

❧ O I L A N D W I N E ❧
A D A I L Y D E V O T I O N A L
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OIL AND WINE - A DAILY DEVOTIONAL
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Today's Reading :

Genesis 1:1-2:25

Matthew 1:1-2:12

Psalm 1:1-6

Proverbs 1:1-6

1

JANUARY

“Watchman what of the night? (How far is it spent? How long till morning?)” Isaiah 21:11 Man knows all about his own times, but who knows the times and seasons of God? Do you hunger to know the times and seasons of God? To know this you must first consider your own times as unimportant and trivial. I refer not of the time as seen in a clock, but of the times that man has carved out or built these days. Man has formulated his own idea of what the times and seasons of God should be. Men are playing guessing games about the times and seasons of God and have come up with their own ideas, thoughts and philosophies. Beloved, we need to remove these man-made solutions from our minds.

If one does not know the times in which one lives then one will seldom know what needs to be done or what one is to do. Knowing the times is a very important thing because we know that we are so bound by time. The Lord rebuked the Pharisees and scribes of old, saying, “When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is. And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, there will be heat; and it cometh to pass: but how is it that ye do not discern this time? (Luke 12:54-56).

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your

Lord doth come. Matthew 24:42



Today's Reading : Genesis 3:1-4:26
Matthew 2:13-3:6
Psalm 2:1-12
Proverbs 1:7-9



The Word says that in the time of Moses there was a veil upon the hearts of the people. *“But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.”* (2 Corinthians 3:15). It is true that there is a veil upon the hearts of people when they read the Word of God today. Many are not able to see this simple truth. The life of Paul, the apostle, also shows us that having a knowledge of the Scriptures is not enough. We need a revelation by the Holy Spirit to understand the truth of the Gospel. Paul was a ‘Hebrew of the Hebrews’ and taught of Gamaliel, a famous teacher of the times. Yet, having all the knowledge of the Scriptures he indulged in persecuting the church. Does it not seem strange and contrary? He did not persecute the Christians because he had a personality problem, an unknown fear or a superiority complex. No, he went after the Christians because he thought that that was the right thing according to the Word of God. Though he was very learned, he did not have any spiritual insight or revelation of the purposes of God from the Holy Spirit. When Paul read the Scriptures before he met the Lord on the road to Damascus there was a veil before his eyes and he could not discern the truth. It was only when the Lord opened his eyes that he was able to perceive the things of the Spirit.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear,
slow to speak, slow to wrath: James 1:19-20*

Today's Reading :

Genesis 5:1-7:24

Matthew 3:7-4:11

Psalm 3:1-8

Proverbs 1:10-19

3

JANUARY

There is an 'early' and 'latter' rain that this earth receives. We read about this in the prophecy of Hosea. "Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord; his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth" (Hosea 6:3). We read again in the book of Deuteronomy, "That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil." (Deuteronomy 11:14). This is what apostle James was referring to in connection with the coming of our Lord. The prophet Joel also had this in mind when he prophesied saying, "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil." (Joel 2:23-24). We praise God for the "FORMER RAIN" fallen "MODERATELY" upon the church which refers to Pentecost dispensationally. The apostle Peter could immediately say, "This is that...". But there is a former rain which, combined with the latter rain, shall bring forth the full harvest in these days.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, Colossians 2:8



Today's Reading :

Genesis 8:1-10:32

Matthew 4:12-25

Psalms 4:1-8

Proverbs 1:20-23



“Do two walk together, except they make an appointment and have agreed?” Amos 3:3

It is impossible for the flesh and the Spirit to walk hand-in-hand. Therefore, we need to keep away from the things of the flesh and carnal mind these days. We cannot grow into maturity if we partake of that which is of the flesh. If we continue to walk after the flesh we can in no way walk in the Spirit for ‘they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. (Romans 8:5). One can either grieve the Spirit of God or walk in the ways of God. The former leads to darkness and death while the latter gives light and peace to our heart. If one walks against the will of God, then it usually happens that the consequences are not seen immediately, but manifest much, much later. The reality is that many people prefer to live in just such a state of spiritual conflict and disharmony. Jeremiah, the prophet, laments in chapter 5 and verse 31, “ ... and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof”.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Matthew 4:7

Today's Reading : Genesis 11:1-13:4
Matthew 5:1-26
Psalm 5:1-12
Proverbs 1:24-28

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JANUARY

When the Lord Jesus Christ came in the flesh, He was sent of God, the Father. None could prevent His coming, nor was anyone able to prematurely destroy Him though many attempts were made upon His life by the agents of Satan. All the Pharisees and scribes could not interfere with the plans of the Father. Nor could the Roman Emperor or Herod do a thing. None could change what was destined to occur. In very much the same way we know that nothing can prevent the coming of Jesus in all His glory. These things have been spoken by the mouths of the prophets from the beginning of time. And no one will be able to stop that great event.

He is going to come again crowned in all His glory and by the breath of His nostrils He will consume the wicked and He will establish His kingdom and the kingdom will have no end: He will come as the King of Kings in all His glory and majesty. We read of Him in the Book of Revelation, "Behold He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him...".

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16



Today's Reading : Genesis 13:5-15:21
Matthew 5:27-48
Psalm 6:1-10
Proverbs 1:29-33



When we look into the book of Daniel (Daniel 4: 1-25) we see that when the music began to play three Hebrew children were told to bow down to the image of man. Did they bow down? No, they were people with a different spirit. Today, in the Christian realm, men have made many images that consist of their pet doctrines. We are told to bow down to the teachings of well known preachers; to bow to their personal and individual ministries which highlight their personal achievements and their personal ideas. They are asking Christians to bow to their man made music and images of men. The music is already 'on' and many are already bowing down to the images of men! But God is calling us to be a people with a different spirit. God is restoring a proper focus to His church in this day.

There are many a Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego whom God is raising up in this hour. They refuse to bow down to that which man has erected in the name of God. And on the other hand, there are many people who say they know the Lord but today they are bowing down before the images of man. The images of man are the ideas and systems of man

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. Matthew 5:42

Today's Reading : Genesis 16:1-18:15
Matthew 6:1-24
Psalm 7:1-17
Proverbs 2:1-5

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JANUARY

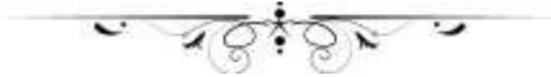
“Except, the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain” (Psalm 127:1). There are many who have a burden for souls and zeal to do the Lord’s work, but they will not be able to stand in these difficult times if they are not built with the right foundations. Let us hear the voice of the Lord. This does not mean that we are not to bring people into the house of the Lord. We are surely to know that every member is to bring new ones to the house of God. We are to be like healthy mothers that produce offspring in due season. Yes, every healthy sheep produces lambs. And if we are well fed in the house of God then we will undoubtedly bring forth fruit. True evangelism is walking and living in the ways of the Lord. When the true light shines forth in this world then people shall invariably be brought into the house of God. That is what we read in Matthew 24:14, *“And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached unto all nations as a witness. Then shall the end come”*.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven
is perfect. Matthew 5:48*



Today's Reading : Genesis 18:16-19:38
Matthew 6:25-7:14
Psalm 8:1-9
Proverbs 2:6-15



There are three kinds of people in the Christian world today. The first group consists of people who make things happen. There is another group of people who see things happen. The third group of people are those who wonder what is happening. Which group do you belong to? There are people who make things happen and people who see things happen. But the third group consists of those who wonder what is happening. There are some in Christian circles that say, "I have heard all these things. I have attended many conventions." They are those who have always heard sermons but they failed to hear a single message. They like to hear a preacher but they don't like to be under a pastor. Which group do you want to belong to? The unbelieving will stand far away and wonder what is happening. But the true people of God in these last days will make things happen. And Jesus said, "Greater things than this will ye do because I go unto my Father'.

"Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about Christ let us press on to maturity," Hebrews 6:1, 2

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Honor thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. Matthew 15:4

Today's Reading :

Genesis 20:1-22:24

Matthew 7:15-29

Psalms 9:1-12

Proverbs 2:16-22

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JANUARY

Are some of His people still looking for discounts? No discounts are available in this search for the burden of the Spirit. We will miss many opportunities and waste a lot of time if we seek for shortcuts and discounts! God is a rewarder of them that seek Him diligently. In seeking Him we shall also behold what is upon His heart. We will be drawn to Him by something that will hold us inwardly, saints of God. God draws us, not so that we may be able to preach a message or make a name for ourselves, but He draws us to Him day and night so that we may know and share what is upon His heart. If something is holding you inwardly in suspense as it were these days, the reason is that you may discover and know what is upon the heart of God. Many people remain unchanged because they are still loitering around the bargaining table, reasoning and justifying for all they are worth. There are so many good spiritual things that you can always acquire, but to know what is upon the heart of God requires a deep searching, waiting and travail. Remember what Jesus said in John 12:8, "For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always." He was talking about the commonplace vis-à-vis the real treasure. God is gathering a people who will go after the real treasure, the heart of God.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

1 Corinthians 7:23

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JANUARY

Today's Reading :

Genesis 23:1-24:51

Matthew 8:1-17

Psalm 9:13-20

Proverbs 3:1-6



Often the lives of God's people are influenced and governed by their own evaluations. God's people are in a deplorable condition because they have depended upon their own opinions and assessments. They have a far higher opinion about themselves than others have of them. They not only think that they are far better than others, morally and spiritually, but they have a false opinion about their actual state and the reality of their lives. When we read chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation, we see how the Lord evaluated those early churches. He says, "I know thy works." To the church in Ephesus the Lord said, "thou hast left thy first love" (Rev 2:4). They had thought that they loved Him. The Lord said to the church in Sardis, "thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead" (Rev 3:1). They thought they were alive unto the Lord and His calling. Yet to the church in Laodecia, the Lord said, "knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor and blind and naked" (Rev 3:17), whereas they thought, "I am rich and increased with good and have need of nothing" (Rev 3:17). The Lord's evaluations were diametrically opposite to that of those churches. They had a higher opinion of themselves, but the reality was quite different. Saints, our personal opinions about us can be very good, and they usually are, but that is not the reality.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let all your things be done with charity. 1 Corinthians 16:14

Today's Reading : Genesis 24:52-26:16
Matthew 8:18-34
Psalm 10:1-15
Proverbs 3:7-8

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JANUARY

There is an intense downward element in creation. Left to itself nature declines; it runs wild and loses its character. Nothing rises or ascends without coming in touch with this propensity, this tendency to go downward. When we try to lift up or raise any thing, we come face to face with this universal downward propensity. The Scriptures tells us how that happened. It all began with one downward step by the first man. The downward step that Adam took was the beginning of the slip downhill. One man took that terrible downward step and that set a trend that has become an avalanche. We read in the book of Genesis that thorns and thistles for ever became symbols of a wrong direction, of labouring and of working by the sweat of the brow to produce something. We see a battle at large to overcome that tendency in man. Saints, this inherent strain has marred man's relation to divine things.

Today if we want to lift up anything, we come against that universal force that is downward; we come into battle with that. It is so even in our lives where any desire for ascendancy is met with stiff opposition. It is not easy to grow spiritually; we don't gain spiritual heights automatically; any upward growth places severe demands upon us.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. Galatians 6:4

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JANUARY

Today's Reading : Genesis 26:17-27:46
Matthew 9:1-17
Psalm 10:16-18
Proverbs 3:9-10



When Daniel interpreted the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar, he said to Daniel, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery. Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men.” (Dan 2:47-48). But Daniel was not lifted up by the King’s praise nor by the promotion he received far above everyone else in his batch. Daniel persistently and continually kept his eyes upon the Lord, the God of his fathers. He was not carried away by the appreciation of men, but kept his eyes upon the living God. Though he was a bureaucrat in the Persian kingdom, yet he continued to serve the living God, not by the wisdom of the Babylonians but by the wisdom of God that was in Daniel. He always waited on God. Daniel always looked for God’s judgments to see how he should behave himself, for he realized that he was just a slave boy brought into the Babylonian set-up. Many think that it would be difficult to live today as Daniel lived because things have changed. It is true that things have changed, but the God of Daniel has not changed. The necessity today is for us to believe in the God of Daniel.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Ephesians 5:21

Today's Reading : Genesis 30:1-31:16
Matthew 10:1-23
Psalm 12:1-8
Proverbs 3:13-15

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JANUARY

When the Lord wanted Adam to have a companion He caused Adam to search the whole animal world and to name every animal and bird so that he could search and see if there was anything suitable to be his companion. Nothing that God had created till that time was suitable for Adam as a companion and help mate.

The Lord has given a beautiful picture of Christ and the church here. Just as nothing suitable was found in all the creation to provide a help mate for Adam so also in all creation there was nothing suitable as an help mate for Christ, the Son of God. And so God brought the Church into being as He also created Eve when nothing else was found as a life companion for Adam. O, glory hallelujah! Eve was made so that she may be a suitable help for Adam. The spiritual Eve, which is the church, was also made for Christ as His help-mate. The Lord needs a bride as a companion and a life partner. The bride that God has planned for His Son is not the kind that we see in the natural. Nor will this 'bride' only be concerned with having an eternal life through Christ Jesus. God has a great purpose for the bride of Christ upon the earth.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

Philippians 2:14

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JANUARY

Today's Reading : Genesis 31:17-32:12
Matthew 10:24-11:6
Psalm 13:1-6
Proverbs 3:16-18



Let it be our prayer to be a people who will judge the affairs of our daily lives till we are found to be acceptable in the sight of the Lord.

The apostle Paul said, "For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord." (1 Corinthians 4:4) He was not evading or escaping the responsibility of judging his own life. He depended upon the judgment of God. The judgments of God are very different from our own judgments. When the children of Israel sinned against God, they were immediately subjected to the divine judgments of God in one form or another. At the same time the gentiles were living in sin and continued to live in sin but God never judged them. The reason for this is that God's judgments towards His people are always given in love and mercy. That is why we read, "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." (1 Corinthians 11:31). When we are judged by God we are chastened of the Lord so that we should not be condemned by the world. Surely God is looking upon His people with mercy so that we may judge our lives and qualify to judge the earth as His bride.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. Luke 9:23

Today's Reading : Genesis 31:17-32:12
Matthew 10:24-11:6
Psalm 13:1-6
Proverbs 3:16-18

15
JANUARY

There are people who live in ignorance, people who reject God's Word, and people who say 'no' to the Gospel of the kingdom of God; there are people who say, "we don't want to hear these things for we want to walk in our own ways". People are living in darkness, nay pitch darkness. But the Word of God says, "Your light is come, Arise and shine, therefore". Do not be tied down by circumstances, for the light has come upon thee. Rise up, therefore."

The Word tells us that there are people who are living in ignorance, people who have taken to their own ways, people who have rejected the truth in their lives. At the same time the Word tells us, "But you, brethren, are not in darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief" (I Thessalonians 5:4).

Are you in darkness? Are you walking in the light? You are not in darkness because the light of the Gospel of the kingdom of God has come unto you. Thy light has come. We are not of night or of darkness. Are you desirous to buy truth?

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves:
for they watch for your souls, Hebrews 13:17*

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JANUARY

Today's Reading : Genesis 32:13-34:31
Matthew 11:7-30
Psalm 14:1-7
Proverbs 3:19-20



If it were possible to put what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches today in just one word it would be the word PREPARE ! This is surely an hour of preparation for His people. The Lord is preparing a bride for the Bridegroom upon the earth. God has saved each one of us so that we may, individually and corporately as a church, eventually qualify to be the 'wife' of the Lamb. He has not saved us so that we may have the freedom to live in the way we like; nor has He saved us only to reach out to others or to enable us to have victory over sin. The Lord's ways are very much higher than our ways! He has saved us with a much higher purpose in mind. God wants us to be an eternal part of His divine intentions. Our salvation does not lie in going to heaven when we die. It is not enough to be thankful to God for His word unto the churches. He would like us to be completely united to Christ. Let us therefore keep our heart and our minds open so that the Spirit of God can make inroads into our lives. The Lord has brought us to a new place in Him so that we may be fully established in His body. He has given us new life so that we may experience His preparations as a bride in these days. He is continually cleansing and purging us so that the holy 'bride' may be adorned with all that the Father's heart desires for the bride of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest. Matthew 9:38

Today's Reading : Genesis 35:1-36:43
Matthew 12:1-21
Psalm 15:1-5
Proverbs 3:21-26

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JANUARY

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.” John 17: 20
The Lord said that he prays for all those who believe in Him according to THEIR word. The word that God will give to his disciples and followers will become ‘their’ word. God will grant a word to His ministries so that through their word the church will be brought to a place of cleansing even in this time. Their word is not something that is a figment of their imaginations; it is the word that God gives for His church.

