



31 Devotions

Read. Reflect. Act.



English Devotionals

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English Bible Version: English Standard Version

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Day 1 - Pentecost Everyday (Acts 2: 1-4)

What a blessed day it is, especially today! May God give us new strength to arise and shine for Him. Today is special as we begin ***Unashamed to be Yours!*** This is a special series of 31 short devotionals and we have translated them into various languages.

I remember when God's Spirit came upon me and I felt the presence of God in my room. In 1996, I travelled to East Malaysia and had gone to help the Iban Methodist Church youth group in a place called Kapit. I did not understand why God wanted me to travel there and so, I kept praying throughout my flight and willing myself to obey God in whatever way He tasked me.

Two thousand years ago, the Holy Spirit of God arrived when a group of Jewish believers gathered in unity in a room and obeyed God. Just before the Lord Jesus was taken up to the heavens, He had told the believers who were gathered in a room, to wait for the Holy Spirit. Their obedience and unity in waiting gave them an unexpected result! In the book of Acts, the doctor, Luke wrote in Chapter 2:

- 1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.
- 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
- 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.
- 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Their waiting was not in vain. When the Holy Spirit arrived, it filled their whole house! This group which just lost its leader and had no vision was reminded that **God is their leader**.

In these days, we who are believers in the Lord Jesus are awaiting a great awakening or a revival. The whole world has just experienced a 'pandemic' and most of us have understood the repercussions of a 'lockdown'. We have been told and we know that things can never be the same again. We would need to cope and change how we work, relate and even serve each other. When there is a crisis, a change is inevitable.

In the same way, the disciples of Christ were in a sort of crisis. They were in lockdown for fifty days after His resurrection. They were commanded by the Lord Jesus to wait for the Holy Spirit. Change is inevitable for them too, especially when they have spent much time in seeking the face of God.

When the Pentecost experience happened for the disciples of Jesus, a few drastic but good changes happened:



1. they were mobilized to preach the gospel
2. they were hungry for the word
3. they began to see thousands saved for Christ
4. their generosity multiplied
5. they moved in signs and wonders

Go ahead and read the rest of Chapter two of the Book of Acts to discover more for yourself.

Remember my trip to serve the Iban Methodist Church youth group in Kapit? Well, my obedience to God's voice let me to join about 15 young people and young adults to minister to about 1,000 or more worshippers over seven days from nine o'clock in the morning till ten o'clock at night.

It was also the first time that I preached the Resurrection Sunday message to an entire church. God has a plan when He tells us to wait for His Holy Spirit because He wants us to draw His strength, His love, His Joy, His Peace and His specific message before He sends us out. Our experience of Pentecost Sunday can be everyday!

Come to the Lord Jesus in repentance.

Come to the Lord Jesus and receive a fresh Pentecost experience.

Come to the Lord Jesus knowing that you and your family can never be the same again.

Challenge: You have been marked for such a time as this! What would you need to do so that you might have the Pentecost Sunday experience everyday?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I receive the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ so that I might be like the Lord Jesus Christ and serve others with Your Love, Peace and Joy. Anoint my lips to speak Your mighty message so that many will come to know the Living God who is able to free them from sin and eternal death. In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Day 2 – Call upon a Sovereign God (Isaiah 55: 6-9)

Even among uncertainties, one thing is certain – God is near. We are living through some uncertain and difficult times right now. Millions of jobs have been lost; some parents are unable to afford school fees for their children. Not all governments are helping their own people or migrant workers to survive the crises around the world.

In Isaiah 55: 6-9, the prophet states,

- 6 "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Today's passage states that God is near and therefore, we can call upon Him. We do not need to shout and scream. God is near. He hears you and me. God continuously invites all to leave behind their wicked ways and return Him. There is a promise that God will forgive all those who turn against unrighteousness and run back to righteousness. God's compassion for His people is abundant that He will abundantly pardon us. Who can fathom the ways or thoughts of God?

Sometimes, our self takes center-stage and we think that we know a lot, perhaps more than another person. In Isaiah 55: 9, God reminds us that His ways and thoughts are supernatural. They are beyond our human understanding.

The only way to connect with God's ways and thoughts and live a good, godly righteous life would be to connect with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God; so can we, **IF** we are dependent on the Holy Spirit's help and do not neglect our relationship with Christ who died on the cross as our substitute so that we might be reconciled to the Heavenly Father.

Thank God for He abundantly pardons us if we will confess and repent of our wicked, selfish ways and thoughts.

Challenge: And in these challenging times, what have you discovered about God's higher thoughts? How has life improved for you during these crises? Did you learn something new for yourself?

**Prayer:**

Almighty God, I need your Holy Spirit to help keep me in step with godly thoughts and ways. Let the Holy Spirit prompt and nudge me when I falter, stumble or get out of step with God. I desire to learn more about the Lord Jesus and the new things that He wants to teach me by His Spirit. In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

The joy of the Lord Jesus Christ be upon you today!

In this ***Unashamed to be Yours!*** devotional, I have spoken on the passage through three short videos which can be found in FAIM 4CHRIST YouTube channel. Do visit us there.

Day 3 – God’s Purposes are Accomplished by God’s Word (Isaiah 55: 10-11)

God’s mercies are new every morning!

Have you ever doubted God’s Truths? I know that I have. Sometimes, we are not able to believe His promises found in the Bible. If we all said that we definitely, surely, certainly believe God’s Truths, then the body of Christ might be in a much better place. The Church would not be limping in this world but running with God with such strength that others will notice the beauty of God’s speed.

The prophet Isaiah wrote in chapter 55,

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there
but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower
and bread to the eater,

11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me
empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing
for which I sent it.

Even the rain and snow have a purpose, they will water the earth and cause seeds to sprout and blooms to spring. When we enjoy the beauty of the earth with all its colour during spring, may we be reminded that even the rain and snow had their purpose.

The Word comes from the very breath of God to accomplish the purpose of reconciling man to God. God’s words will never return void, empty. God’s Word will, by the help of His Holy Spirit, ignite our hearts with His Everlasting Truth. God’s Word will accomplish its purpose – it will set us free!

