1-5**

It is by the grace of God that as a child of God, your position is secured in Christ. *It is by the grace of God that you have the promise to be glorified* and perfected at the last day (v.2). It is by the grace of God that all believers in Christ have entered into a place of undeserved privilege. You are declared not guilty and drawn to God through faith in Christ. You have become a friend of God and His child through Jesus Christ, His Son and Saviour.



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



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank You for the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Do not boast in your own ability, but in the grace of God. Text: 2 Corinthians 1:12-14**

It is by the grace of God that you have a clear conscience and are morally upright. It is not as a result of following the conventional wisdom of the world (v.12). As a child of God your honesty and sincerity reflected in your motives and actions should be rooted in the grace of God, rather than in the manipulation and cunningness of man. To behave “*with simplicity*” Paul *meant to have integrity, openness and honesty*, not according to the standards of worldly wisdom. You achieve such only when you are in our Saviour, Jesus Christ, as you obey His Lordship.



*Meditate on verse 12. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to boast in Your grace alone. Amen.**

**Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The promise to Abraham is effected through faith by the grace of God. Text: Romans 4:13-25**

The promise is received by faith and it rests on the grace of God. If it had been based on works, then it would have failed, if it was based on circumcision, then only the Jews would receive it. However, since it is by faith, by the grace of God and not man's action, it is guaranteed for all believers; whether Jew or Gentile

by birth. It is by the grace of God that you who did not have God, now are a child of God (*Jhn1:12*). *It is through faith that the grace of God is received and guarantees the promise to all who share the faith of Abraham, without considering the background or legal status.*



*Meditate on verse 16. What is God teaching you in this verse?*

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

**Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Accept God's gracious gift through faith. Text: Galatian 5:1-6**

You must accept the gracious gift of God through faith. Your works of service can never earn you God's love and favour (v.1). Christ's provision for your salvation will not help you if you try to save yourself through good works. Note that salvation by keeping the law and salvation by the grace are two quite different approaches. The one by works is false for you cannot keep the law. It is by the grace of God that you are saved through faith in Jesus Christ who kept the Law and paid the penalty for sin for you (v.2).



*Meditate on verses 1-2. What is God teaching you in these verses?*

**Our Father in heaven, the Lord of heaven and earth, I thank You for setting me free through Jesus Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, I have prayed. Amen.**

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Use your gift as a good steward of God's grace. Text: 1 Peter 4:7-11**

Every spiritual gift that you have is a gift from God by His own grace (v.10). Therefore, use it faithfully to serve God and His people. Some people prefer to use their gifts selfishly, and others claim they do not have any gift at all. These *need to discover their gifts and use them to serve others*. You are given these spiritual gifts by the grace of God, therefore use them to benefit the community.



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

**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank you for the gifts you gave me. Help me use them to benefit the community. Amen.**

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025. You are called into the ministry by the grace of God. Text: Galatians 1:11-17**

Paul was called into ministry by the grace of God (v.15). He did not earn that role and he did not choose it, God by His grace, chose him. He was set apart by God from his mother's womb by the grace of God, not basing on human merit or preparation. You are in the ministry by the grace of God, not because of your background or training. Therefore, be humble and thank God always through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.



*Meditate on verse 15. What is God teaching you in this verse?*



**Almighty Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the ministry You have given me by Your own grace. Amen.**

**Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025. You are serving Christ by the grace of God. Text: Romans 15:14-19**

St. Paul is not writing to the Romans basing on his own merits, but by the grace of God. He was given to be an ambassador of Christ to the Gentiles (v.15). Paul is reminding them of what they already know. The same applies to us; we may already be doing well, but we study the Word because we need to know much more. All you do is by the grace of God, not by your own merits, training or achievements.



*Meditate on verse 15. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Our Father in heaven, the Lord of heaven and earth, give me the grace to boldly witness for You. Amen.**

**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025. You receive the eternal life by the grace of God. Text: Romans 6:15-23**

While you deserve the punishment for your sins, because it is what you have earned, God gives you the free gift of eternal life by His own grace (v.23). We see two components of reward; wage of death both physical and spiritual that you earn and deserve and the eternal life given to you by the grace of God. *If you are without Christ, you are a slave to sin and your pay cheque is death.* You earn eternal separation from God. If you trust in Christ, something you cannot do on your own, but by the grace of God, through faith in Jesus Christ. Eternal life is given, not earned by human beings.