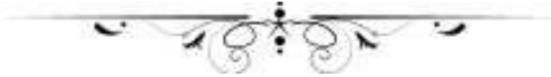
Caleb and Joshua brought a word to the Lord that they were well able to go forth into the land of Canaan. This was THEIR word. Yet, when they declared this word unto the people they were not able to believe them for they thought it to be their opinion. The majority said that it was an impossible word. The people received a clear word from the Lord but they were not able to believe it. The Lord said, ‘They have not refused you but they have refused me’. So the word of Caleb and Joshua was not their opinion but it was a word that originated in the heart of God.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch. Matthew 15:14

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JANUARY

Today's Reading : Genesis 37:1-38:30
Matthew 12:22-45
Psalm 16:1-11
Proverbs 3:27-32



Many get discouraged when others say wrong and false things about them. They cry out in self-pity and remorse. Remember that self-pity is the devil's 'baby sitter'. Satan provides a 'baby sitter' free of cost to take care of us when we are discouraged and downcast. Satan rejoices in our self-pity. So when people accuse you and bring reproach upon your testimony for Christ and your reputation as a believer, remember always that Jesus is standing before the Father to give Him a good (correct) report about you that shall nullify the false accusation of Satan. Yes, and the Father, caring greatly for each of His sons, enquires of Christ how we are progressing in our narrow path. The Father inquisitively asks several questions about the ones He loves, like any human father would. We can see in the natural, that elderly parents, who have their children settled in family life, enquire tenderly about their grand children. They often ask about the little one, "Is he still crawling?", "Whom does he look like?" They ask many minute details. And as parents we keep 'informing' the grand parents of every detail. Even so is our heavenly Father; He keeps asking the Lord Jesus about each one of us. The Lord may then inform the Father saying, "Bro. X has difficulties and trials, yet Father, he is growing...he is learning...he is progressing..." We praise God that we have such a High Priest who is continually 'informing' our Father about us.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

*Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide
with God. 1 Corinthians 7:24*

Today's Reading : Genesis 39:1-41:16
Matthew 12:46-13:23
Psalm 17:1-15
Proverbs 3:33-35

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JANUARY

Rebekah had to take a long journey. Throughout her travel she was never alone. There was someone to continuously encourage her, even the servant of Abraham. And all through the travel the servant had only one thing to say and that was about the bridegroom. The bride is never left alone in the long journey. The Servant is always at hand to remind her of the calling upon her life and to encourage and edify her all along the difficult and narrow way. Perhaps Rebekah was looking forward to meet the bridegroom at every bend of the road. There is a tremendous longing and anticipation in the heart of the true bride to meet with the bridegroom. Every step of the long and difficult camel journey brought Rebekah closer to her goal. There was a loving hope nurtured within her. She did not really mind the problems and the difficulties on the way because whatever happened brought her closer and closer to her destination.

The journey of the bride to meet the bridegroom is long and filled with many snares. It is easy to get lost in the wilderness for the roads are not well defined. The constant help of the Servant is necessary.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. 1 Corinthians 10:10

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JANUARY

Today's Reading : Genesis 41:17-42:17
Matthew 13:24-46
Psalm 18:1-15
Proverbs 4:1-6



“But I fear, lest by any means.....your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ”.

The word ‘simplicity’ does not imply a simpleness; it talks of a singleness of heart. Paul was concerned that the evil things may take the believers away from the singleness of their heart into something else. We should know that the serpent always seeks to corrupt that which God has placed within us. The serpent will try to change what God has said to us in the depths of our beings. The serpent will try to adjust and change what God has said. He will attempt to make it a little easier and more pleasing to our eyes. In Genesis we read, “And he (serpent) said unto the woman (Eve), yea, hath God said.....?” Satan always wants to place a doubt in our hearts. He wants to appeal to our carnal desires for something good and pleasing and easy. That is why Paul warns the Corinthian believers to watch out for the false Jesus, the bogus Gospel and the unholy Spirit. The enemy somehow enters into the life of even sincere believers to corrupt them in the name of common sense, reason, knowledge and human wisdom. The desire for wisdom and knowledge has corrupted the minds of several people

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us. Luke 9:50

Today's Reading : Genesis 42:18-43:34
Matthew 13:47-14:12
Psalm 18:16-36
Proverbs 4:7-10

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JANUARY

Many people have moved out of this singleness of purpose in their lives. Their hearts are set upon the things of this world. Many love the enemy of their husband, the Lord Jesus. The enemy of the Lord is the world. The love of the world is to love the enemy of the bridegroom. "You (are like) unfaithful wives having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vow to God! Do you not know that being the world's friend is being God's enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God." I have seen that when we counsel some people they are unable to accept our counsel because they are not 'warm' towards the Lord any more. This happens because they are not single towards His purposes. They are unable to accept the truth about their spiritual lives. The sad thing is that they continue to refuse to accept the condition of their heart. It is only a matter of time for such ones to fall from the purposes of God. We are here by divine appointment and we must make sure that we do not waste this precious time in worldly pursuits.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees Matthew 16:6



Today's Reading :

Genesis 44:1-45:28

Matthew 14:13-36

Psalm 18:37-50

Proverbs 4:11-13



“That Spirit is the guarantee of the inheritance” Ephesians 1:14. The Holy Spirit baptism that the Lord has poured upon us is the guarantee, the down payment of the inheritance. There is a full inheritance that will be ours as we progress on in His purposes these days. What is this inheritance? It is not the temple in Jerusalem; it is not a corner somewhere in heaven, it is not a strip of land in the Middle East. There is going to be a gathering of all things in One Man, even Christ and His church, of that which is in heaven and in the earth.

May God help us to see this inheritance in Christ. There is an inheritance which includes all things in the heavens and in the earth. Let us realize the promises of God that rest upon the bride. May God help us to be aware of this so that we live in the consciousness of this high calling that is resting upon the bride.

Let us not be like the Corinthian believers who did not realize the call upon their lives. They did not walk worthy of the call upon their lives. And they lost the inheritance in their lives. For this reason Paul says in Ephesians 4:1 “.....walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called”.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Remember Lot's wife. Luke 17:32

Today's Reading :

Genesis 46:1-47:31

Matthew 15:1-28

Psalm 19:1-14

Proverbs 4:14-19

23
JANUARY

The church cannot move towards and possess the gates of her enemies until and unless each and everyone of us overcomes the enemies within. When we begin to seek and follow after the Lord's mind then one who is rich will come to realize that he is actually a poor man. He will come to understand that he cannot put his trust in riches. And he will become poor in the sight of the Lord. The ones who are poor will begin to know that, contrary to the thinking of the world, they are in fact the ones who are rich in the sight of the Lord. The wise amongst us will discover that they have no wisdom. The ones who think that they are unwise will begin to say, "The wisdom of God is precious in my life." The ones who are mighty and strong will begin to realize that they are weak before the Lord.

Let every pride be taken out of our lives; let there be a deliverance in the area of sin and unrighteousness in our lives. Because of pride we are deprived of many things in the Lord. The Lord wants us to move as a bride against the enemy and possess all things. And not only that, this bride must learn to submit to the Lord in her life.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him Luke 17:3



Today's Reading : Genesis 48:1-49:33
 Matthew 15:29-16:12
 Psalm 20:1-9
 Proverbs 4:20-27



The Lord wants an army, a people, who will go round the walls of Jericho for seven days. That was a time of preparation. What were they overcoming? In those six days as they went round and round Jericho, they were preparing for the victory that was to come on the seventh day. While they went around the walls for six days, they remained quiet and overcame their eagerness to say, "Praise the Lord." The Lord was teaching and giving them initial lessons in obedience. The Lord wanted them to go around the city for seven days and not to speak a word till He would tell them to "shout". Many Spirit filled people do not know how to walk without talking!

There is no place for the zeal of man in our lives. That's a hard thing — to be a prisoner of the Lord for six days and to shout on the seventh day is the strategy of the living God for the bride. Many times we are overcome with the thought "how shall we handle the enemy out there?" The Lord says, "Don't worry, be silent, keep walking. The seventh days is coming. You must shout only when I tell you to shout . Then, the walls of the enemy will surely fall, for "vengeance is mine, saith the Lord thy God."

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

If ye love me, keep my commandments. John 14:15

Today's Reading : Gen 50:1 - Exod 2:10
Matthew 16:13-17:9
Psalm 21:1-13
Proverbs 5:1-6

25
JANUARY

“And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword”. (Revelation 19:5) The sharp sword is not in His hand but in His mouth. His battle is not with the natural sword. The thing with the armies of God is that there is a sword which proceeds from every mouth. The sword is nothing else but the word of God, the two edged sharp sword that will cut everything else in the world. Therefore, the armies of heaven are allowing the sword to work within, to destroy every enemy in this hour, cutting asunder, dividing the spirit and the soul. And they are being prepared until the time when they follow the Captain of their salvation, the king of kings in their lives, — there will be a word that will go out of their mouths that will smite the nations. Hallelujah!

