



The Saints Gathering Church
Raising proofs of a victorious life in Christ

Daily Devotional

MARCH 2025



THE FAITH WALK

Key Text: *Colossians 2:6-7*

Faith is vital in the life of a Christian. It is so integral that you can't be a Christian without it. A lot of Christians treat faith like it's rocket science, but it isn't. The Christian man is called a 'believer,' and a believer is someone that has faith. So, the believer that doesn't know how faith works is at a disadvantage in life.

Faith is natural to you as a believer. It doesn't end at salvation, you'll need it throughout your Christian life. So, you have to learn how it works. From our key text, you see that the same way you received Jesus is how you walk in Him, and that is by faith. You'll live the Christian life by the same principle by which you got saved.

In Hebrews 11:6, the Bible says that "without faith, it is impossible to please God." It doesn't say that "without faith it would not be easy to please God," or that "without faith it would be very difficult to please God." Rather it says that "it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God." There is no walking with God without faith because to even have anything to do with God, you must first believe that He exists. Nothing done outside faith pleases God.

When you're oblivious about faith, Christianity becomes a struggle. In your relationship with God, faith is cardinal; you can't do without it. So, you ought to have a working knowledge of faith. Ephesians 2:8-9 shows you that a man can't be saved without faith, so the very foundation of your contact with God was faith. Faith is deliberate, and how you get it is the word of God. In the coming days, we'll look more at our faith walk and why it is cardinal in your Christian walk.

Confession: Faith is not difficult, it comes easily to me. I am a man full of faith at every point.

Further Reading: Hebrews 11: 1-40, Ephesians 2:8-9

THE FAITH WALK

Key Text: *James 1:5-8*

Yesterday, you saw that faith is cardinal for your Christian walk, and that without faith, it is impossible to please God. We also saw that the way you received salvation is the same way you live your Christian life. James 1:5-8 lets you know that God gives liberally, which means He gives freely. God doesn't have a giving problem. He doesn't look for faults, but the man asking must ask in faith. Without faith, you can't receive from God. Faith makes it possible to receive from the giving God.

The believer has exercised faith at least once in his life—at salvation. That is the greatest faith exercise you'll ever do in your life, but many believers still struggle with faith because they don't look at God's Word. The fact that God requires unbelievers to believe before they are saved shows that even unbelievers can exercise faith. How much more you, the believer?

In 2 Peter 1:1, Peter lets you know that you have the same type of faith that he, Paul, and any other great man or woman of God had. If they could receive anything from God, so can you. Galatians 6:10 tells you that you are of the household of faith. That means you are of the family of those that have faith. Faith is available to you as a believer. It is what you have; it is who you are.

2 Corinthians 5:7 says that we walk by faith and not by sight. This is describing a way of life. The Christian life is lived out by faith. You're to conduct your walk with God by faith. To walk fully in the Christian life as God intended, you must walk by faith, which comes from God's Word.

Confession: It's not possible to be Christian and not have faith. Faith is natural to me. I have faith because I'm a Christian.

Further Reading: James 1:1-8

THE FAITH WALK

Key Text: *Romans 10:9-10*

Faith is a spiritual sense. It is how to live the Christian life. In dealing with God, your physical senses will not always help you. Faith is not based on feelings, neither is it a suggestion. It is a must if you will live a victorious Christian life. To receive anything from God, the first thing to do is a faith test. Ask yourself if you have faith for that thing.

Today, you'll see how faith works. Romans 10:9-10 shows it's a basic principle of faith to confess with your mouth, and believe in your heart. So, confessing with your mouth is not enough, and in the same light, believing in your heart is also not enough. They go hand in hand.

In Mark 11:12-14, you see Jesus make a bold confession to the fig tree, to the hearing of His disciples. If you're ashamed to let people around you hear what you're believing for, then you don't really believe what you're saying. The fig tree was inanimate, yet Jesus spoke to it. This means that faith speaks to inanimate things and circumstances. Jesus spoke to situations multiple times in scriptures and they changed instantly. That is an example you should follow.

In verse 20-24 of Mark 11, you see that the fig tree withered. Jesus didn't let His disciples stay in awe of the situation, rather He let them know that whosoever believes can have the same results. Jesus explained that the man that has faith can speak to a mountain, and it would move. 'Mountain' in this conversation represents situations that seem impossible. Jesus let them know that faith is for difficult circumstances—the impossible. Without faith, your prayers are a waste of time because if you don't believe, you can't receive anything from God. Whosoever can receive whatsoever as long as he has faith. Faith is how to get the power of God to move in the direction of your need.

Confession: When I pray, I'm not wasting time. I pray with the confidence that God hears me, so I always receive what I pray for.

Further Reading: Mark 11:12-24

THE FAITH WALK

Key Text: *Mark 11:20-24*

Prayer is a child of faith. In verse 24 of our key text, Jesus points out something very vital: prayer is conditioned on faith. Prayer doesn't work without faith. This means that you shouldn't just pray as an obligation, or so you can say you've prayed, or even because you're trying to get pity from God. You should pray with faith.

In verse 23, the most used word is the word 'say/saith.' This implies that the emphasis of faith is what you're saying. Your mouth is such a powerful tool that it regulates your heart. It is so powerful that even if you don't have faith and you begin to talk, your mouth would give your heart faith if you stay talking long enough. Speaking produces faith.

Even something as important as salvation is communicated by speaking, because words spoken produce faith. Words are powerful. They cause circumstances to come together to cause what you have said to come to pass. Words are enough in any circumstance, they bring about a change.

Look at the woman with the issue of blood in Mark 5. She heard about Jesus and His healing power, and that produced faith in the possibility of being healed from her sickness. But she didn't stop at hearing. She began to speak, "If I may touch His clothes, I shall be whole" Her words reflected her faith, and she kept speaking until her faith was strong enough to push through the crowd. She didn't just believe in her heart; she spoke her faith consistently until what she believed manifested. Her words guided her actions, and her actions led to her healing. Faith begins when you hear the word of God, but it doesn't end there. You must speak what you've heard until it becomes a reality in your life.