Jesus of Nazareth, the very Word of God, aimed to please God. When we accept the Lord Jesus by placing our faith in Him alone, He accomplishes the purpose of setting us free from an eternity in hell. The success of God in your life is dependent on the Word of God in your life. Breathe it, obey it, live it, share it.

Challenge: Will you let the Word of God free you from your bondages of sin?

Prayer:

God, I desire to be completely free from the bondage of sin and fears. I desire for Your eternal Word to fill my mind and heart. May God be glorified through my life today. In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 4 – Humility Reaches Holiness (Isaiah 57: 15)

Isaiah 57: 15 states

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

When we read the newspapers, we see all kinds of acts that demean and destroy the wonderful life that God has given us. Babies are aborted, women are raped and murdered, villages are wiped out by terrorists acts and so on. . . Sometimes when we see the chaos and wicked things that happen all around us, I wonder aloud: Have we all become prouder than a Holy God and care less about our lives? Have we squashed this gift of life and thrown it away in the garbage bin?

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that a Holy God dwells with those who are humble and contrite. God's attribute is not only Holy but today's passage states that His Name is Holy. God in his mighty Holiness reaches out to those who are humble and repentant before Him.

God dwells in the high and holy place – that is the place of thanksgiving, praise and worship. That is the place of prayer, fellowship and service. But when He sees a humble, repentant heart, God reaches out to revive us. The Breath of Life is blown into hearts ready for a touch of revival.

Challenge: How should we respond in humility to a Holy God? How about you - Are you ready to receive God's touch of holy revival into your life? Then, the only way is to humble and repent of your sins. You might say that I am good with God, I did not sin. Friends, I John 1:8 tells us that "if you say you have no sin, then you are deceived."

Prayer:

Holy God, help me touch other lives in true humility that pleases You alone. Help me to be quick to appreciate the life that You have given me and anoint me to be a carrier of God's holiness in a fallen world. In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Day 5 – Strength in Persecution (Matthew 5: 10)

Matthew 5:10

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Corrie Ten Boom, a Dutch woman who helped the Jews to escape during the Second World War, was also arrested and persecuted by the German Nazis. She was a Holocaust survivor. Her faith was so strong in God and describes faith in this way:

*Faith is like radar that sees through the fog
- the reality of things at a distance that the human eye cannot see.*

We do know that persecution is very real in our times. One government in Asia which is hostile to Christ persecute their own people by blocking children attending private Christian schools. Crosses have been taken down from the steeples of many churches. Christians in an African nation are being tortured, kidnapped and killed.

Christian women are forced to renounce their faith in Christ for a belief that does not exhibit the love of God.

We can be assured that all who are persecuted for Christ's sake will inherit the kingdom of heaven. The royal presence of God will be a joy to behold.

When we pray for the persecuted, let us pray that their faith will increase and their hearts will continue to be filled with thanksgiving and joy because God is very present in their sufferings.

If you are being persecuted physically or emotionally, spiritually or socially for your stand in Christ, do know that you are not alone. Continue to give thanks to God for He is near, just beside you. Christ sees your pain and He weeps alongside you. Be strong and keep on standing for Christ in His power.

Challenge: What are some reasons for exchanging persecution in your life or your nation's life to the promises of God in your life or your nation's life?

Prayer:

May God grant protection, peace and joy to anyone who is persecuted for the sake of Christ. May God also teach me to pray according to His will for the persecuted around the world. In all, may the name of the Lord Jesus Christ be exalted.

Day 6 – Shepherds after God’s Heart (Jeremiah 3: 15)

I have travelled to many nations. Sometimes on a Sunday, I may not be the preacher. During those times, I listen carefully to the preacher of the day. At times, I have cringed as the Sunday sermon does not mention the Lord Jesus Christ and his act of redemption. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit is not mentioned at all, not even in the closing prayers!

Here is a wonderful promise from God to a faithless group of children in Jeremiah 3:15

And I will give you shepherds after my own heart,
who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

God reminds that if He has positioned us as leaders, whether of the family, church, organisations or nations, He has called us to shepherd the people whom He has entrusted to us; we too have the responsibility to engage in studying, understanding and practicing the Word of God.

God’s heart is for the nations and that is why He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ as a Substitute to die on the cross. God’s heart and willingness to do this redemptive act reveals His deep love for the world. God forgives and has great plans to prosper us.

We realise that even when we are faithless like the Israelites, God remains faithful; faithful enough to be merciful.

Challenge: What life changes might you make if you are a man or woman after God’s own heart?

Prayer:

Forgive me, O God when I have not followed Your way of love. I desire a Shepherd’s heart of service. I need Your wisdom upon me as I sit at Your feet to receive knowledge and understanding. Daily, I desire to serve humbly and honestly by leading Your people towards conformity in the image of Christ. Thank you for the Holy Spirit’s leadership and guidance to do all good work. May God be glorified in my life in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 7 – Delight in the Lord Jesus (Psalm 37: 3-4)

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Psalm 37: 3-4

3 Trust in the Lord , and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

4 Delight yourself in the Lord , and he will give you the desires of your heart.

I remember how I needed to pay my fees as I was completing my doctoral program. As most of my funds are often used for ministry trips, I did not have funds to pay a very large sum in my final year.

In my heart, I had purposed to not touch my current funds for my study purposes. Ministry must go on as God planned for me. There was much traveling to do, oceans to cross to equip pastors and church leaders.

I was walking along the beach with one of my best friends and as we were talking, she suddenly stopped me and told me that God had impressed upon her to support my studies. Two days later, I received a message from my disciples in another nation. They, too, were impressed by God's Spirit to contribute to my study fees.

I found it amazing that God provided such a large sum of money in less than seven days. Much more, I believed that God honoured me because I chose to delight, find joy in just trusting who He is. God is always good and faithful. I am thankful to be called His. How about you?

Psalm 37: 3 exhorts us to **TRUST** in the Lord and turn our faith into actions, to do good. All of us have a purpose to remain faithful to God in the areas where He has positioned us. We will trust God to transform us into the image of Christ, to use us for His purposes in the places that He has positioned us, and to teach us by His Holy Spirit to do good.

Challenge: What are some desires of the heart that you would like to place before God today?