During the six days the army went around Jericho, the word was working like a sword within and they were submitting themselves to the Lord. When the seventh day came they used that sword and when they began to speak the word and shout the name of the Lord, by their mouths, the whole wall of the enemy came crumbling down and the army of God became victors.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another;
as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. John 13:34*

26
JANUARY

Today's Reading :

Exodus 2:11-3:22

Matthew 17:10-27

Psalms 22:1-18

Proverbs 5:7-14



“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”
Ephesians 1:14,

The girdle of truth is a part of our armour. It is our harness and discipline. The truth of God's word will bring a restraint. The girdle of truth will discipline us in the coming days. It will help us to stick to the path that the Master has chosen for us. We are indeed living in a very important time in the calendar of God's purposes. Maybe we are those who wandered off from the path that the Lord led us to in the past. It could be that the word of truth has apprehended our lives in a new way — if so, we shall be girded with the truth so that we do not wander from the appointed ways of the Lord. We must not wander into paths which are of little relevance to the 'bride', in these days. The 'girdle of truth' must become our harness lest we wander away into paths that do not please the Master. God's word in our lives will keep us from suddenly bolting off in the direction of some alien path.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Romans 12:14

Today's Reading :

Exodus 4:1-5:21

Matthew 18:1-20

Psalms 22:19-31

Proverbs 5:15-21

27
JANUARY

Many times when we pray to the Lord we try to twist His arm. If we are honest with ourselves we will acknowledge that we have experienced this in our lives. We may have known the clear mind of God on certain matters but when pressures came we said, "We shall pray again and seek His mind." Finally we yield to the pressures of men in our lives. We may have known the mind of God under the conviction of the Holy Spirit; the word of God may have come to us under the power of the Holy Spirit or we may have made commitments to honour the word of the Lord. But when the pressures build up we give up and come to a place of saying, "I will seek the mind of the Lord, again." As a result of having such an attitude God may allow us to go in our own ways. Let us humbly acknowledge that this has happened in our lives before.

We need to know that when we are set in our minds to go in a particular way, God will allow us to go in our own way. Under such circumstances God will permit us to follow the dictates of our heart.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also

in me. John 14:1



Today's Reading : Exodus 5:22-7:25
Matthew 18:21-19:12
Psalm 23:1-6
Proverbs 5:22-23



The Lord gave Lot a chance to escape to the mountains but he did not do so. He replied, "Not so, my Lord." Lot began to pray that he may be left to go his own way. He prayed, "God, give me your grace to go my own way ." On the one hand he said, "Lord you saved my life" and then in the same breath, he complains, " You are going to kill me by sending me to that mountain." The Israelites had the same heart that Lot had! The word says that they always erred in their hearts.

Finally, Lot said, "This city is very close by". Lot was a man of the cities. He was used to city life. He was a city -dweller who had close ties with the people of the cities. He always preferred to be in the cities rather than to be in the wide, open, meadows and pastures. So on the one hand he was grateful to God for having saved him from the big city (of Sodom and Gomorrah), but on the other hand, he continued to insist and say, "I will go to that small city." We need to know that when he went to that city of Zoar, the angels did not hold him back from going on in his own ways. They let him pursue his own path. Beloved, God will let you go your own way and pursue your own path if you happen to persist in doing your own thing.

Today's Command

But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. Jam 3:14

Today's Reading :

Exodus 8:1-9:35

Matthew 19:13-30

Psalms 24:1-10

Proverbs 6:1-5

29
JANUARY

The Heavenly Father once told His Son, the Lord Jesus to go to the pool of Bethesda. He went there and saw several people waiting for the angel to stir the water so that the first one to get in would be healed. There were many sick and diseased people lying all around the healing waters but Jesus healed only one person. We know that He had a compassionate nature, for let us not forget, that He was the Saviour who had a heart that agonized to reach out to every human soul. Yet, He saw the mind and the will of the Father to heal only one man. The evangelists of today would have gone to the pool and healed everyone.

Have you experienced this in your life? Have you had a desire to touch every soul who walked in darkness? Have you experienced a tremendous anointing at some stage accompanied by a very strong desire to heal and comfort others. Did you simultaneously experience a pressure upon your spirit to abide in the will of God and do nothing other than what He has expressly said? But we see Jesus obeyed the Father to the hilt. That is the way He pleased the Father.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Romans 12:12

30
JANUARY

Today's Reading : Exodus 10:1-12:13
Matthew 20:1-28
Psalm 25:1-15
Proverbs 6:6-11



The apostle Paul declares prophetically about these last days, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heed to themselves teachers, having itching ears;” (2 Timothy 4: 3).

The Greek word for ‘sound’ is ‘hugiano’. The English word ‘hygiene’ originates from it. Hence the verse above would read, “For the time will come when they will not endure hygienic teaching....” Some people tell me, “Brother, they do speak about the glorious church, though I do not accept all that they are doing out there.” Let me you an example. If you go to a restaurant you will surely seek an hygienic environment. Sometimes the food may be delicious but if that good food is unhygienic, what will be the result? It will adversely affect your health, for sure. Instead of building you up it will bring about deterioration and decay. Human soul power has become a deceptive counterfeit of the Holy Spirit power in Christendom today. Much of Christianity is riddled with soul power masquerading as the power of the Holy Spirit. To discern between soul and Spirit is the great need of the hour, if one is to escape deception. He that hat an ear to hear, let him hear!

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12

Today's Reading : Exodus 12:14-13:16
Matthew 20:29-21:22
Psalm 25:16-22
Proverbs 6:12-15

31
JANUARY

“Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto myself.”
Exodus 19:4

The Lord says that in bringing out His people from Egypt He carried them on ‘eagles wings’. That is the way God took His people out of bondage from the land of afflictions. The Lord is able to provide us the means and the strength to take us into the way of holiness and full salvation. ‘Eagles’ wings’ refers to the miraculous way by which God is able to redeem us and bring us out of every bondage. The Pharaoh (dark forces and evil powers) did his very best to keep the people in bondage but the more the people were afflicted, the more they multiplied (Exodus 1: 7, 20). The apostle Paul tells us that though sin and unrighteousness may reign, God is able to deliver us into freedom by the grace that comes to us through the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. We may face many problems and situations; we may be confused and perplexed but the Lord knows the way that we should take in every situation

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. 1 Corinthians 8:9



Today's Reading : Exodus 13:17-15:18
Matthew 21:23-46
Psalm 26:1-12
Proverbs 6:16-19



The Scripture proclaims very clearly that repentance is the way to receive the Lord's presence. The times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord. Repentance prepares the way and leads us into the Lord's presence. Repentance prepares us for His presence. It helps us to stay in His presence. Repentance also enables us to continuously pursue His presence. Repentance makes the road of our heart straight. Repentance is not merely being sorry for the sins we have committed; it is something in which we should continue to live and remain in the presence of the Lord. It is a posture, God's remnant need to maintain in these last days.

History shows that revivals have always been preceded by repentance; they were accompanied by a strong spirit of repentance among the people. When they began to seek the face of God, when repentance and godly sorrow began to lay hold of their lives, they began to experience seasons of God's refreshing in their lives. Repentance is the means that God uses to throw open the gates of heaven. Repentance is thus God's method of preparing broken vessels upon the earth.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 3:2

Today's Reading : Exodus 15:19-17:7
Matthew 22:1-33
Psalm 27:1-6
Proverbs 6:20-26

2
FEBRUARY

Glimpsing into the history of Israel, one notices that in the beginning Israel was not really a nation as such, but rather a group of large families that moved and lived together. Initially, the families of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob formed the greater part of the nation of Israel. God Almighty was their King and He was the dominant influence of their lives. God spoke to the early fathers and virtually filled and controlled every aspect of their lives. After Jacob, however, the families began to pay less attention to God, for they had multiplied and were greatly blessed. Soon they came under the yoke of the Egyptian kings. For nearly 400 years the Israelites remained slaves to the Pharaohs. They laboured and groaned as slaves and cried out to the Lord in their misery. The Lord heard their cries of affliction and delivered the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. He told them that He would take them to the land that had been promised to their father Abraham.