Confession: What I hear, I speak. My words are filled with faith, and they produce results. I speak the Word of God concerning my situation, and I see the manifestation..

Further Reading: Mark 5:25-34, Romans 10:8-10

THE FAITH WALK

Key Text: *Romans 10:17*

So far, you've seen that prayer works with faith, and that speaking is vital to building your faith. Today, we'll look at how to work out your faith. Many believers ask, "How can I have more faith?" The answer is simple—faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

When you expose yourself to God's Word consistently, faith rises in your heart naturally. It's like planting a seed; the more you water it, the more it grows. This is why you can't separate faith from God's Word. The Bible shows us in Romans 12:3 that God has given to every believer the measure of faith, but what you do with that measure determines how much it grows.

Just like a muscle grows stronger with exercise, faith grows stronger with use. Each time you stand on God's Word and see results, your faith becomes stronger for the next challenge. This is why testimonies are powerful—they remind you of God's faithfulness and build your faith for future battles. When you hear or remember how God came through for you or others, it strengthens your confidence in His Word.

Many Christians struggle because they try to build their faith on experiences or feelings rather than on God's Word. But faith isn't based on what you see or feel. It's based on what God has said. When you understand this, you'll stop looking at circumstances and start focusing on God's promises. Your faith will only be as strong as your knowledge of God's Word. Faith makes the impossible possible, but it must be nourished daily with God's Word. Don't wait until you face a challenge before you start building your faith. Make it a daily practice to feed on, speak, and act on God's Word.

Confession: My faith grows stronger daily as I hear and meditate on God's Word. I live by faith and not by sight.

Further Reading: Romans 10:1-17

DESIGNED FOR THE SUPERNATURAL

Key Text: *Genesis 20:3-7*

Man is a unique kind of supernatural being. Unlike other supernatural beings, man is specially designed to connect with both the natural and the supernatural worlds. He interacts with the physical world through his body and the spiritual world through his spirit. This helps you understand why the supernatural is not strange or distant to man. It is part of who he is.

God appeared to Abimelech in a dream and warned him that Sarah was married to a prophet. Abimelech pleaded his innocence, and God instructed him to return Sarah and have Abraham pray for him so he could live. Despite being a foreign king who didn't serve God, Abimelech was able to engage with the supernatural.

Other examples include Cain, whom God spoke to after he killed his brother, and King Nebuchadnezzar, whom God warned through dreams. These stories show that man, by design, can interface with the supernatural. As a believer, understand that God has brought you into His family. The Bible says you are made in God's image, and this truth should inspire you to live at your best. It should be your motivation to walk more in the power of God.

When you fail to recognize your supernatural heritage, you miss out on the fullness of what God has planned for you. God created you for something greater than the natural world and understanding this is vital to fulfilling your purpose. The supernatural is not an abstract concept; it is part of your identity. Always remember this truth so you don't limit God's work in your life. Recognize who you are in Him, and let this understanding guide you to live a life that reflects His greatness in and through you. You're made for more—for God's glory on earth. For His move, till all men come to see and know Him. You are not ordinary.

Confession: I am supernatural. I was made in the very image of God. I was made by God to interface both worlds. Glory to God!

Further Reading: Genesis 20:1-17

DESIGNED FOR THE SUPERNATURAL

Key Text: *1 Corinthians 12:1,31*

Yesterday, we talked about how man is uniquely able to interact with both the physical and supernatural worlds. Today, we'll explore how this understanding impacts a believer's life. In 1 Corinthians 12:1, Paul says, "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." He is talking to Christians and pointing out that believers can sometimes be unaware or uninformed about spiritual matters. This highlights the need to learn and grow in understanding the supernatural.

Spiritual ignorance is not part of God's plan for you. God doesn't want you confused about things like speaking in tongues, healing the sick, or other spiritual gifts. Sadly, some believers are hesitant or even afraid to speak in tongues, but that's not how it should be. That's why Paul took time to address this issue in his letter to the church.

Since God wants us to understand spirituals, it should be something we actively pursue. In 1 Corinthians 12:31, Paul says, "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you in a more excellent way." Paul's choice of the word "covet" shows how much a believer should desire spiritual gifts. Just as a thirsty man in a desert craves water, Paul is saying you should desire it in the same way. He's saying you should deeply want and seek after them, making it clear that this desire is an essential part of your walk with God.

Paul is writing to an entire church, and he's telling them to desire spirituals—what God's power can do—with all their hearts. What a bold statement from the Apostle! He's essentially saying, "Go after it, crave it, don't hold back." This means your desire for God's power can never be too much. It's like Paul is saying, "If you think you've asked enough, think again; keep asking, keep wanting, and keep reaching for more."

Confession: My heart is covetous when it comes to spirituals. If it's God's Spirit, then I am open. Yes, I am open! Glory to God!

Further Reading: **1 Corinthians 12:1-31**

DESIGNED FOR THE SUPERNATURAL

Key Text: *1 Corinthians 12:31*

As a believer, you have a blank cheque when it comes to spirituals. God has given you unlimited access to His power, and it's His desire that you approach it with a deep hunger. In fact, He wants you to be "covetous" about it—eager and relentless in pursuing all that He has made available to you.

It's important for you to understand that God has no issue with your desires. If you want to heal every blind eye, God is perfectly fine with that. If your desire is to see every crippled person walk again, God has no problem with it. Think about the event in Acts: Ananias was in a vision, and Paul was seeing Ananias' vision in a vision. Pause and read that again.

Now, here's something to think about even more deeply: if God has no problem with your desires, it means He would have an issue when there is no desire. If there is no desire, then God has a problem with that. A believer without desire has either been shaped by wrong teaching or intimidated by the devil. Think about it. How often do you find that someone who's offered God's power outrightly rejects it? It's rare. The only time this happens is when such a person has been taught incorrectly, or they've tried to walk in God's power before, and it didn't seem to work out.

Even if that's your experience, don't allow your story to end there. Desire is the fuel for stepping into what God has made available. Decide that you won't let the devil bully you out of walking in God's power. Power is your birthright, and you should be passionate for the things of the Spirit of God. That's all it takes to walk in power. Desire it with everything in you, like your life depends on it, and you will have it.