Prayer:

Thank you, God, for Your presence is my blessing. Give me enough faith to believe that You will give me the desires of my heart that is in Your Perfect Will. In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Day 8 – Be Still to Know God (Psalm 46:10)

Today's short devotion may resonate with those of you who are intercessors. I have a simple but very powerful verse found in Psalm 46: 10

Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

I have been an intercessor since 1994 when I was first discipled by a church leader. Since then, it has been normal to wake up before dawn to meet the Lord Jesus Christ. In the quiet hours of the early morning, we can be still and know He is God.

It is a supernatural moment to be in His Presence and be filled with His Peace, Love and Joy. We connect with God in that moment of deep quietness and we can even hear our breath! As we hear His voice, our spirit jumps up with Joy and we exalt Him! We exalt Him because He is near; His presence radiates in and through us.

Our reactions might be different – we might cry, sob, weep, laugh or smile quietly upon realizing His Presence. These are the supernatural moment(s) with Jesus that you want to seize. These are precious moments with the God who loves us.

One time, as I pondered with God, this is how He led me to write further:

*Pondering on God's grace - unmerited favour given by God.
Deserving of eternal death but favoured with eternal life,
when in Jesus, Son of God,
you decide to trust.
Cleansed and favoured now,
let the Holy Spirit be your Guide.*

*Totally favoured in a position of grace,
Yet, what is tasted is just a small portion
of more ahead.
Yield now all your life,
let the Holy Spirit be your Guide.*

Challenge: Has it been difficult to be still, quiet before God? What changes would you make in your life schedule so that you might enjoy moments of eternal value with God?

Prayer:

Forgive me, O God when I have not made time to be with You. Anoint my ears to hear Your word and pour a fresh passion for intercession in my heart. In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 9 – No Fear! (2 Timothy 1: 7)

2 Timothy 1:7

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

We may have 2 Timothy 1:7 to encourage others and ourselves to exercise our faith in Christ, many times in the last few months and over the years.

One part of the good news of being a true believer and follower of the Lord Jesus Christ is that we need not fear of anything or anyone except our God. There is such a strong confidence that can be found in Christ. We must believe this truth by faith in Christ. I cannot follow any other way except the way of Christ. We receive and exercise the power, perfect love and self-control by the strength of God's Holy Spirit.

Let us not even try anything on our personal strength as it can never match the strength given by God. This is a choice that we make daily. We can operate out of the love that we are familiar with, and this love may not have pure intentions or we can operate out of God's love which is pure in its essence.

God's love is able to help us exercise self-control in many ways – because I love you with God's love, I can exercise self-control with the help of the Holy Spirit. I can choose to NOT speak hurtful words or choose NOT to do any harm to you.

Self-control is a powerful gift for without it, our entire life can be chaotic. Our faith in Christ positions us to be fearless in and for God. Our fear must be only to God – and that is a combination of adoration and reverence. We will NOT fear anything that is NOT of GOD.

Challenge: What are some fears that hold you back from soaring with God in life and/or ministry?

Prayer:

I place all my fears (list them by name) at the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. I desire only to have the fear of God in me. Pour your Spirit of power and love and self-control of our Lord Jesus Christ over me, my family, my friends and my nation, O God. In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Day 10 – God is for Us (Romans 8: 31-32)

These are sober days as we continue to see the world groan in pain in various ways.

In Romans 8:31-32, the Apostle Paul challenges us:

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

I find these verses extremely empowering and should make us so blessed to be a follower of Christ. We must understand that we worship a God who is above all gods. There is none like Him.

It is true. If God can spare His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, surely He is able to pour His grace upon us and give us all things according to His will. This is just a tiny taste of all that God has in store for us. Yes, true Christian faith knows and believes that God is always Good and always victorious.

God is our Power, our Strength and our Confidence. God has been for us since the time of Creation. God has been for us through the Fall of mankind. God continues to be for us through the generations because He is Love.

Friends, when we are with God, we are on the winning side. Truly, we are champions in and for God. But champions need to follow certain rules and training schedules so that they can be consistent to end victoriously.

Challenges: What are some intangible and tangible things that you would ask God? Are you prepare to receive only gifts according to His will and let go anything else that you do not need?

Prayer:

Help me to discern how much You love me, O God. Thank you for giving me every good gift from heaven above. Help me by His Holy Spirit to walk in truth and righteousness, to use every gift and blessings given to me faithfully for Your glory. Provide me the stamina to undergo the training of champions for Christ in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 11 – The Lord Reigns (1 Chronicles 16:31)

Have you taken a walk outside? Do you see the beautiful colours of the earth? I really hope that our eyes have feasted on the beautiful colours of the flowers and enjoyed the visits of colourful birds. I hope that we took time to breath fresh air and let our eyes smile at the beauty.

1 Chronicles 16:31 continues to lifts up our spirit when we read it:

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"

Imagine that no matter how difficult times can be, when you look up to the heavens and see the blue skies, the sheer beauty of God’s artistic work puts a smile on our face. When you look all around you and see the green trees and bushes of Europe, the sandy desert in the Middle East, the blue waters of the Caribbean sea, tall buildings reaching to touch the sun in urban Asian cities or the little house made of mud and leaves in the vast lands of Africa, one must stand amazed before a Sovereign God.

All the nations are going to acknowledge that Jesus is Lord when the time comes. Until then, always remember that the Supreme Commander, King of kings of all nations is the One God who created every nation!

Even as the whole world labours in pain through the many crises, as followers of the Lord Jesus, let us take time to smell the roses and hear the birds sing.

Challenge: After this short devotional, just take a walk out of your house if it is not raining too hard. Lift your hands up to the heavens and praise God. Breathe the fresh air. If it is raining where you are, enjoy the beauty of the rain and remember that that’s how the Spirit of God will rain down on us when we immerse ourselves in God’s grace.

Prayer:

May we never lose sight of the God who reigns! May our hearts be filled with joy and face with smiles as we look around us and see God’s beautiful creation. In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we say and sing Hallelujah!

Day 12 – Being God’s People (Jeremiah 30:22)

Today’s verse simply reveals how much God loves us. This verse was originally addressed to the Israelites; God reminds them of His covenant to bless them but this will be done through the Messiah.