It is important to observe that it was the Lord Himself who took the initiative to call the Israelites out of Egypt. It was none other than the Lord Himself who called them out of Egypt to become a separated people unto God.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

Revelation 2:25



Today's Reading : Exodus 17:8-19:15
Matthew 22:34-23:12
Psalm 27:7-14
Proverbs 6:27-35



“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” (1 Peter 2:9).

The New Covenant quite clearly shows that God has chosen us and called us to be a separated and a peculiar people. When we are born again in Christ, the Word of God says that we become a peculiar people unto God. We are a chosen generation – a people called out by God from darkness into His likeness.

The word ‘peculiar’ means uncommon, different from anything else. Every born again child of God is called to be a peculiar person unto God. We are not to be like other people of this world. We are called to be a special people for God. This is just like the calling that rested upon the children of Israel in the Old Covenant. In the book of Deuteronomy, we read, “For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.” (Deuteronomy 14:2).

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another,
that ye may be healed. Jam 5:16*

Today's Reading : Exodus 19:16-21:21
Matthew 23:13-39
Psalm 28:1-9
Proverbs 7:1-5



The elders of Israel asked Samuel the prophet to make them a king. Instead of looking upon God and seeking His will, they began to look at the neighbouring nations. They even wanted to imitate them. They envied other nations who had kings to rule over them. So they asked Samuel to give them a king like all the surrounding nations had. They said, "...make us a king like unto all the nations". (I Samuel 8:5). They wanted to do away with their heavenly King and replace Him with someone tangible and visible, like the earthly kings of other nations. They failed to seek the will of their God. Instead, they looked at their neighbouring countries so that they could imitate them and copy their ways. What a terrible, backward, unfaithful, step the Israelites had taken!

In the times in which we live, many believers also manifest this problem in their lives. They see what worldly people are doing and they long to do what they do. They harbour and nourish a complaining spirit; they envy their neighbours; they compare themselves to the ungodly; they long to imitate their superficial ways and they itch to adopt their colorful customs. In trying to do what others do, we reject God's rule upon our lives.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put
asunder. Mark 10:9*

5
FEBRUARY

Today's Reading : Exodus 21:22-23:13
Matthew 24:1-28
Psalm 29:1-11
Proverbs 7:6-23



The spirit of emulation and comparison is becoming an epidemic in the Christian world. It is growing at a furious rate, as epidemic fevers often do. One hears of men of God wanting to build houses, establish projects and raise buildings because that is the craze in the society. In the process of doing these things and endeavoring to copy worldly people, they are drawn to many unscriptural activities and fail to honour God's principles. Thus they cease to be special, peculiar and unique unto the Lord. They forsake the rule of God in their lives and try to be like others who do not even know the Lord. They are dominated by society. They look to people to meet their needs instead of looking unto God.

It is sad to see many believers living like the people of the world, forgetting the calling of God upon their lives. They are prepared to suffer so that their earthly needs are met – a house, a car or such other comforts – but they are not prepared to suffer for the sake of the Lord. They are prepared to stagnate in their spiritual life provided they have some tangible outward evidence of the blessings of God.

Today's Command

Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment

is come Revelation 14:7

Today's Reading : Exodus 23:14-25:40
Matthew 24:29-51
Psalm 30:1-12
Proverbs 7:24-27

6
FEBRUARY

King Ahasuerus had a queen whose name was Vashti (Esther 1:9). Queen Vashti had the privilege of knowing the king. She lived in the King's palace along with the king. Vashti provides us on one hand a picture of the Israelites who had the privilege of knowing God as their Lord. She also typifies on the other hand, the modern day church that has the privilege of knowing the Lord.

Vashti didn't appreciate the great privilege she had as the queen of the land. She neglected her great calling. She was not really living according to the King's desires and will. We read, in *Esther* 1:9, that queen Vashti, had a great feast for the women of the palace. Although the king had prepared a feast for all the people (verse 5), yet Vashti decided to have a separate feast (verse 9) for the women. She wanted to walk in her own ways and do her own things. Queen Vashti didn't do what was expected of her as the queen; she neglected her calling to be the queen; she made her calling to be of scant importance. There are many believers who have the privilege of knowing the Lord, but unfortunately, like Vashti, they are busy in various activities of their own making. They have forgotten the calling of God upon their lives. They have disregarded the commands of their King.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. Mark 14:38



Today's Reading : Exodus 26:1-27:21
Matthew 25:1-30
Psalm 31:1-8
Proverbs 8:1-11



In the days of Jesus, the Jews, and especially the scribes and Pharisees, felt secure because they were of the seed of Abraham (*Romans 11:1*). The natural Jews lived under a false sense of security. The Apostle Paul argues brilliantly in *Romans Chapters 2 and 3*, that the Jews did not have any special privilege. God was no respecter of persons (*Romans 2:11*); no one could be justified by the deeds of the law (*Romans 3:20*).

The Jews thought they were the children of God but they didn't walk according to God's commandments and expectations. Hence, the children of natural Israel were rejected by God. They felt secure and comfortable by virtue of their heritage, but it proved to be a false sense of comfort. Many believers, today, have a false sense of security. They are content to be part of God's kingdom; they feel secure in God's house; they feel they cannot be removed from their place in Christ. They feel secure because of their past experiences, but they don't see the need of having a living relationship with the Lord. They are quite content to be involved in church activities; they derive satisfaction from attending all the church events. Do you have a false sense of comfort and security in Christ Jesus?

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 1Jo 4:1

Today's Reading : Exodus 28:1-43
Matthew 25:31-26:13
Psalm 31:9-18
Proverbs 8:12-13



The Scripture say that just because queen Vashti (*Esther* 1:9) did not respond to the king's calling, nor appreciate his will for her, the place of her privilege was given to another queen—one who would be better (more obedient) than her. Vashti forfeited her place (in the palace), her position (as one who was living with the king) and her possessions (her royal estate) due to her disobedience. She had lived under a false sense of security and hence the Queen's robe and estates were removed from her and given to someone who would be worthy of those privileges.

God has called us into a high calling in Christ Jesus. The Israelites and the Jews in not accepting Jesus, didn't meet God's desire. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans Chapter 11 that God rejected the Pharisees and Jews and instead called the Gentiles to be a people unto God. Similarly, Peter writes in 1 Peter 2:10, "Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God : which hadn't o tamed mercy but row have obtained mercy."The Scripture says that we were not a people (unto God) but now we have been called to be a people unto God. In a spiritual sense, we have been called to take the place of Vashti in the Kingdom of God.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 1 Peter 2:1



Today's Reading : Exodus 29:1-30:10
Matthew 26:14-46
Psalm 31:19-24
Proverbs 8:14-26



God the Father has always wanted His Church to be a beautiful Bride for His Son. Which father would like to see his grown-up son roaming about in questionable places with unchaste women? So also, the heart of the Father would be grieved to see His Son in the company of a woman who is not pure and chaste. In the book of James Chapter 4, verse 4 we read, "You (are like) unfaithful wives (having illicit love affairs with the world) breaking your marriage vow to God. Do you not know that being the world's friend is being God's enemy? So, whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God." (Amplified Bible). The Living Bible puts it this way, "You are like unfaithful wives who love their husband's enemy".

Remember that the Church is normally depicted as a woman and a bride in the Bible. If we are friendly with the world then we could well be likened to unfaithful wives who love their husband's enemy. This is the condition of the Church today. She is friendly with world, the enemy of God, the Father. Let us not imagine that God will accept any type of bride for His Son. He wants a bride-people who are separated unto God; He wants a Church with a virgin heart.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Jam 5:13

Today's Reading : Exodus 30:11-31:18
Matthew 26:47-68
Psalm 32:1-11
Proverbs 8:27-32

10
FEBRUARY

It is interesting to note that the work of purification that Esther had to go through was divided into two halves—six months with the oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odors. (Esther 2:12) The number six represents 'man' in Biblical numerology. For six months the flesh was to be purified and then for another six months human spirit was to be cleansed. This means that we are to be purified first of the Adamic nature and then of the spirit of the first man.

The oil of myrrh refers to the death of the flesh. When the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified He was embalmed with the oil of myrrh and spices, as was customary in those days. Oil represents the Holy Spirit. The oil of myrrh is used to cleanse us of every impurity and filth. We are to be soaked in the spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit. This is the way that we will be prepared to put on fine linen garments. Our lives are to be fully immersed and soaked in the wonderful life-giving oil of myrrh that we may be fully cleansed and purified. Thus, the purifying of our lives is spread over a period of time.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. Luke 3:13



Today's Reading : Exodus 32:1-33:23
Matthew 26:69-27:14
Psalm 33:1-11
Proverbs 8:33-36



The second half of the purification process of the bride was carried out with sweet odours. The bride had to prepare herself for six months with sweet odors'. (Esther 2:12). In the Old Testament times, when God accepted an offering made by the priest at the altar, a sweet smell arose to His nostrils. A sacrifice that has been accepted by God provides a sweet odour to His nostrils. It is sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God (Philippians 4:18, Leviticus 26:31). The last six months of the bride were spent in preparing herself to please the king in a manner that would be acceptable to Him. Romans 12:1 call us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable worship or service.