Confession: I refuse to be bullied out of God's power by the devil. I am passionate about the things of the Spirit of God. I desire and pursue His power with all my heart, and I walk in it boldly. Glory to God!

Further Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-7

DESIGNED FOR THE SUPERNATURAL

Key Text: *1 Corinthians 12:1-2*

God has no problem with your desire to walk in the supernatural. Think about that—pause, reflect, and let it sink in. God truly has no problem with your desires. Yesterday, we discovered that if you lack desires for spiritual things, it's because they were taken from you. This is because passion and desire are natural to the new man in Christ—they are part of your spiritual DNA.

Passion must define how you feel about the power of God and the things of the Spirit. It's not optional; it's essential. Let's explore something important in today's key text. In 1 Corinthians 12:2, Paul reminds the believers in Corinth of their past involvement in idol worship. Corinth, a Gentile city, was deeply rooted in polytheism—the belief in many gods. It's likely that some new converts carried this mindset into their understanding of the Holy Spirit and spirituals.

Paul addresses this confusion directly. In verse 4, he emphasizes, “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.” He's correcting their thinking by making it clear: while there are different gifts, they all come from one source—the Holy Spirit. He continues in verses 5-6, explaining that while the gifts are ministered and operate differently, they all come from the same God. This means God is the source of every gift, and they all work together in harmony. These gifts are essentially given to benefit the church and fulfill God's purpose.

Paul was teaching them, “You might think you've seen something remarkable in idol worship, but God is about to show you something far greater.” Remember this: every gift comes from God, and He lives inside you. What does that mean for you? Because the Spirit of God lives in you, you have access to all the gifts. You can walk in all of them and be a blessing to the church.

Confession: I have the Spirit of God living in me. I am equipped by God's Spirit to fulfill His purpose and be a blessing to those around me.

Further Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:2-7

DESIGNED FOR THE SUPERNATURAL

Key Text: *1 Corinthians 12:1-7*

Yesterday, we learned a key truth from Paul. There are many gifts, but it's the same Spirit behind them. Today, we're going to look at another core truth; one that will help you understand why it's so important to walk in power.

Paul drops this gem in 1 Corinthians 12:7, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." Let that sink in for a second. As a believer, you have this incredible ability to manifest the Spirit's power. This is because the Spirit of God isn't just hanging out nearby. He's living right inside you! However, you need to become active in manifesting the Spirit. When was the last time you stepped out and demonstrated the Spirit's power? If you're not demonstrating the Spirit, you're missing out on God's best, and it goes beyond you. God's master plan is beautiful in its simplicity. He wants you to experience His best so that it overflows and touches the lives of others too.

A good example of this is Apostle Peter at the beautiful gate. He was quick to tell the man that he didn't have silver or gold, but that he could help with something way more valuable; something the man hadn't had since birth. What was that? It was the ability to make the man walk. When he met that man who couldn't walk, he didn't apologize for his empty pockets. Instead, he basically said, "Look, I can't fund your wheelchair, but I've got something way better—how about we get you walking instead?"

That's the amazing thing about spiritual power—it doesn't need a fat wallet to work. Maybe you can't cover someone's hospital bills, but those hands of yours, they carry the healing touch that can make those bills unnecessary in the first place.

Confession: I boldly declare that God's Spirit manifests through me. Daily I demonstrate His power, blessing others through supernatural gifts and divine healing. His best flows through me.

Further Reading: Acts 3:1-10

ESTABLISHED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Key Texts: *Romans 5:17, Galatians 2:16*

The topic of righteousness is a fundamental truth in the Christian Faith. Righteousness is one truth in the Bible that most Christians are aware of, but don't understand properly. Your Christian experience is directly tied to how much you acknowledge and apply the truth you know from God's Word.

A man of God, E.W. Kenyon defined righteousness as the ability of a man to stand before God without a sense of guilt, sin consciousness, inferiority, fear, and condemnation. In other words, the man stands before God with boldness, without feeling unworthy or guilty. God wants you to stand in His presence, not afraid and without condemnation. God wants you free before Him and that freedom comes from righteousness. He has already made provisions for you to stand before Him, without feeling unworthy or condemned and that provision came through Jesus.

From our key text, you will see that righteousness comes by the way of faith and not of good works. You must understand that you can never stand before God based on what you do. So, through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, by believing in the fact that He died for your sins, you have received righteousness. In Romans 5:17, Apostle Paul describes righteousness as a gift. And a gift implies that it is not worked for or earned; it is given freely.

The gift of righteousness is only through Jesus Christ; it cannot be found outside of Him. This means that to be in Christ, is to have received the gift of righteousness. There's no other way for a man to be made righteous. The sacrifice of Jesus and your faith in Him has made you righteous. Now, you can stand before God without fear or guilt.

Confession: I boldly declare that I am righteous, not because of my own works but because of my faith in Jesus Christ. I stand before God with confidence and boldness, free from guilt, sin consciousness, inferiority, fear, and condemnation. Hallelujah!

Further Reading: Romans 3:19-28

ESTABLISHED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Key Text: *Romans 4:1-8*

Being established in righteousness isn't about gaining new information. The focus here is to strengthen the knowledge of righteousness you already have. Looking at the scriptures, the word "established" means 'to confirm', 'to strengthen' (Acts 14:22). This implies that you are supposed to stay with what you have been taught. So, in this case, God's plan is that you stay with the truth of righteousness until you are grounded in it.

As we saw from our study yesterday, righteousness is a free gift from God and it can only be gotten by faith in Jesus' sacrifice. A lot of times, people tend to have a misunderstanding on what righteousness means. They think righteousness is based on their good works and feel God will only accept them when they live a "holy life." Now, living a holy life isn't bad at all, but that's not what righteousness means according to the Bible.

Looking at the example of Abraham from our key text, Apostle Paul's writing makes it very clear that a man can never boast before God based on his works. God called Abraham righteous based on his faith in what Jesus would do. So, this is not a discovery. God calls the man righteous based on his faith in Jesus. It's essential that you grasp the reality that for you as a believer, God calls you righteous based on your faith in Jesus and not on your works.