I think about how so many of us who accepted Christ, including myself, can actually remember how we walked away from God. Sometimes, even after accepting Christ and being baptized, we continue to doubt, disbelieve and disobey Scriptural truths. This is sad because God does not want us to be far from Him.

Yet, just like God reminded the Israelites, He reminds us today through Jeremiah 30:22:

And you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Did you know that we worship a God who is personal, very personal? He said "...my people," and we can only be God’s people by placing our individual trust in Jesus.

Listen, no one else can accept Jesus as the Son of God, Lord and Saviour on your behalf. The decision is strictly yours alone. The Holy Spirit’s assurance that we are children of God comes when we place our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. We know that God is our Abba.

So, all of God’s people will need to surrender to an Almighty Personal God. And if you have never surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ Jesus who died on the cross and was resurrected after being buried for three days, **now** is a great time.

Challenge: What does it mean to be a “people” of God for you?

Prayer (If you are accepting Christ for the first time):

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Son Jesus who died on the cross for me and shed his blood so that all of my sins can be washed away. I am truly sorry for all my wrongdoings and by faith in Christ, I receive your forgiveness. I declare that Jesus is Lord and Saviour of my life. Help me to live the life of Christ in the power of Your Holy Spirit. Thank you for making me your child and giving me the opportunity to learn more about you and serve you. For your glory and in the Name of my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 13 – Call upon the Creator God (Jeremiah 33: 2-3)

Author: Rachel Chindu (India)

Many people worship created things – self, money, work, causes, superstars, actors and even statues. All that I just mentioned take the place of God and are idols. Idols have become a focus instead of God, the Creator being the focus of our worship.

Why would anyone want to worship created objects when the door is open for us to worship the Creator God? Objects are lesser things and we need not waste our time elevating them to the place of God.

What makes me sad is the knowledge that there are so many adults created by God who have been and are involved in the abortion industry. These adults who have been given life are effectively murdering life in the womb and sometimes out of the womb. This is ugly and man-made. Millions need to repent of this terrible sin. The cause of the abortion industry has become an idol in the lives of millions of supporters. How is it even possible to engage in this idol-worship?

The Creator God who established the earth, universes and galaxies holds the secret to many answers to our questions. In fact, Jeremiah 33: 3 encourages us to call upon this Creator God so that He can answer you and me.

Jeremiah 33: 2-3 states:

2 Thus says the Lord who made the earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it--
the Lord is his name:

3 Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that
you have not known.

It is a blessing to know that God has the power to answer any question that we might have or any prayer offered according to His will. He has the power to forgive us and establish us in His kingdom on earth. He has the power to transform our minds, hearts and souls so that we look a little more like the Lord Jesus Christ. We are His children.

Challenge: What questions do you have for God? Call to Him and He will answer you.

Prayer:

(Write your own prayer of thanks to God)

Day 14 – A Faithful God (Lamentations 3:22 -23)

We need not feel ashamed when others who do not know of God's love and power mock, criticize or even persecute us.

Many years ago, I remember preaching a sermon at an Indonesian church. There were about 400 congregation members. Normally, the call to salvation is given at the end of the sermon. But that day, God wanted me to issue the call to salvation at the middle of the sermon. When I obeyed God, practically the whole church laughed at me. I felt embarrassed but God reminded me quickly that they were laughing at Him. However, one Indonesian man stood up to receive Christ for the first time! Praise God.

Today's verses are found in Lamentations 3:22 -23:

22 Because of the Lord 's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Every morning, we wake up to God's love and new mercies or compassion. We can confidently do this because of God's faithfulness to us; not our faithfulness to Him. See, it is not about us but about who God is.

I sensed how much God loved this Indonesian church and I continued preaching. God wanted to show His mercies to them again. Again, God impressed upon me that I needed to stop and invite the church to accept the call of salvation.

This time, I told the church that I was stopping to obey God. Again, the church laughed at my invitation to salvation. I told them to stop laughing and invited them to think about doing serious business with God. Well, about 390 Indonesians decided to stand up and be assured of their salvation in Christ.

Indeed, God desires to show us His mercies every day because of His great love. The word says that because of God's great love, we will not be consumed. Yes, we will not be consumed if we keep returning to Him.

Challenge: Take time to praise God for His attributes: He is great, faithful and merciful.

Prayer:

Bless me every day with Your great love and faithfulness, O God and help me to show the same to another. In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Day 15 – Jehovah Shalom over Jerusalem (Psalm 122: 6-9)

One of the regular prayer points for my team at Faith Ablaze International Ministries is that we keep the Middle East region in our prayers. In particular, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Psalm 122:6 -9 states

- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you!
- 7 Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!"
- 8 For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

We believe in God's Word and sometimes we can miss His Word due to our prejudices or to suit our convenience. Even though the psalmist wrote this psalm centuries ago, this commandment to pray for the peace of Jerusalem continues to be valid today.

If we did a little research, we can see the turmoil in the Middle East, and especially in Jerusalem. The peace of Jerusalem is interconnected with the protection and unity offered in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. The Hebrew concept of peace (*shalom*) meant wholeness, completeness, soundness, health, safety and prosperity, carrying with it the implication of permanence.

It is a good responsible act for a believer in Christ to be praying for the people so that they might experience Jehovah Shalom, the God of Peace.

Challenge: What might stop you from obeying the commandment to pray for the peace of Jerusalem?

Prayer:

Jehovah Shalom, thank You that Your peace is over Jerusalem. May all leaders in the Middle East region enjoy Your mercy in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 16 – Serving Christ (Colossians 3:23-24)

I am thinking of those of you who are blessed to work and those of you who might be struggling to find proper employment. Some of you might even be working beneath your education or training qualifications. This is very humbling. Some of you are employers or business owners in your own right. Mothers, care-givers and even students are workers too.

Have you been sometimes challenged to do a negative or harmful thing at work? But you did it anyway because your boss demanded that you comply? Well, such things do not glorify God at all.

I remember one time when I was working in a foreign country, one of our clients creatively asked me to give a huge rebate for a company project that was worth close to ¼ million dollars. Naturally, I refused and the company delayed on payments to us.

I am a believer in Christ, and especially if we are believers in Christ, then we need to keep Colossians 3:23-24 close to our hearts:

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,
 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.
 You are serving the Lord Christ.