Our lives are to be a worship unto God. This is another form of preparation. The surrender of our bodies should be considered a reasonable service unto God and not an exceptional and unique act. Worship is not just a matter of singing hymns, clapping hands and raising one's hands; we are to offer our lives as a living sacrifice. There is a purifying that shall take place as we offer our lives upon God's altar.

Today's Command

Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. 1Pe 2:17

Today's Reading : Exodus 34:1-35:9
Matthew 27:15-31
Psalm 33:12-22
Proverbs 9:1-6

12
FEBRUARY



Paul said that if any man uses wood, hay or straw, (that is, the things of the world and the choice of man) to build upon the foundations laid by Christ, then that building would fall and come to naught (1 Corinthians 3:12). The work and effort done by man can never have any lasting value because it would not please the King. The Apostle Paul tells the Corinthian church to take heed how they build for they can either build their house with man's resources or they could build their house with foundation stones provided by God. There is a choice that needs to be exercised in the things we do. We are to choose to do that which would please God.

Some people think that since the Son of Man has set them free, they are free to do whatever they like! They argue that at one time they were undoubtedly under the law, but now they have been set free from bondage, and hence they are free as birds to do exactly as they wish. Beloved, such as they, deceive themselves. They live under a misconception. Our Savior has freed us from the bondage of sin that we may become servants of God (Romans 6:22).

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

"Be not wise in thine own eyes." (Proverbs 3:7)

13
FEBRUARY

Today's Reading : Exodus 35:10-36:38
Matthew 27:32-66
Psalm 34:1-10
Proverbs 9:7-8



Often we get into a lackadaisical, spiritless, indifferent and languid attitude towards spiritual things, unconsciously. This attitude always prompts us to move out of the essential nature of spiritual life within. Then we gravitate towards something that is unprofitable, needless and earthly. Spirituality is a tremendous power as far as God is concerned.

What is spirituality? For many people spirituality means, giving one self to gatherings, to soul winning, to the study of the scriptures etc. Such an individual we call a spiritual person. But that is not true as far as God is concerned. The Lord Jesus said to Nicodemus, “ that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” In other words that which is born of the Spirit is spiritual. The Spirit of God not only births it, but the Spirit also sustains it. Our life needs to be wholly spiritual. In other words, it should be birthed, sustained and consummated by the Spirit of God. The Lord wants to reinforce the fundamental and essential reality in our lives. If we remain in a place of sensitivity, we shall realise what the church needs today. God needs spiritual men and women for preserving and carrying on of His testimony in the earth. *The Lord needs re-enforced spirituality in the midst of His people.*

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. 1 Peter 4:2

Today's Reading : Exodus 37:1-38:31
Matthew 28:1-20
Psalm 34:11-22
Proverbs 9:9-10

14
FEBRUARY

What is the Second Coming of the Lord?

“When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.” (2 Thessalonians 1:10).

This talks of the life of the Lord coming into His fullness in a people inwardly but many preachers, who talk of the Second Coming, are caught up only with the outward things. They are only interested in what is going to happen in Jerusalem, in the temple, and in countries like Iraq and Iran. Yes, there will be a manifestation of the signs of the times, but they will happen within and among God's people first. Beloved, Adventism is the consummation of something that has been going on in an inward way. How then do I best know that the coming of the Lord draws nigh? Not best of all by prophetic signs but by what is going on within the heart of the Lord's people. The best of the 'signs of the time' is what the Holy Spirit is doing in His own people.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not
darkness. Luke 11:35*

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FEBRUARY

Today's Reading : Exodus 39:1-40:38
Mark 1:1-28
Psalm 35:1-16
Proverbs 9:11-12



It is common to hear people express spiritual birth in words such as, “I have come into Christianity.” “I have accepted the Christian religion”.. etc. And they come into a new type of behaviour and form. They begin to do things in a different way. Some think it is just outward and objective and that one has come into some other sphere of interests, activity, life and conduct! That is the idea many, therefore, hold about Christianity. Yet true Christianity is far different. It is a new entity. Recently, when some young non-Christian brothers accepted Christ, their parents found it difficult to accept the changes in them but they felt that they would soon return to the religion of their parents. They thought that all that had happened to their offspring was merely a change of interests temporarily. They even allowed their children to continue to be associated with a living church if that is what interested them. The parents thought that they will change after some time! However, the Christian life, as we see in John Chapter 3, is not just a change of interest. It is not a movement from one sphere of interest and activity to another sphere of religious activity.

Today's Command

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain that are ready to die: Rev 3:2

Today's Reading : Leviticus 1:1-3:17
 Mark 1:29-2:12
 Psalm 35:17-28
 Proverbs 9:13-18

16
FEBRUARY

A born-again person is not an improved edition of humanity or even a new edition of humanity. He has a totally new constitution and is a new species of being.

The homo-sapien, the natural man, always relies on his natural abilities, like the use of human reasoning. He uses his reasoning to figure out anything he does not understand. He tries to comprehend everything with the faculty of his mind. A person always acts according to the understanding of his natural capacities and capabilities. This is the way Nicodemus behaved in John Chapter 3. When the Lord told him that he needed to be born again, he wondered how a person could be born twice! He applied his natural reasoning to the words that Jesus spoke. He reasoned with his mind and intellect and found that no man could be born from the womb of his mother a second time. The natural man always acts upon the reasoning of his mind. When God speaks, the natural man receives it, but first tries to understand it in the strength of his natural ability. It appears that he must be able to reason the thing *through* to comprehend.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen. 1Jo 5:21

17
FEBRUARY

Today's Reading :

Leviticus 4:1-5:19

Mark 2:13-3:6

Psalms 36:1-12

Proverbs 10:1-2



What was the difference between the Pharisees and Saducees on the one hand and Christ, on the other? It was not the difference of religion or devotion. It was not that Jesus was more devoted and religious than the Pharisees. It was the difference of the spiritual and the natural. Jesus was from above. He was born of the Spirit. The others were of the natural. Jesus was an enigma to the Pharisees, because they walked and lived in the natural, while He was spiritual. That is why they could not have any relationship with Him. Jesus was a mystery to them. They always thought Him to be wrong. When Jesus spoke, the Pharisees said that He spoke against them. They even said that He had a devil inside Him! Why could they not accept Him? They belonged to two different realms. If God's people do not walk in the Spirit, there can be similar differences in the midst of God's people, even in the church.

We may be a sincere and a devoted people, but what matters is whether we belong to the natural realm or the realm of the Spirit. Only the realm of the Spirit can bring forth spiritual fruit.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith,

Jude 1:20

Today's Reading : Leviticus 6:1-7:27
 Mark 3:7-30
 Psalm 37:1-11
 Proverbs 10:3-4

18
FEBRUARY

Jesus healed many people, but when He began to speak the things He heard his Father speak, they were offended and left Him alone. He lived aloof from others, but for a few faithful disciples. He was a man of the Spirit while others were just in the natural realm.

We are all called to walk and live in the realm of the Spirit. Today, the tragedy is that many do not like that rejection, that lonely walk. I still remember that in the initial days of my ministry, while I fasted and waited on Him the Lord spoke to me very specifically from the book of Luke and said , “Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man’s sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.” (Luke 6:22,23) It took some years for me to understand these words. I did not like the rejection I suffered but gradually I realised that we are called to walk this way. If you walk by the Spirit, you will walk with the Man whom the world has rejected.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come Revelation 22:17

19
FEBRUARY

Today's Reading :

Leviticus 7:28-9:6

Mark 3:31-4:25

Psalms 37:12-29

Proverbs 10:5



“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit” (John 3: 8)

When the wind blows across the land, it does not have to give any prior notice. Our weather satellites cannot tell us from where the wind originates. Winds, typhoons, hurricanes are totally unpredictable. Meteorologists have a lot of difficulty in forecasting the path the wind would take. The wind blows wherever and whenever it decides to blow! It just blows and when it does, we cannot say it is ever out of date, that it should have blown yesterday and not today! Nor can anyone tell the wind not to blow for a time. None can say that the wind has come at the wrong time. One cannot say that it is an inconvenient time for the wind to blow. The wind blows where it will, and no one can subject the wind to his will. The wind blows and that is all. Man cannot hasten it, prevent it, control it or do anything about it. It blows and that is all there is to it. It proceeds from the vast sovereign hand of God. Here we have the principle of the sovereignty of the Spirit as represented by the sovereignty of the wind.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1Pe 5:7

Today's Reading : Leviticus 9:7-10:20
 Mark 4:26-5:20
 Psalm 37:30-40
 Proverbs 10:6-7

20
FEBRUARY

In the book of Ezekiel Chapter 47, we read about the river of God that flows from the threshold of the Sanctuary of the Lord. There are many prophetic details here. One thing I wish to share is that the river could not be passed through. “ it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.” (Ezekiel 47:5). It is impossible to cope with this river! It is too much for man! You cannot bring the Holy Spirit within your ability. Oh, if only we know the Spirit like this! This is what the Spirit is and what He does! He refuses to be tied down to our human systems and our human resources. He refuses to be limited to our natural man, to our traditions, to our prejudices.