The focus of righteousness is solely on what Jesus has done. This gift of righteousness is not earned or deserved, rather it is received by faith. It is given freely. All God requires you to do is to receive it. So, make a deliberate decision to flood your mind with this truth. Stay with the Word of God until you begin to see yourself as righteous.

Confession: I refuse to back down on my faith in God's healing power. I know that sickness is from the devil, and healing is God's will for me. Jesus spent His ministry healing the sick and oppressed, and He has given me the same power. Hallelujah!

Further Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10, Galatians 2:1-16

ESTABLISHED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Key Text: *2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

From our previous studies, we have established the fact that righteousness is a gift from God and it is gotten by faith. Today, we will take a closer look at this topic. Looking at our key text, you will find out that a lot of people find it easy to believe that God would put sin on Jesus, but find it very hard to believe that God made them righteous.

Jesus' death for our sins was the only way we could have been made righteous. So, if you agree that God could put the sins of the world on a man who knew no sin, then you must agree that God can put His righteousness on a man who has sinned. As surely as Jesus became sin, you who have believed in Him became righteous. This was God's intention, that you might be made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

The Bible also calls righteousness a blessing. In Romans 4, Apostle Paul makes a reference to David's thoughts on righteousness. He simply explains that God makes a man righteous without demanding anything but faith. And he goes on to explain that this blessing is that God will not impute sin against the man in Christ. To impute means to take into account; to take a record of something.

In simple terms, God will not count your sins against you that have believed in the Gospel; in the righteousness that God has gifted to you. He will not take your sins into account. Righteousness is that God has said of you that He will not count your sins against you. This means that in your relationship with God, He has said He will not hold any account of sins against you. This is indeed a blessing.

Confession: boldly declare that I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I believe that just as God put the sins of the world on Jesus, He has put His righteousness on me. God will not count my sins against me. I am blessed, and I am grateful for the gift of righteousness that God has given me. Glory to God!

Further Reading: Hebrews 8:1-12

ESTABLISHED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Key Texts: *Romans 3:19-28, 1 Corinthians 1:29-31*

Decide in your heart that the teaching of righteousness is one that you would have to keep hearing over and over again. As we have seen, righteousness is that because of your faith in Jesus, God will not take record of your wrongs. So, don't think that your good deeds after salvation are what will make you righteous. The only determining factor in receiving righteousness is faith.

Righteousness by faith is properly documented in scriptures. Apostle Paul, writing in Romans 3 verse 20, clearly states that, "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight..." This shows that the righteousness of God is not based on the law or human actions. The Bible makes it very clear that a man cannot be justified by his works.

Now, most people believe the righteousness they have received is just a pardon, but it's more than that. The righteousness you have received from God is a declaration that you are not guilty. Look at it this way, Jesus the Son of God was declared guilty on your behalf. So, it is only a righteous judgement when God declares the man that has put his faith in Jesus as righteous.

Therefore, you can stand before God on the qualification of Jesus' sacrifice. God says that on the basis of what Jesus has done, He declares you not guilty. You can boast in the fact that God has made you righteous. This means that in your dealings with God, He will not treat you based on your past failings, He will treat you as one who is righteous. This is definitely something to rejoice about. Hallelujah!

Confession: I boast in the fact that God has made me righteous, and I rejoice in the knowledge that He will not treat me based on my past failings, but as one who is righteous. I declare that I am free from guilt and condemnation, and I stand confidently before God, qualified by Jesus' sacrifice. Hallelujah!

Further Reading: Galatians 3:1-11

ESTABLISHED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Key Texts: *Romans 3:24, Romans 1:16*

An important truth about righteousness that you must understand is that God had to make it available and free of charge. Romans 6:23 explains it clearly that “The wages of sin is death...” This means that we deserved to get the wages of sin, which is death. You could not have qualified for it based on your abilities. There is no one righteous person on the earth that got it by their good works. Everyone that God made righteous is because of their faith in Jesus.

Now, a lot of Christians still don't see righteousness as a free gift. They think they need to do certain things in order to “appease” God, then He would eventually declare them as righteous. But Apostle Paul in Romans 3:24, disproves that belief. He clearly states that “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” God gives righteousness freely.

The Gospel of Jesus is a revelation of the righteousness of God. God looks at the sinner and calls him righteous when the sinner puts his faith in Jesus' sacrifice. You are not righteous because you are perfect, but because the Perfect One took away your sins and gave you righteousness.

One thing that you must do for yourself is to have a righteousness-conscious mentality. Romans 8:1 says there's no condemnation to the man in Christ Jesus. And you are that man in Christ! Being established in righteousness means that you come to the place where you are grounded in the fact that feelings of condemnation no longer have power over you. This is based on what Jesus has done and independent of what you've done. It is God's grace to you.

Confession: I am justified by God's grace through Jesus, and I declare that I am free from condemnation. I confidently walk in my righteous identity, not because of what I have done, but because of Jesus' sacrifice. Hallelujah!

Further Reading: Romans 10:1-10, Romans 6:1-23

BURDENS IN PRAYER

Key Text: *Matthew 26:41*

Prayer is an essential part of the Christian life, and it is often the area satan attacks the most. Many believers struggle with maintaining their personal devotions, particularly their prayer lives. A lot of times, we have many excuses as to why we don't have a prayer life, e.g., sleep, work, etc. One of the most common obstacles to a believer's prayer life is sleep. When Jesus took His disciples to Gethsemane to pray, they couldn't stay awake because their eyes were heavy. Yet, when trouble arose, they could no longer sleep.

One of the greatest battles a believer must fight for is a consistent prayer life. You must contend for it because it is foundational to your spiritual growth. We see that Christians often expend so much energy trying to overcome struggles like addictions, lust, or depression. However, if you channel that energy to building a consistent prayer life, many of those struggles would lose their grip over you.