Well, the payment for the project was delayed so much that I had to fly to the client's office and ensure that we were paid. I prayed a lot and asked God to open the door to the President of this huge foreign company.

God answered my prayers. I sat in the company President's office and told him that I was not leaving his country until his company paid up the balance, all the while with a calm smile on my face.

I felt that I needed to work excellently for God and I desired for this whole process to be a testimony to glorify God. Well, to cut the long story short; I did walk out of their office with a cheque in my hand after waiting for almost half a day. That was half a day spent on declaring that God will come through so that others may see His glory in my life. It was worth the wait.

Challenge: How are you impacting your work environment with godly service?

Prayer:

Teach me to enjoy Your wisdom for decision-making, the peace of Christ for a quiet heart and the Holy Spirit's discernment to see beyond the earthly at my work environment. Help me by Your Holy Spirit to be a meaningful impact for your glory. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Day 17 - The Lord is my Shepherd (Psalm 23:1)

For the next few days, we are going to appreciate a very popular, most-loved and famous psalm. Psalm 23 is one of the first psalms that I learnt in school as a little girl. It is just a short six verse-psalm but it is so powerful and meaningful.

The psalmist makes a declaration in verse 1.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

It took me a long time to understand the deep meaning of this verse. In school, we will recite it from memory. I understood this verse better when I left my job and began to study at Singapore Bible College. God kept providing for me and He definitely kept me on my knees in prayer.

God never failed me, not once. As a global missionary, this understanding has deepened even more. You see, God provides through His loved ones and this time He provides not only for me, but also for so many other pastors, leaders and families in need. The Good Shepherd provides for all of us to a way to deepen our faith in Him.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Shepherd, the Good Shepherd, the Compassionate One. He looks out for His Lost Sheep. He is my Shepherd, and yours too. The Good Shepherd will weather any storm just to find that one lost sheep. The Good Shepherd will protect and care for you and me.

The psalmist knows that our Lord will provide for his needs. When he declares "I shall not want" – he is effectively stating that there is **No** lack of anything! The Good Shepherd is our Jehovah Jireh, our Provider.

Sometimes, we lack love, grace, forgiveness, joy, peace, patience, wisdom, protection, guidance, confidence, security and significant. The good news is that there is NO LACK! It can be found in the Good Shepherd. And if there is anything most crucial in our life, then we should not lack salvation. Our eternity should be with the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ who freely saves us each day of our life.

Challenge: What are you lacking in your life, my friend?

Prayer:

Open my eyes to the goodness of the Lord Jesus Christ who gave His life as a ransom for many so that many will be saved. In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Day 18 – The Lord is my Leader (Psalm 23: 2)

Every single day, we hear of all kinds of chaos and disasters among the nations. In fact, turmoils or disturbances can be at the door-steps of our heart or our home. Some nations are politically unstable; the security of the people is hanging in a balance. Economic and medical crises have increased. There are many people with fears of the unknown. Their hearts are full of anxiety and their minds are filled with questions. And if this is you, would you be interested in peace and a sense of security? How about deep assuring rest?

In Psalm 23: 2, the psalmist appreciates that the Good Shepherd is able to provide him that sense of peace. Listen to what he says:

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

The Lord leads us to a place of restoration; He does not force us. The choice to let Him lead us always belongs to us. When He leads us to a better place – the place of restoration from a dry place in our life where everything might have seemed dead, boring and purposeless. And the Lord leads us to “still waters”, not to a raging river. Here is a place of quiet, a place to reflect on God’s love, to breathe fresh air as we take in God’s presence and His truths.

Challenge: What might hinder you from letting the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth lead you to the quiet place hidden in Him so that you might find peace?

Prayer:

Dear God, grant me the peace that I need and the wisdom to make the right decisions in difficult situations. I choose to lean into the Lord Jesus and hold His hands tightly. I will follow Him to the “still waters” for refreshment to my soul. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 19 – The Lord is my Restorer (Psalm 23:3)

The Lord leads us to “still waters” and to a place of rest. This becomes our place of restoration. Only broken or damaged things are restored – for example, an old car with lousy brakes, a torn sofa set, a damaged kitchen floor. So, time is spent to make the broken or damaged things look as good as new by changing parts, painting a new colour or modernizing their appearance.

When we stand against God through our disobedience, it is inevitable that we are unable to find that deep peace within our soul. We desperately need to be restored to the right and godly thought, attitude and action.

Psalm 23: 3 states:

He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Well, true repentance, that is walking away from the ungodly thought, attitude or action is the first step to restoration. The Word of God and the blood shed on the cross by the Lord Jesus Christ cleanses us. We are also reconciled with God. This is the way to righteousness (being right with God).

Psalm 23: 3 gives us a clue as to who has the power to restore and lead in paths of righteousness. Yes, it is the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ who leads us in the paths of righteousness. As we allow for this restoration and leading to happen, it brings honour to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Challenge: What does it mean for you to be in this place of honour, restoration and righteousness offered by God?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, lead me by Your Holy Spirit to walk the narrow paths of righteousness. Be glorified in my life as I honour and worship You alone. Amen.

Day 20 – The Lord is with Me (Psalm 23:4) (.)

When I read Psalm 23:4:

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me

I am reminded of one of my best friends. She passed away this year after fighting a good fight. Cancer did not have any victory over her. Still, the journey through this terrible terminal illness had her shaken in the early stages. Questions, doubts and hopelessness are challenges that face many terminally ill people.

The beautiful thing is that my friend could rise above those challenges and remind herself that even though she walks through the valley of the shadow of death. She did not fear evil because the Lord Jesus Christ was with her during her tough journey. During the tough journey, her priorities became clearer. Her paradigm about various issues shifted for the better and her strength in Christ shone brightly for all to see. God was her prime Comforter and now, she continues to enjoy the restful peace provided by her Saviour in the heavens.

I love the phrase "you are with me" which is centrally placed in verse 4 of Psalm 23. The presence of Jesus is enough for each one of us to fear NO evil, to recognize that we are under His supreme authority, guidance and protection. What comfort to personally know that Jesus, the Good Shepherd walks alongside with those who are in desperate need of Him! He is the very Grace of God given to us.