*Meditate on verse 23. What is God teaching you in this verse?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank You for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**



**Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The grace of God exceeds the loss through Adam's transgression. Text: Romans 5:12-17**

The grace of God and the gift of life you receive through Jesus Christ outweigh the consequences of Adam's sin (v.15) "...many..." here means all human being excluding Jesus Christ. *The grace of God provides salvation and eternal life.* Free gift is the action of Jesus Christ dying on the cross bearing the punishment of His own. This is the grace of God. While the action of Adam brought death to many people, the action of Jesus Christ brought the grace of God to all His own.



*Meditate on verse 15. What are you learning from this verse?*



**Our Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for Jesus Christ who died for my sins. Amen.**

**Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The grace of God is profound. Text. John 3:16-21**

It is by the grace of God that He offered His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross that those who trust in Him would be saved (v.16). The phrase "only begotten Son" comes from Greek word "*monogenes*" meaning something of the same nature or substance. This means that Jesus Christ is of exactly the same divine nature as God the Father. *So, the grace of God caused Him to offer of His kind to die for sinful men;* so that those of His own receive the eternal life. This is life offered to only those who believe in Jesus Christ. Eternal is from a Greek word meaning "never ending."



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



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Salvation is a gift from God. Text: John 1:9-18**

The grace of God that came through Moses, greater blessing has been added to it through Jesus Christ. By His grace, God revealed His character and the things He required His people to do by the law of Moses, and He finally revealed His grace and truth through Jesus Christ (v.16). *As a child of God, you receive salvation and continuous streams of blessings and spiritual gifts through Jesus Christ.*



*Meditate on verse 16. How are you going to respond to it?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the blessings and spiritual gifts through Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

**Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Righteousness is by the grace of God.****Text: Titus 3:1-11**

On your own, you cannot stand righteously before God. You are justified or declared righteous by the grace of God in Jesus Christ alone (v.7). *Salvation is a gift of God, and you receive it through faith in Jesus Christ.* When you are in Christ you are justified by the grace of God and this leads to eternal life as a gift of inheritance.



*Meditate on verse 7. What are you learning from this verse?*



**Almighty Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the gift of salvation that has transformed me into Your heir. Amen.**

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025. Your salvation and calling are by the grace of God. Text: 2 Timothy 1:3-14**

You do not receive salvation through your own merit, it is a gift of God. And the purpose of God calling you is to live a life reflecting His holiness. Note that salvation and your calling are not based on your efforts or good deeds, but by the grace of God. *God saves and calls you as per His plan and purpose for you.* He also provides the means to fulfil that purpose because of His grace. God's purpose for your salvation is part of His eternal plan through Jesus Christ (v.9). The amazing truth is that your calling to salvation and ministry existed before time began, this truth should humble you!



*Meditate on verse 9. How are you going to respond to it?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for calling me to salvation before time began. Amen.**

**Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025. We are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.****Text: Ephesians 1:3-11**

As a child of God, you are redeemed or freed from bondage of sin and death through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The death of Jesus Christ gave us redemption and forgiveness. In the Old Testament, forgiveness was based on the shedding of blood of an animal. Now our forgiveness is based on the blood of Jesus Christ (v.7). Through Jesus Christ your relationship with God is restored "*according to the riches of His grace,*" meaning that your salvation is based on generosity, on unmerited favour of God, not on your own or anything else.



*Meditate on verse 7. How are you going to respond to it?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the blood of Jesus Christ that washed away my sins. Amen.**

**Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025. You are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.**

**Text: Ephesians 1:3-10**

As a child of God, you are redeemed or freed from slavery to sin and guilt by the blood of Jesus Christ (v.7). We are redeemed through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Because you are redeemed, your relationship with God has been restored through the forgiveness of your sins. All this is attained by the grace of God, not as a result of human effort. Both forgiveness and redemption are based on the grace of God. That *freedom was not free; it was paid for by Christ's death*. And this is the grace of God; that you became a child of God because He gave you the grace to know Him by faith, through Jesus Christ.