Just as food is necessary for physical growth, prayer is necessary for spiritual growth. It nourishes and strengthens your Christian walk. It's impossible to have a meaningful walk with God without dedicating time to prayer and fellowship. Without a consistent prayer devotion, your Christian life will lack depth and effectiveness.

When you pray, you take control of your circumstances. Prayer prepares you to face whatever comes to you rather than just reacting. Whatever the devil tries to bring your way, you will be spiritually equipped to handle it. In this series, we will delve into the topic of prayer burdens. Prayer burdens go beyond regular devotions into a deeper, more intense fellowship with God. Without a consistent prayer life, it is impossible to experience or carry prayer burdens. Over the next few days, we will explore what prayer burdens are and how you can activate them.

Prayer: Lord, help me to build a consistent life of prayer. I want to have a prayer life that You can trust with your burdens. I receive Your help to have a strong and effective personal devotion. Amen!

Further Reading: Matthew 26:36-75

BURDENS IN PRAYER

Key Texts: *Romans 9:1-3, Ezekiel 36:25-26*

Burdens arise from a deep sense of responsibility. If you don't feel responsible for something, it's not a burden—it's merely sympathy. For example, if you see a child unable to attend school, you may feel bad for them, but that feeling remains as sympathy if you do nothing to help. However, if the same happens to your own child, you won't just feel bad, you'll actively look for solutions. The difference is responsibility. A burden, therefore, is more than a concern; it's something that drives you to act. Even in the natural, we can see examples of people bearing the burdens of others and creating NGOs for the less privileged.

Bearing burdens requires identifying with others. It's the ability to see yourself in their shoes and feel the weight of their situation. When you pray for an unbeliever, with burden, you identify with them and acknowledge that, without God's grace, you would be in their place—lost in sin and headed for eternal separation from God. This type of prayer is deeply personal, almost as if you are interceding for your own soul.

Paul exemplified this in our key text, where he describes his sorrow for his fellow Jews. He felt such a burden for their salvation that he wished he could take their place. Likewise, in Hebrews 2:15-18, Jesus bore our burdens by fully identifying with our weaknesses and temptations. God didn't simply sympathize with our fallen state. He acted. His burden for us moved Him to save us.

At salvation, God gave you the capacity to bear burdens. Ezekiel 36:25-26 explains that your stony heart was replaced with a heart of flesh. Through the new birth, you received the ability to feel what God feels and to share in His burden for others.

Confession: I'm a new creation. I have received a new heart, one that is easily yielded to God. This enables me to share God's burdens. I don't find it hard to catch His burdens.

Further Reading: Hebrews 2:15-18

BURDENS IN PRAYER

Key Text: *Luke 22:39-44*

Burdens are never passive. They are not given to someone who is indifferent because they are tied to your emotions. You cannot carry a burden from God without it affecting how you feel. We saw that in the new creation, you've been given a heart that can feel what God feels. A person who carries the burdens of God will be concerned about what concerns God.

When Jesus faced the responsibility of dying for our sins, His emotions reflected the weight of that burden. In our key text, we see Him praying in Gethsemane, described as being "in an agony." This agony refers to deep mental distress. In Matthew 26:36, Jesus says, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death." The burden of saving humanity was so overwhelming that it consumed His emotions. Hebrews 5:7 tells us that Jesus prayed with "strong crying and tears." His burden visibly impacted His emotions.

Have you ever cried in prayer? It's not a sign of weakness. When the Spirit of God lays a burden on you, it often manifests in an intense emotional response. These burden driven prayers are passionate, involving your whole being. Have you ever wondered about people who pray and sweat so much that their clothes are completely soaked? Or people who cry so much that their makeup is ruined? To some, this may seem unnecessary, but it's not. When Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, His sweat was like great drops of blood. Such visible physical manifestations often accompany burdens in prayer.

This is what it means to have intimacy and fellowship with God in prayer. There are moments in prayer when the Spirit takes control and you lose all restraint, crying out to God with everything in you. In such moments, you are unconcerned about your surroundings or the opinions of others. These prayers are born from deep burdens and are powerful. They are prayers that cannot go unanswered.

Confession: I am concerned about what God is concerned about. I am not aloof. I am not unbothered. If Jesus cried with strong crying and tears to fulfill His purpose, I will do the same. I'm open to intimacy and fellowship with God in prayer.

Further Reading: Hebrews 5:7, Matthew 26:36-41

BURDENS IN PRAYER

Key Text: *Matthew 26:36-42*

There are two primary ways of receiving a burden, and one of them is the supernatural burden. This happens when God suddenly places a weight on your heart, urging you to pray. It often comes with a pressing sense of responsibility.

For example, a story was told of a woman missionary who experienced such a burden. While going about her day, she suddenly felt the need to pray. As she began to pray, thoughts of another missionary in a distant land came to her mind. She continued praying fervently until she sensed a note of victory, indicating that the matter was settled and the burden lifted. Later, she learned that, on the same day she prayed, that missionary had been on the verge of being killed but was miraculously delivered by her prayers.

In this instance, God supernaturally alerted her to the danger and prompted her to pray. It's important to understand that God can do nothing on earth unless men pray. It is through prayer that we bring His power to bear on earth. Supernatural burdens often come with an urgency to pray, and once the matter has been addressed in prayer, you'll sense the burden lifted. Looking at Jesus in Gethsemane, we see an example of a supernatural burden. Jesus had no natural way of knowing Judas would betray Him, but He sensed it in His spirit. The weight of the burden caused His soul to become exceedingly sorrowful.

Though supernatural burdens may seem spontaneous, they don't come randomly. God entrusts such matters only to those who have taken their prayer lives seriously. To receive such burdens, you must cultivate a consistent and disciplined prayer life. These burdens are serious and often require immediate attention. A consistent prayer life will ensure that you are ready to respond when God places a burden on your heart.

Confession: I take responsibility to have a consistent life of prayer, one that God can trust and depend on. I am open to the burdens of the Spirit of God. When God stirs me to prayer, I respond immediately.

Further Reading: Matthew 26:1-46

BURDENS IN PRAYER

Key Text: *Nehemiah 1:1-4*

The second way of receiving burdens is by intentionally cultivating them. In this case, you play an active role in stirring up the burden. This often happens when you observe the world around you and allow your heart to be moved.