Challenge: Are you going through an extremely difficult, "hopeless" time in your life with attached fears? Would you turn to the One who is able to strengthen you and remove every fear that you might have? His Name is Jesus, Son of God and Perfect Redeemer.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you that I need not fear any evil or death because in the Lord Jesus Christ, I can have my confidence and strength to overcome every challenge with the faith that You deposited in me. Help my loved one and I to walk victoriously because Jesus has already paid the price. Pour Your grace upon us so that we might continue to be blessings even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. For Your glory and in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 21 – The Lord is my Provider (Psalm 23:5)

I do not know if I have any enemies but these days. Enemies can be anyone who hate Christians. By the number of persecuted Christians around the world, I am sure that we can safely conclude that we might have people who are not friends of Christ and who would love to see the followers of Christ dishonoured and disgraced.

According to Open Doors, a Christian community that stands and supports persecuted Christians around the world, at least 245 million Christians were persecuted between November 2017-October 2018. I can only imagine that this number might be on the increase in the current annual report.

Psalm 23:5 is an encouragement for all believers of the Lord Jesus Christ. This verse states:

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

The Good Shepherd is able to provide abundantly. In the presence of our enemies, the Lord Jesus Christ is able to give us the provisions, protection and favour. When enemies intend to cause hurt, disgrace and bring shame to us, the Lord steps in and makes it possible for us to remain strong, in His grace and honour.

In the past, one's head was anointed with oil especially during times of celebrations and it is the oil of gladness that the Lord pours on our head when we are in the presence of our enemies.

During times of persecution or confrontation that have the potential to lock us in a state of shame, Psalm 23: 5 reminds us that as believers of Christ, we will never be ashamed. We need to trust that God will honour us in the presence of our enemies.

This is why, no matter how difficult our situations might be, we are to have a heart of worship, thanksgiving and praise. We will continue to remain in God's joy and trust Him.

When our thoughts, attitudes and actions are immersed in God's pure truths, we will have no fear. In fact, many others will begin to realise how much God loves, provides, protects and honours us in abundance. Our cup overflows! Hallelujah!

Challenge: In which areas of your life should change happen so that you are freer to embrace the protection, strength and joy of the Lord?

Prayer:

(Write your own prayer)

Day 22 – Eternity with God (Psalm 23:6)

The confidence of one who believes in Christ cannot be described. The psalmist had such a confidence especially after acknowledging the Lord As His Shepherd, Provider and Protector in the previous verses. In our inner being, we know that our God will not do us any harm. He is always good. In our inner being, we know that God is very compassionate toward us and demonstrates His mercy repeatedly.

The psalmist ends Psalm 23 with:

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

How many second chances has God given us? Count them as the mercies of God. How many times has he blessed us? Count them as the grace of God. And when He shows us this love and kindness, we recognize the goodness of God.

God shows his goodness by the care he bestows upon us. God shows his mercy through his unconditional love. Even when we are unfaithful, God remains faithful. Through dark and deep valleys of our life situations, we can confidently believe that God's goodness and mercy will always follow us till our last breath and beyond.

God becomes our eternal home. Our certainty of eternity is with Christ, the Shepherd-King. Our security in the Incarnation of God's Goodness and Mercy allows each true believer to converge together in intimate Unity.

The Holy Spirit within us has no choice but to rise up and give voice, shouting "Hallelujah! and Amen!".

Challenge: How has God shown His goodness and mercy to you in the last three days?

Prayer:

God's goodness and mercy will surely follow me and all whom I love all the days of my life. I will surely dwell in the house of the Lord forever in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. May I be quick to recognise and thank God for His goodness and mercy. Amen.

Day 23 – The World Belongs to a Sovereign God (Psalm 24: 1-2)

Author: Rachel Chindu (India)

Our natural lives move forward in such a way that we often act like we are the owners and hold the title deeds of our lives. Psalm 24: 1-2 strongly reminds us that nothing around us belongs to us. The ownership belongs to our Eternal God. So then, whose are we and what do we have as our own?

Psalm 24: 1- 2 declares that

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him.
- 2 For He laid the foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths.

Consider the small world we are living in. We are just caretakers or stewards of what is entrusted to us for a brief period of time. Psalm 24: 1 says that not only the earth and the fullness of it, all its people belong to Him.

So if we think that we are “in control” and “in-charge” of our lives, God is reaffirming that He alone is the Ultimate Authority, Sovereign Ruler and King of the Earth. Thus, our lives belong to Him. For example, parents or other adults may think that they exercise a certain degree of power and control over their family, especially children. However, we are merely the caretakers of our children.

Our children fully belong to God. Though we acknowledge it to an extent that they belong to God, do we actually release the ownership of our children into God's hand?

It is when we proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Saviour of our lives that we invite God to take absolute control of our lives. It is time to know God more and Trust in His promises. Let Jesus be our Lord in all spheres of our lives and let Him be our number one priority.

Challenge: How should we response to God who is Sovereign and Compassionate?

Prayer:

Help me O God to see as Your eyes see. The Lord Jesus is my foundation, I choose to live out my life as a faithful steward. In every moment, I thank God for He has surely blessed me with His Sovereign Goodness and Mercy. In the Holy Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Day 24 – A Successful Commitment to the Lord (Proverbs 16:3)

Author: Rachel Chindu (India)

As we journey through life, we make numerous decisions as a part of our progress and growth. Sometimes, our decisions and ideas do not yield the results that we desire. If you are like me, you would probably desire that all your plans yield good and successful results.

A year and a half ago, my husband and I decided to step forward in faith to buy a home without sufficient financial backing. This was a difficult decision as my husband was the sole provider while I cared for the family.

The Bible reveals that the only way to ensure success is by committing and entrusting everything we do in thought, word or deed to the Lord who is the source of all Knowledge and Power.

Proverbs 16:3 reads:

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

God has promised to prosper our plans by helping us to do all things through Christ who strengthens us. What a marvellous, faithful Father and Guide we have! He is always with us and is ever-present. God desires for His children to acknowledge Him in all our ways of life.

We were led by God to commit our decision to move forward. We had no idea about how we might have funds to purchase this house. We completely trusted God to provide for us. Reflecting now, we have nothing but praises and thanks to our Faithful God for the wonderful and amazing way He has led us. This provision of a new house is waiting for us.