The Holy Spirit is beyond the control of the people of Jerusalem, too much and too difficult for Peter and all his prejudices. He was too much for everything that got into His way! It is a river you cannot control. It flows in it's own sovereign way. The Spirit has a way that He will take. He has His own mind.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh
away thy goods ask them not again. Luke 6:30*

21
FEBRUARY

Today's Reading : Leviticus 11:1-12:8
 Mark 5:21-43
 Psalm 38:1-22
 Proverbs 10:8-9



People seem to be in tearing hurry. We have become a hurrying people, a very busy lot. God's people have come to a place where they have no time for Him and His purposes. They are all in a great hurry; and spending time in His House, has become a matter of great struggle. Even ministries in the House of God, are people are in a hurry. The only time when they are not in a hurry is when they spend time in the pleasure and enjoyment of their flesh. One of the signs of the end times is that men shall be lovers of pleasures. The apostle Paul says while writing to Timothy, "This know also that in the last day perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous.....lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof; from such turn away." Christians have begun to spend week-ends for their own pleasure and enjoyment. What a ghastly thing is happening! And all these things have brought us the place where we have become real paupers, as far as the things of the Spirit are concerned. O beloved, we have come to a place where we are harbouring a spirit of lightness, ease, easiness, excitement, glamour and emotion. We are living in a time when the Church has been overcome by many, many of such things.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

1Jo 4:11

Today's Reading : Leviticus 13:1-59
 Mark 6:1-29
 Psalm 39:1-13
 Proverbs 10:10

22
FEBRUARY

Church life is the essence of Christian life. Some people say they want to have a deeper Christian life. They cherish and aspire for a deeper life in Christ. Their lives must necessarily be closely knit to a full church life because one cannot separate a Christian from his church. As a Christian, one's life cannot be lived apart from the church; it is a church responsibility. You bear the responsibility to represent the Lord's thought and mind for His Church in the local church. We must live a life that God holds for the church. We must be able to see the mind of God for the living Church.

What is the Church? This is a matter of great importance. What is God's first and supreme thought concerning the Church? The Apostle Paul gives us some guidance to the answer. In 2 Timothy 2:10, Paul says, "Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect (that is 'God's chosen' according to the Amplified Bible)." In other words, if you see what the church is in the mind of God, if you see what is in the heart of God, if you see what the church is meant to be, your behaviour, your responses, your attitude would also be changed. As a member in the church you are not just an individual Christian, but your life is church life.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. Luke 13:24

23
FEBRUARY

Today's Reading :

Leviticus 14:1-57

Mark 6:30-56

Psalms 40:1-10

Proverbs 10:11-12



The Church is not something that has been formed and constituted by mankind. It has not been brought into existence by human effort. The Church has been birthed by the pure act of God. The Eternal Spirit constitutes it. We have been made a part of God's eternal purpose (in Christ) by an act of God in our lives. We are not only born again by an act of God, we are also brought into His eternal programme by a work of God.

An individual Christian is called to be a part of this eternal Church constituted by the Spirit. When we are born again by the Spirit, the Spirit's work does not come to an end. The individual Christian is essentially constituted a spiritual being by the work of the Holy Spirit. What is true of the individual is also true of the aggregate or the corporate – the Church. The Church is something born of the Holy Spirit and therefore, is a spiritual thing. Due to the constituting work of the Holy Spirit in an individual's life, a person is transformed into a spiritual being. This is also true of the corporate body of believers, which is His Church. The Church is born of the Spirit, just as we are born of the Spirit. The Church is born of the Spirit and therefore it is wholly spiritual.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

Luke 12:35

Today's Reading : Leviticus 15:1-16:28
 Mark 7:1-23
 Psalm 40:11-17
 Proverbs 10:13-14

24
FEBRUARY

In the Apostolic times, the Church was a single entity, though it was represented in numerous local companies all over the Roman Empire. There were local churches at different places, such as at Ephesus, Corinth and Phillipi, but they were all known as the Church of God. The church as a whole was a single entity. It was not divided into denominations. All the believers, wherever they lived, identified with the Church of God. The expression of Apostle Paul in I Corinthians Chapter 1 verse 2 clarifies this thought; he says, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:"(1 Cor 1:2). There were different levels of growth, but the church was a single entity. They were united and held together by their spiritual ties and spiritual ministries. The church was not divided into denominations in the Apostolic times. It was not divided into 'ists' and 'ians' and 'ites' and 'isms' and all other terminations that we know of today. The little differences among the churches was with regard to their level of growth. They were held together by spiritual ties and by spiritual ministries. It was just one everywhere!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you. Luke 11:41

25
FEBRUARY

Today's Reading : Leviticus 16:29-18:30

Mark 7:24-8:10

Psalm 41:1-13

Proverbs 10:15-16



The question I wish to place before us is, “for what does the Church exist?” We find a clue in the words of the Apostle Paul, where he says, “...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (1 Tim 3:15-16). The deposit in the Church is the testimony of Jesus. The Church exists for that alone. “That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.”(2 Tim 1:14). The Church is the repository of the Testimony of Jesus!

What is the testimony of the Lord? It is the present living Person of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. He is the living, victorious Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. That is where it begins – the living Person of Jesus Christ. It is not the historic Jesus of Palestine who lived centuries ago. No. He is the right-up-to-date, here-and-now living Jesus, manifested, demonstrated and proved to be alive in the power of the Holy Ghost!

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,
that he may exalt you in due time: 1Pe 5:6*

Today's Reading : Leviticus 19:1-20:21
 Mark 8:11-38
 Psalm 42:1-11
 Proverbs 10:17

26
FEBRUARY

It is of significance to note what John the Apostle said, “I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9). John could see the sovereign hand of God in that situation, so hard and so difficult. John could see that God had exercised His Divine sovereignty over the Roman Empire, over the persecutors and over the one who had sent him to Patmos; a divine sovereignty which says, “this is why I have brought you here for! The Romans sent you, but I have brought you! It is not their sovereignty that has put you here, it is mine! I have something to say to the churches. And I have given you a quite time to say it for me!” John did not say, “I was in the Isle of Patmos, because the Roman Empire or the Roman Emperor sentenced me there. Because the Roman persecutors caught me and sent me there? Not a bit of that! But he said, “I was in the Isle of Patmos... for the testimony of Jesus”.

Now that has been true of John, because he had stood for the testimony of Jesus. It is so expressive that that phrase runs through the whole book of Revelation!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32

27
FEBRUARY

Today's Reading : Leviticus 20:22-22:16

Mark 9:1-29

Psalms 43:1-5

Proverbs 10:18



What is the testimony of the Lord Jesus? It is the living presence of Jesus Christ! The livingness of Jesus in the midst of His people! In certain countries, though there is an absence of freedom to preach the gospel, still we see that Jesus is alive and very much present, for God cannot be limited by man. Men may try to curb Christian evangelism, but this will not limit the power of God. Even though the preaching of the gospel is prohibited, yet we see that the Lord Jesus Christ is raised up in their midst. In such countries where it is forbidden to speak and declare the gospel openly, people hunt down Christian believers, and yet, Jesus is manifested as the one who is alive in their midst. They search for Christian believers so that they may eliminate them only because Jesus is alive in their midst. That is the testimony of Jesus. His testimony is not in just a bold declaration. His testimony is a living witness of a greater measure of His life, which is visible and demonstrated in His people. The testimony of the Lord Jesus is presented to us symbolically right at the beginning of the book of Revelation - "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:18).