When Nehemiah heard about the devastation of Jerusalem, he wept, mourned, and prayed to the Lord. His emotions were deeply involved, showing what a burden looks like. Some situations are meant to stir specific emotions within you. Throughout the Scriptures, the people God used were often stirred by the wrongs they saw around them.

When Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, something inside him was stirred to intervene. Similarly, in Numbers 25:7-8, Phinehas was moved with holy zeal when he saw a rebellious Israelite with a Midianite woman. His burden led him to take immediate action. In Acts 17:16, Paul's spirit was stirred when he saw the idolatry in Athens. The Greek word for stirred, *Paroxuno*, means to provoke. This provocation drove Paul to preach to the people. A person whose heart is aligned with God's heart for souls will easily be burdened. You don't need hours of prayer to be burdened for the lost; the thought of their eternal destiny should move you.

Burdens can come by reasoning. The thought of men who don't know Jesus facing eternal damnation in hell should bring tears to your eyes. This is what inspired missionaries to travel to distant lands at the risk of their lives, to preach the gospel. Satan's tactic to prevent you from carrying prayer burdens is distraction. You might pray for hours but remain distracted throughout. When you are consumed by endless activities, social media, or entertainment, you will struggle to receive God's burdens. God desires your heart and attention. He wants your focus so He can impart His burdens into you. Will you give Him your heart?

Prayers: I'm concerned about the men given to immorality around me. I let this stir up the burdens of God in me. I find it easy to get burdens for the lost. I refuse to be distracted by the devil. I give my heart to the Lord.

Further Reading: Numbers 25:1-13

THE CHRISTIAN CONFESSION

Key Text: 1 Timothy 3:16

The Christian man is not fashioned like this world. Although he lives physically in this world, he is expected to talk and behave a particular way – the Christian way. How should a believer talk? What things should he say and speak? What are the basis of the claims a believer can make? We shall be looking at and answering these questions over the next couple of days.

From the key text, the phrase “without controversy” translates to “homologous menos” in the Greek language, meaning an abiding confession. This highlights that in the Christian faith, there is a truth that unites us all—something we all proclaim together. There're core, unchanging beliefs that bind us as one in Christ.

An example of such truth is seen in 1 Timothy 3:16, where Paul says that God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels and preached unto the Gentiles. This is a truth that every believer speaks. There is no exception. When we meet a believer, there must be one thing found in their confession and that is that GOD CAME AS A MAN. No Christian believes otherwise.

This scripture forms the foundation of your confession as a Christian. Your confession should not come from your own thoughts or imaginations, but must be rooted in the Word of God.

God's Word shows you the right way to speak, guiding you to declare truths that align with His will. To confess rightly, you must diligently look into His Word to understand what He has spoken about you. Your confessions should not be based on what you feel or think, but on what God has already declared. He has spoken so that you can confidently affirm His promises to yourself. By aligning your words with His truth, you walk in agreement with His plan and purpose for your life.

Confession: I am a Christian. I believe that God came in the flesh to die for my sins. I believe that He rose from the dead for me. This is my reality and I walk in all of it. Amen!

Further Reading: 1 Timothy 3:1-16

THE CHRISTIAN CONFESSION

Key Texts: *Hebrews 3:1*

God's Word is the origin of what we say. In Hebrews 3:1, the word profession can also be called confession. It is the Greek word 'homologia'. It means to say the same thing that someone has said before. You are merely repeating what someone else has said.

This is necessary for us to understand because a lot of Christians have gone off to make positive confessions and blame God when they don't see results. They get quotes from various secular books and speak the words to themselves. Inasmuch as this is not bad, the Lord is not under any obligation to back them. The Christian confession, however, is not a positive confession. In positive confession, the basis of what you are saying is not from God's Word and so God is not obligated to back your words.

For example, a girl can claim to be the most beautiful girl in the world, or a guy can claim to be the smartest guy in class. They might even go as far as speaking these words to themselves every morning before school. This is not bad, but the problem is that there is no Word basis for this kind of confession.

In Christian confession, God has spoken first, giving you the right to speak. You say it because God has already said it, and He is obligated to back it when your words align with His. Your confession must always agree with His Word. When you declare His truth, trust that He will honor and fulfill what He has spoken. So what do you do? Go to the Word of God and find out what God has said about you, and then you say it to yourself. By saying it to yourself over and over again, you affirm that what God has said is true in your life and you'll walk in the reality of it.

Confession: The faith of Jesus is a speaking faith. God has said things about me in His Word and I believe and affirm them with my words. Hallelujah

Further Reading: Hebrews 3:1-19

THE CHRISTIAN CONFESSION

Key Texts: *Hebrews 3:1, Romans 10:9-10*

Some Christians ask why they must speak the Word of God. They wonder if it's necessary to say what God has said concerning them? Is it not enough to just believe it? Does speaking it make any difference? These questions go through the minds of certain believers. Speaking God's Word over their lives seems very difficult, and because of that, they don't do it. However, you cannot afford to neglect the significance of confession of God's Word in your daily life.

In Romans 10:9, the Bible tells us that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you would be saved. Take a closer look at what you just read. Jesus had already died and resurrected. He has paid for sins by His sacrifice on the cross, but all those things will not become yours until you open your mouth and confess Him as Lord. If the beginning of your Christian journey started with confession, then the rest of your Christian walk will be sustained by consistently confessing God's Word with faith.

Now remember that what you confessed to become a Christian is what God has already accomplished for you on the cross. In Christian confession, there is always something God has already done, and there is who God has already made you to be in Christ. That is precisely what you are called to boldly confess every day.

So what has God said concerning you? What truth of His Word do you need to see working in your life today? It could be righteousness, joy, peace, power, self-control, healing, or provision. You can take God's Word on it, personalize it, and boldly speak it to yourself every day until it becomes your reality.

Confession: Great and mighty things are spoken of me. God has said it. It is true and I speak them to myself. I choose to speak God's Word consistently in my life today, tomorrow and forever.