Obedience brings manifold blessings. When we obey God by entrusting all our ways to His care, love and provisions, He will faithfully bless us by establishing us in His Goodness.

Once He establishes us, despite any difficult circumstances, we will not be shaken at all and we will flourish in everything He has set before us. It is my prayer that God will be our decision-maker.

Challenge: What are some aspects of your life that you need to commit or re-commit to the Lord?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge your sovereignty and wisdom in my life. Enable and strengthen me by the power of the Holy Spirit to commit the plans of my life to You.

Help me to trust you for every provision and give me your peace when I commit all my plans to You. I desire to always seek Your success and glory. In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Day 25 - Hope in Christ produces Work by Faith and Love (1 Thessalonians 1: 3)

Author: Rachel Chindu (India)

One Christmas season a few years ago, God prompted me to share His Love to my pre-believing neighbours in my nation. I initially thought of buying some Christmas treats from the supermarket and distribute them with a personalized Christmas greeting. However, God's Love encouraged me to bake for the first-time at home.

I was able to share the message of His Love with the home-made treats to five families.

God reminds us through the Apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 1: 3:

. . . remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love
and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are called and commanded by Jesus to be the salt and light of the world so that our good deeds shine everyone will praise our Heavenly Father. We seek to glorify God or else all the work and effort to accomplish our tasks would be fruitless and self-seeking.

Our faithful work and loving deeds must be built on the hope of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are motivated to patiently persevere in the living and lasting hope we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. Most of us have a 'great start' with faith and trust in God but end up poorly by relying on our own abilities to accomplish the tasks. We tend to lose sight of the hope we have in Christ Jesus when we face oppressions.

We may be faithful in our work but if our work is not motivated by the love of God, we will end up only serving yourself.

Challenge: How would you ensure that your service to God is special and unique? What is within you that attracts others to Christ?

Prayer: May God fill our hearts with His love. God, please help us by your Holy Spirit to fully dedicated ourselves to Your service. May many others continuously praise You and give you the glory. In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Day 26 – No Fear, Just Believe! (Mark 5:36)

Have you believed God for anything? Especially for healing miracles? I remember a time when I had a swollen ankle a few days before my departure to another country. It was so painful that I could not do any household chores. In fact, I wanted to miss the Healing ministry at my church. But God impressed upon me that firstly, I could take a taxi to the church and secondly, I could ask my friend to pray for me. I obeyed God.

The Lord Jesus said in Mark 5: 36 to the ruler of the synagogue,
“Do not fear, only believe.”

Jesus was speaking to a father whose daughter was dead. Imagine the father’s surprise when Jesus told him not to fear but to believe. The father had to decide if he would believe in who Jesus represented; believe that Jesus would be able to heal. After all, Jesus represented the Father in Heaven.

The earthly father did not waver in his trust that Jesus might be able to heal; he invited Jesus to the house. And here, Jesus tells the entire crowd that the girl is only sleeping. Jesus commanded the little girl to arise. And she did.

I was definitely challenged by God to believe that I could travel to my church with a swollen ankle. Upon entering the church, I saw my friends and whispered to one of them that I needed healing prayers before we embarked on the healing ministry to others. She assured me that they would definitely pray after our worship session.

Well, we began to worship and as we sang one of the songs, I heard a whisper from the Lord Jesus and he said, “I am healing you right now!” My response was, “Yes, Lord! I believe you and I receive this healing right now”. The pain and the swell were gone instantly during the worship session.

My friends did not need to pray for healing anymore. Hallelujah! I witnessed God’s power of healing in my body.

Challenge: If fear is holding you back from the faith in God’s divine healing, stop and repent. Will you just cast away your fears and simply believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and trust that even if you do not see immediate healing, you can trust the One who Heals to bring you joy amidst the current suffering?

Prayer:

I desire to sense the presence and divine healing of the Lord Jesus Christ upon my body, soul and spirit today. Thank you God for removing every pain that I feel. Thank you for making me whole again in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 27 – Jesus, the Living Water (John 7:38)

The Holy Spirit of God is the one who leads and guides us in our daily walk with Christ. In 2019, I was visiting a country that had a very small percentage of Christians in their religious composition. My Christian friend was waiting for me at the airport.

As soon as I walked out, she told me that a young lady had fainted and was lifeless. My first response was, “Can I pray for her?” I did not care that there were people of two other faith groups and policemen around me. My friend said that it should be acceptable for me to pray.

Well, I laid my hands on this young lady from another faith group and prayed for God’s breath of life to flow in to her in the mighty name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I was surprised at my boldness but I knew that it was the Holy Spirit in me that allowed me to declare with such authority and power.

In John 7: 38, the Lord Jesus says

“Whoever believes in me,” as the Scripture has said, “Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

Jesus is the Source of this Life. Living water is strongly associated with the presence of God. God is the source of the living water. The river of life flows out from the throne of God in the Book of Revelation.

As believers in Christ, we walk in step with the Holy Spirit of God and we must be alert to how the Holy Spirit would want to lead and guide us.

That day at the airport, after I asked God to breathe Life into this young lady and had said “Amen”, her eyes opened immediately. She inhaled deeply and her family and others around were relieved. My immediate action was to offer the Lord Jesus Christ a very loud “Thank You, Jesus”. God did a miracle that day that many pre-believers witnessed. My prayer is that they would truly know the Living God.

Friends, if we truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, The assurance has been spoken by the Lord Himself, Out of our hearts will flow rivers of living water. God’s presence will touch others in a deep, life-giving way.

Challenge: How might you prepare yourself (practically) to let the Holy Spirit lead and guide you into loving others and life?

Prayer:

Every good gift from heaven above belongs to the Heavenly Father, Son of God and the Holy Spirit. I receive the dynamic life meant for me in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 28 – God’s Kingdom First (Matthew 6:33)

In November 2019, a good friend visited me in Mexico. We had a good time of exploring cities, eating good food and studying the Word. One day in early December, I told her that I would like to plan a short vacation to Acapulco in April 2020.