*Meditate on verse 7. How are you going to respond to it?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for purchasing my freedom with the blood of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The grace of God is abundant and sufficient.**

**Text: 2 Corinthians 9:6-9**

By His grace, God is able to provide both materially and spiritually with generosity to you as His child in Christ (v.8); so that you are able to engage in kindness and service. *Because you fear that if you give you may not have enough for yourself, then give as an act of faith, trusting that God will meet all your needs*. You will give generously only when you are convinced that your source of provision will not dry out because the source is God alone by His grace.



*Meditate on verse 8. How are you going to respond to it?*



**Our Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for being the source of our provision. Amen.**

**Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025. It is by the grace of God that your ministry exists. Text: Romans 12:3-8**

It is good for you to have a healthy self-esteem. However, you attain true self-evaluation basing on your identity in Jesus Christ (v.3). This is purely the grace of God. It is only in Christ that you are valuable and capable of doing a worthy service. Never evaluate yourself based on world standards of success and achievements because these promote pride and all its consequences.



*Meditate on verse 3. How are you going to respond to it?*



**Our Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, help us evaluate ourselves by the faith that God has given to us. Amen.**

**Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Preach the grace of God. Text: Acts 20:22-27**

St. Paul chose to prioritize God's will (*His grace to the people*) above His own safety and comfort (v.24). Paul's purpose for living was to faithfully proclaim the message of the grace of God. Many times, we feel failure when we are not getting recognition, money and success. However, Paul believed what was important was doing God's work. What you put into life is far more important than what you get out. To do this you need the grace of God.



*Meditate on verse 24. How are you going to apply it to your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to invest my life in others. Amen.**

**Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025. By His grace God forgives our sins.**

**Text: Romans 1:1-5**

As a child of God, you are saved by the grace of God. (v.5). Now that you are a believer by the grace of God, you have the privilege of being called and the responsibility to share with others what the Lord has done for humanity. By the grace of God, share with others about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Be an ambassador of Christ and witness for Christ what He has done in you.



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



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me to clearly witness for You. Amen.**

**Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Salvation is by the grace through faith.**

**Text: Romans 4:13-16**

The promises of God are received through faith, not through works or the Law (v.16). The promises include salvation. "... *may rest on grace...*", meaning that salvation is a gift from God, not something you earn or you deserve. This is profound because no human effort can secure this inheritance. You only deserve punishment as the result of your sins, regardless of one's background (*Jews or Gentiles*). Salvation is available to all who have the same faith as Abraham.



*Meditate on verse 16. How are you going to respond to it?*



**Almighty Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for restoring my relationship with You through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The law highlights the severity of sin and the need for grace. Text: Romans 5:18-21**

The law of Moses came when man had already fallen; so the law defined and revealed what constitutes sin, showing clearer how humanity had fallen (v.20), and, therefore, the great need for forgiveness of sin. The good news is that the grace of God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is more abundant than the existence of sin. While the law does not give salvation, it has a crucial role in showing the need for grace, and the grace of God is greater and more powerful than the sin it confronts.



*Meditate on verse 20. What is God teaching you in this verse?*



**Our Father, in heaven, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the abundant grace You have given us. Amen.**

**Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. You deny the grace of God by seeking righteousness through the Law. Text: Galatians 2:17-21**

Salvation is the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, not through obedience to the law (v.21). therefore, we must not rely on legalistic practices or works for our salvation; but only trust in Jesus Christ who died for us. Jesus Christ offered to die for His own, by the grace of God. Otherwise, He could have left us like what He did to the fallen angels. (Jud. 1:6). *To redeem humanity from sin, Jesus Christ, out of the grace of God had to die.*



*Meditate on verse 21. How are you going to apply it your life?*



**Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for Your grace in giving us Jesus Christ, as the once-for-all oblation for our sins. For through Him I am redeemed. Amen.**





**DESIGNED AND COMPLIED BY 0705096248**