Further Reading: Romans 10:1-21

THE CHRISTIAN CONFESSION

Key Text: *Hebrews 13:5-6*

Yesterday, we concluded with the fact that you must take what God has done for you and speak it to yourself. Some of the things to say as Christians are: I am the righteousness of God; I am holy and without blame before God; I am accepted in the beloved; I am loved by God; I cannot be condemned; greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world, etc.

Looking at these confessions, some ignorant believers would say that it is pride to make such claims. The absoluteness of such statements make them shy away from them for fear that they may falter at it. But from our key text, you see the mind of God concerning the Believer's confession. God has said so that you may boldly say. In other words, you are to say the things that God has spoken about you boldly and without fear. It is not pride to say what God has said about you. When you refuse to say what God has said about you, you make God a liar. But honour for God's Word is that you say what He has said about you.

Some Christians fear that if they confess that they are the righteousness of God, they can still fall into sin. So, rather than looking like hypocrites, they totally avoid it, but the truth is that not confessing it will definitely not stop you from falling into sin.

God's Word has the power to produce what it talks about. So if you keep confessing your righteousness in Christ, the desire for sin will lose its hold. Dear believer, do not be afraid to say and keep saying what God has declared about you. Be bold, take up what God has spoken in His Word, and repeatedly declare it to yourself with faith and assurance.

Confession: I am what God says I am. I am righteous; I am holy; I am without blame; I cannot be condemned; I have the life of God on my inside; I am exactly who God says that I am. Hallelujah!

Further Reading: Hebrews 13:1-25

THE CHRISTIAN CONFESSION

Key Texts: *Ephesians 1:3, 1 Corinthians 1:29-30*

The believer is joined to Christ, such that their identity can only be found in Christ. When God saved you, He called you certain things in Christ, and that is exactly what you are. As we conclude, you must know that God has spoken well of you and it is not arrogance or pride to confess it. It is absolute trust and honour to God's Word that you say it. In Ephesians 1:3, the Bible says that God has blessed you with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ. He calls you forgiven, redeemed, His child, blameless, holy, among other powerful declarations.

However, some Christians are ignorant of these truths, so they value their current experiences and circumstances over what God has said. God's Word says they are righteous. But they may look around and see sin in their lives. Instead of aligning with God's Word, they side with their present experiences, feelings, or doubts, missing out on the truth of their identity in Christ.

This is not the right way to be. God's Word is true, irrespective of your experiences. As Christians, there is a way God sees you and He wants you to see it too. You must look at the Word to find out what God has said. God has already made you righteous. The more you confess your righteousness in Christ, the more your mind is renewed and aware of who God has actually made you, and then you can confidently walk in that victory that is already yours in Christ.

Make up your mind today to only say what God has declared about you, no matter the circumstances. Speak His Word over your life daily and align your thoughts, words, and actions with His truth. Trust that as you do, His promises will manifest in your life in powerful ways.

Confession: I believe God's Word over my experiences and feelings. I do not allow my feelings to dictate the direction of my life. I choose today to always stick with what the Word of God says concerning me. Hallelujah!

Further Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-30

REFUSE TO BE OFFENDED

Key Texts: *1 Peter 5:8-9, James 3:14-16*

One major thing you must understand as a believer is that offence is not acceptable. Christianity is easy when your options are in black and white. When there are grey areas, decisions become harder. As a believer, if you just make up your mind that offence is unacceptable, it will solve all your problems regarding them.

Offence is one of satan's choicest tools to destroy believers' lives and take them out of God's plan. In Acts 13:1-4, Paul and Barnabas were called together and separated for the work of ministry. Hands were laid on them and they were sent forth by the Holy Ghost. They did great works in the ministry together until offence set in (Acts 15:36-40). satan will do anything to see that you do not get to the peak of God's plans for you and offence is one of his tools.

From our key text, we see that the devil is going about looking for whom to devour. He uses the same old trick. But Peter instructs us to resist the devil steadfastly, to not give in to his suggestions, and he will flee. People can legitimately offend you, but staying in offence is still not an option.

We can actually ask if offended people hear God at all. Because when you're offended, God will steadily speak to you to forgive speedily. So when someone is offended for a long period, they have succeeded in shutting down the voice of God and yielding to satan. There is no reason to be offended as a believer. Offence is of the devil and it can never be justified.

Confession: I refuse offence in my life. I am wise. I will not let the devil devour me with his tool of offence. I always choose to forgive.

Further Reading: Acts 15:30-41

REFUSE TO BE OFFENDED

Key Texts: *1 Corinthians 3:1-3, Luke 17:1*

When a christian is offended or walking in strife, Paul calls him a babe. You cannot be offended and be spiritually mature at the same time. You are a baby christian. From what Paul said, it is either the offended person is unsaved or a babe.

Offence can come from anybody. So you must learn to separate offence from who offended you. It could have been anybody. satan can easily find anybody to offend you. It could be your friend, spouse, brethren, or your parents. If you build yourself and refuse to allow offenses, it does not matter who it comes from, you will be able to overcome satan's work. If you do not learn to deal with offenses, it will catch up with you somewhere. Jesus made it clear to us that offences will surely come (Luke 17:1-2).

In 1 Peter 2:1-2, Peter listed the characters of babies and he mentioned malice as one of them, which is similar to offence. Some things that cause offence are very irrelevant, which shows that it is a characteristic of babes. It can even come from seeing two people talking and laughing and you just assume they are talking about you. satan finds a way to magnify actions so that you begin to let offense fester in your heart.

A lot of offenses in church are generally around corrections and rebukes. That assumption that the person who is correcting you hates you is of the devil. For instance, you are corrected for being late to church or dressing inappropriately, then satan deceives you into being offended. Jesus rebuked Peter openly and even referred to him as satan, and he was not offended! (Matt 16:23) Jesus called people out openly and He did not expect them to be offended. He one said to someone who lost his father; "let the dead bury their dead." There is no reason to be offended and there is no justification for offence.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to see satan's attack on my life through offence. Help me to forgive easily. Teach me to take rebukes and corrections without being offended.