You see, I thought that after three months of intense ministry in six different nations, it would be timely to take a little rest. Ministry is important to me but not at the expense Of obeying God and being right with Him in every aspect of my life.

Jesus said in Mathew 6: 33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Seeking the kingdom of God and his righteousness simply means that one of the commitments I have, despite a busy ministry, is to rest. Rest is important to me because it pleases God. It is the time when I am not preparing my notes for lessons or facilitate or create videos with the gospel message. To me, resting is part of being right with God.

But what things are added to me when I seek to be right with God?

The verses prior to Mathew 6: 33 informs that we are not to worry or be anxious. We do have a God who will provide for us because He cares for us.

The world has been struggling with the pandemic since January 2020 and I hope that there is NO pandemic when you are reading this devotional. I would never have made it to Acapulco for my short holiday! Instead, God moved the hearts of my houseowners to invite me to spend the last weekend of 2019 in Acapulco with them!

This was amazing because it coincided with my birthday. I truly felt like God was gifting me a wonderful present which I enjoyed to the fullest.

God truly cares for all our little desires and needs. Instead of taking a short vacation after my hectic ministry trips, God organized for me to take a short weekend vacation before my ministry trips.

Challenge: Friends, what might you be anxious about? Choose today to put all your anxious moments and situations at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ who was slain. Fix your eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ and live the kingdom life That has been ordained for you.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you that your eyes are always on those whom you love. We can trust you to be our Jehovah Jireh, our Jehovah Rapha, our Jehovah Nissi. Help us by your Holy Spirit to live kingdom moments everyday of our lives In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 29 – Leaning Into Jesus (Matthew 6:34)

In the previous devotional, I wrote about not being worried or anxious and encouraged you to leave your anxious moments at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I used to be a person who was worried about my progress, financial status and disposition in life. However, the Lord Jesus Christ taught me, over many years in the past, that He was able to take care of me.

Our ministry is dependent on God to move hearts for ministry funds. I was very influenced by the missionary to China, Hudson Taylor, who founded the China Inland Mission (CIM) and now known as Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF).

The mission field is a difficult place for any missionary. Hudson Taylor was not exempted from hardships. One time, he had less than one British pound and at another time, he and his team had only one bag of rice. What did they do?

Jesus in Mathew 6:34 said,

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself.
Sufficient for the day is its own trouble

Well, Hudson Taylor and his team did not seek for materials but towards the accomplishment of God's plans in China. As they knelt down to pray, God heard and answered them in a major way. This missionary to China in the late 19th Century said these powerful words which I still hold close to my heart:

“God's work done in God's ways will never lack God's supply”.

Challenge: What are some anxieties or worries that occupy your mind and heart today? Put them at the feet of the One who holds your hands.

Prayer:

Thank you, Heavenly Father that You bless all our needs in a powerful way so that I am given the privilege to return the praise, honour and glory to You alone. In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Day 30 – Who is Before You? (Colossians 1: 17)

I was disciplined by my church leader, Dr. Raymond Teo, in 1994. I remember running away from his invitation to attend discipleship class. I was working then and even challenged God by asking Him to change my work trip to Indonesia if He really wanted me to join the discipleship class. How foolish of me to challenge God!! The next day, I went to work and my boss from New Zealand told me to postpone my trip.

I knew I had to attend the discipleship class. My first day at the class was so satisfying. I realised that I was so hungry to learn everything I possibly could about God, His kingdom and my responsibility as a Christian. Dr. Raymond Teo challenged each of his students to pray about a life verse. This is the verse that God will give each one of us and this truth will guide us in everything that we set to be and do in the kingdom of God.

I prayed. I waited. God pointed me to Colossians 1: 17:

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

This verse is about the Lord Jesus Christ and his supremacy. He was even before time, that is he is Eternal. He is Eternal even before creation came into being. And in Christ, everything comes to completion; everything is united in Christ.

As I travel the nations to disciple pastors and leaders, to preach at churches of various denominations and to speak at conferences, I am reminded of this verse in a very personal way.

Firstly, I am reminded that the Lord Jesus is the one who should be exalted, not me.

Secondly, I am reminded that I need to be drawing my messages, joy, strength, grace, peace and love from the Lord Jesus; I am after all an ambassador of Christ.

Thirdly, I am reminded that I am a carrier of the unity that the Lord Jesus desired for his disciples.

Fourthly, I am made aware that through the Lord Jesus, my ministry of reconciliation is born afresh at every assignment.

Fifthly, because the Lord Jesus is supremely eternal, I must always be quick to channel every glory, praise and honour back to Him.

Dear friends, today, I want to encourage you Just as my church leader did.



Challenge: If you have not got yourself a life verse, would you pray and ask God for one verse that will be a compelling guide in your life? Then, be alert to how this verse shapes your life ahead.

Prayer:

Thank you Lord Jesus that you are before all things, and all things hold together in You.
Amen.

Day 31 – This is Our God (Psalm 48:14)

Firstly, let me thank you from my heart. Our team is blessed to have served you in a small way.

The journey of **Unashamed to be Yours!** did not begin a few months ago but actually began a few years ago. I knew that I needed to obey God and write some devotionals but I was extremely busy with ministry matters.

Traveling almost every month can be quite hectic even though I enjoy this. I also spend extensive time in prayer and preparation before ministry assignments.

When the nations were affected by the coronavirus, most of us had to stay at home and traveling was suddenly not advisable. I began to work on these devotionals over a period of two months.

By this time, God had also provided with translators from the Indonesian, Malayalam, Spanish and Tamil-speaking backgrounds. This kind of team effort would not have been possible two years ago. In God's time, everything is beautiful and He will always guide us.

Psalm 48: 14 is an apt closing to our journey in realizing that we who are followers of Christ need not be ashamed of our unshakeable faith, our sacrificial love, our generous giving and our infectious joy and grace given by God.

Psalm 48: 14 says

“that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever.”

God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, will always continue to guide His beloved for as long as our ears are spiritually tuned to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. God guides us through His Holy Spirit that nudges us to listen carefully so that we might obey courageously and quickly.

Challenge: At the final devotional, will you pray for us to be faithful servants who will be ready to obey and exalt the Lord Jesus Christ?

Prayer:

Let me pray the Aaronic blessing over you -

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.