Further Reading: Matthew 5:40-48

REFUSE TO BE OFFENDED

Key Texts: *Ephesians 4:26-32, James 3:14-16*

From our text, Paul is not saying that you should stay angry for a period of time. It is a figurative way of saying that when you get angry, you should deal with it immediately. For every minute you stay in anger, you're opening the door to satan. He explains that anger will likely lead you to sin. Have you noticed that the longer you think about what was done to you, the more sad, angry and vengeful you become?

Generally, in human experience, vengeance is not proportional to what was done. The effect is usually worse because the person has brooded on and magnified it. This explains why when you are offended, you want to go to the people that will fan the offence to flame, because you know they will support you.

Every time you allow any thought of offence to linger, satan will take advantage of it. Anger is passion without control and it gives satan grounds to act. Offence makes you not think straight. Suddenly, your local church that aids your spiritual growth becomes something you feel you can do without.

In James 3:14-16, we see that the type of wisdom that sponsors strife is not of God, but devilish. Offence will make people act like the devil. You find that some believers who have been blessed by a church or leader say that the church or leader does not love them or was only pretending to. When you talk to offended people, you will know that satan has succeeded in deceiving them. They read unreasonable meanings into events, and they sound so convinced. Every time someone begins to operate in offence, he has adopted this wisdom of the devil. Refuse to stay in offence.

Prayer: Dear Father, help me to see satan's deception through offence; to not yield to his devilish wisdom. I receive your help to keep my heart free from offence. I refuse anger, hurt, strife and offence.

Further Reading: James 3:1-18

REFUSE TO BE OFFENDED

Key Texts: *James 3:14-16, Mark 14:3-11*

We saw yesterday that walking in offence is you adopting the wisdom of satan. Offence is satanic and devilish in that the person who is offended is being deceived by satan. From our key text, after the woman had broken the alabaster box before Jesus, Judas began to plan his arrest. This means that he was offended by Jesus. What offended Judas? Simply that Jesus was accorded honour. On what basis was Judas offended? He felt Jesus did not deserve such honour. Offence makes you blind. Jesus was the one working the miracles, yet Judas was so blinded.

satan does not take over at the beginning stage of offence. He gets you by suggesting to you until you get to where you cannot help yourself. If Judas had overlooked satan's suggestion, he would have been saved. He had so contemplated his offence towards Jesus until satan got a hold of his mind. Offence will make you not think just as Judas was not thinking.

Once satan gets you into offence and strife, there will be every evil work. At the root of some things people do is offence. If Judas knew that he would end up betraying Jesus, he would not have been offended. But satan does not tell you his plan, and that is why it is foolish for a Christian to begin to engage satan. If Judas regretted what he did enough to commit suicide, it means he was not in control of what he was doing.

Offence will make you rebellious. Any scripture you quote from a place of offence is useless. Anything you do from offence is of no use (James 1:20). Offence is very terrible. As you grow spiritually, you should know where God has planted you and not allow offence to take you away from there.

Confession: I have the wisdom of God; I will not give satan room through offence and anger. I refuse to be offended.

Further Reading: Luke 22:1-23

REFUSE TO BE OFFENDED

Key Texts: *Luke 17:1-2, Matthew 18:7*

From our key texts, Jesus already pre-informed us that offenses will surely come. So, offence should not take you unawares and you should not react the way the unbeliever would. People will definitely offend you. It is part of human relationships. However, every offence is an opportunity to be a Christian. For every time an offence comes up, you can refuse it and walk in love. This is you being a proper Christian and doing the Word.

Offence will corrupt everything about a believer. The only example of Judas we have is that of corruption. When you ask people honest questions of why they were offended, you will be amazed at what they say. Things like offence will make your vibrant prayer life ineffective. Because you cannot pray effectively for hours and still hold that offence in your heart. The Lord will always speak to you about it.

As a Christian, you shouldn't be found gossiping and discussing people. One of the ways you know that you are offended at someone is that you begin to speak badly of the person. You'll see yourself as being better and you find faults in everything they do. These attitudes encourage offence and give satan room to bring in every evil work.

Offence destroys the zeal of God, even when you are praying. It corrupts everything. Offence is dangerous, and it can stop the move of God in a place. In Mark 6:1-6, Jesus could not do any mighty work because the people were offended at him and they were the ones who lost out. Offence will make you lose out on the move of God.

Confession: Offence is satan's tool and I refuse to be offended. I refuse to yield my heart to the devil's deception. I am not given to offence, I know to do the word.

Further Reading: Mark 6:1-11

WALKING IN LOVE AS A BELIEVER

Key Text: 2 Corinthians 5:13-15

Knowing God's love transforms a believer's life. When you truly grasp His love, it changes everything. Paul and John were examples of this. The understanding of God's love made them unshakable and unstoppable. When this revelation takes hold, people may call you extreme, but there is no such thing as doing too much for God. Nothing you do can ever compare to Christ's sacrifice, and since you can never repay Him, your response should be gratitude and devotion.

In 2 Corinthians 5:13-15, Paul explains that the love of Christ compels us. A believer who understands this love becomes controlled by it, living as a love slave to God's will. Peter, once fearful enough to deny Jesus, later led 3,000 people to salvation and boldly stood before the High Priest, showing clear evidence of the Spirit's work. The love of God you know shines through even in your natural endeavors.

The apostles were consumed by God's love. It shaped their choices and made them live lives of sacrifice. As a believer, you must seek to understand this love so deeply that it influences every aspect of your life. Don't dismiss passionate believers as being too serious, they have simply surrendered to God's Spirit. That same Spirit is in you, meaning you too can live fully for Christ, just as the apostles did.

The key difference between you and the apostles is their understanding of Christ's love. Paul concluded that since Christ died for all, your life now belongs to Him. His love should guide your thoughts and actions. If you truly grasp this, you wouldn't need to be persuaded to serve. You would willingly make sacrifices, knowing that living for Christ is always worth it.

Confession: Christ gave His life for me. There's no sacrifice too great. I pour my life out in service to Him.

Further Reading: 1 Corinthians 5:1-21