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Rev 3:11

Today's Reading : Leviticus 22:17-23:44
 Mark 9:30-10:12
 Psalm 44:1-8
 Proverbs 10:19

28
FEBRUARY



The early Church experienced the power of the resurrection in a clear, demonstrative way which is evident from the book of Acts. They lived in the power of His resurrection. I was greatly encouraged by meditating on this aspect. *Death could not swallow the early disciples because death itself had been swallowed up in victory!* What a glorious assurance the early Apostles had in their lives! What a ground of confidence! What an encouragement! They stood on a solid ground of confidence in the resurrected One.

What a glorious assurance governed the lives of the Apostles! From the circumstances and situations they faced, it seemed as if they would never survive, but they endured and lived through all the adversities they underwent. Time and time again, it looked as though they would succumb and that the end had come, but they survived! As far as man was concerned everything was over, but the One who says, "I am alive for evermore," was in their very midst. The saints of old did not place their confidence in themselves, but in the One who had been resurrected. Herein lies the difference! We may feel that we are not going to survive and get through! But never believe that! It is a lie! Never believe the lie of the enemy. We shall survive because the One who said that He is alive for evermore is present in our midst.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. 1 John 4:21



Today's Reading : Leviticus 24:1-25:46
 Mark 10:13-31
 Psalm 44:9-26
 Proverbs 10:20-21



The philosophy in the world today is to get everything as quickly as possible and as cheaply as possible. We seem to be living in an age of cheapness. Common thinking tells us to get as much as possible at the least cost and with the least amount of effort. This philosophy seems to have engulfed the whole world. It is ruling the whole world at this time. Everything is designed to meet the ends of this philosophy. Do you agree with me ? It is an age of bargains and discounts, of manipulating and of influencing the minds of people, be it the home or the office. Every realm and sphere of our lives seems to be governed by this philosophy. Wherever we go we want to give the least amount of money and get as much as possible for that amount. The motto is, “get it quickly, get it easily and get it cheaply.” Everything is tailored to meet the need of this philosophy. Now, what is true in the secular has become very largely true in the spiritual, as well. The standards have been terribly brought low. The thinking that is ruling the world seems to have also affected the Church. The worldly spirit of getting quick, easy results with the least effort, is now affecting and even ruling the spiritual world. There are many who have begun to bargain and look for discounts in their transactions with the Lord.

✠ Today's Command ✠

Give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 2Pe 1:10

Today's Reading : Leviticus 25:47-27:13
 Mark 10:32-52
 Psalm 45:1-17
 Proverbs 10:22

2
MARCH



A life of real sacrifice, a poured-out life, is considered visionary. The Pauline altar, to which the great apostles were called to suffer and die for their Lord, is being replaced by an invitation to come, and get over suffering! The altars of the twentieth century have become comfortable and cushy. Men and women approach this altar to receive and not to give.

The present-day Gospel has become a diluted one. This is what has ruined the Church. The Church today, has not even heard the Gospel of the Kingdom, as she ought to. The true Gospel presents Jesus as King, as the Lord, as the First One. This is the Gospel which Jesus and the early apostles preached. The Church has let humanism enter her precincts and now have become partakers of this humanistic gospel which appeals to the interests of man and not God. While the Gospel of the Kingdom demands obedience, discipline, consecration, and dying to self, the diluted and watered-down Gospel of today pleads and coaxes men to come to Jesus and receive every blessing! Cheapness and easiness have entered spiritual circles and brought a proliferation of sham. People have sought easy ways.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

[Be] of the same mind one toward another. Romans 12:16



Today's Reading: Leviticus 27:14-Numbers 1:54

Mark 11:1-26

Psalms 46:1-11

Proverbs 10:23



One of the words that has lost its meaning in this hour, is the word, 'fellowship'. It is sad that the standard of fellowship has been brought terribly low! It has been brought down to the level of the earth! It has become so carnal and fleshly. Fellowship has lost its inherent quality of the heavenly. It has become so earthy. The standard of righteousness is being eroded by modern theology. Many are falling prey to the ecumenical spirit in the name of 'renewal'. It is totally wrong to invite people who have never been 'born-again', to be renewed in the Spirit.

Many leaders are trying to bring 'renewal' to people who are religious, in that they go to church and abide by religious practices and rituals, but are unregenerate in their spirit. Such people need to repent like any other godless person have to. There are many a Nicodemus in the pew and pulpit who get caught up with renewal, but first need be told, "You must be born again." Instead, people are taught to meet God in a highly emotional, undisciplined soul dimension, often leading to varying forms and degrees of sensuality.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. Luke 12:40

Today's Reading : Numbers 2:1-3:51
Mark 11:27-12:17
Psalm 47:1-9
Proverbs 10:24-25



Bigness has become a substitute of the true greatness that the Word of God would declare. The whole spiritual world has been taken over by big showmanship. An increasing number of Charismatic and Pentecostal ministries are becoming corrupted by a 'showmanship' format, a spirit of entertainment, the use of mass psychology and the Babylonish element of 'greatness'. Our present form of evangelism and church system is out of focus. Easiness has taken over the Church. Lightness and glamour has come upon the Church. Excitement and emotion seem to be the order of the day. All these horrifying things are a part of the spiritual world, today. Ezekiel, the prophet says, "And ye have not kept the charge of my holy things; but ye have set keepers of my charge in my sanctuary for yourselves." (Ezekiel 44:8). In the Bible, Balaam is seen as the first 'hired preacher'. He was hired by King Balak to curse the Israelites. Today Christendom is filled and flooded with hirelings, for whom preaching is a way of earning a wage. God is against such hirelings who pretend to be shepherds and only fleece the sheep. At first, Balaam did not go out because God told him not to go. When Balak offered a higher wage and greater honour to him, he sought 'God's will again.' So, God allowed Balaam to go after money, and honour so that he would destroy himself.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Ephesians 4:26,27

5
MARCH

Today's Reading :

Numbers 4:1-5:31

Mark 12:18-37

Psalms 48:1-14

Proverbs 10:26



“...stand at the cross roads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good is and walk in it, and you will find rest for your soul. I appointed watchmen over you and... listen to the sound of the trumpet.”(Jeremiah 6:16, 17). The good way lay in the old paths. Walk therein and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, “We shall not walk therein.” The Word says, “harken to the sound of the trumpet.”, but they said, “We will not harken.” This is the mentality and attitude of the majority today. Brothers and sisters, let us seek for those old paths where our fathers walked at one time. We may be living in a modern time, but I want to tell you that God’s voice, in this hour to the His true people, is to “walk in the old paths wherein our fathers walked”. This is the way we too can fulfil the purposes of God and glorify the name of the Lord. Hallelujah! The way that Abraham walked, the way that Moses took, the way that even David went, after the mind of God, is the way for us. In this time of easiness and cheapness, glamour and emotion, God is telling His people that we need to search the old paths and walk in the purposes of God in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord’s counsel is “Walk therein and ye shall find rest for your souls.”

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

Romans 12:13

Today's Reading : Numbers 6:1-7:89
Mark 12:38-13:13
Psalm 49:1-20
Proverbs 10:27-28



We may be living in any age, in any time but God's principles are eternal. Throughout the Bible, womanhood is seen as something very precious and admirable. In the Old Testament, we read about the mothers of Israel. O surely, "woman is the glory of man." (1 Corinthians 11:7). But today, she has lost her rightful place. Woman, who is the glory of man, is no longer in the place of her glory. She lost her place of womanhood because she claims she is equal to man. There are women who will take the Bible and preach that "there is neither male or female" but all are equal. There are certain women who teach that because men have failed, they have been appointed as apostles and prophets by God! Womanhood, in the Bible, is very precious, but that is lost today, because of the philosophies of men. We have to believe that, that which God has declared in His eternal word is the truth. We cannot do things out of convenience. We have to do things from the convictions of our hearts, things which have been wrought by the Spirit of God, as laid down by Him. In His economy, God has a wonderful calling for the sisters. Dear sisters, be careful not to pay any attention to your ungodly neighbours, friends and relatives, who do not know God's eternal purposes and paths.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that
proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4*



Today's Reading :

Numbers 8:1-9:23

Mark 13:14-37

Psalm 50:1-23

Proverbs 10:29-30



In the physical body of Jesus, there was no trace of the 'old man', literally as in the case of believers. Jesus was devoid of the old man of the flesh, but He had a will of His own. He had the self of His own. By which He could have made His own decisions by the faculty of His will. He could have made his own choices according to His mind. But as we had just mentioned, in type and in figure the natural man went out of view in the waters of baptism. There He came into a real consecration, wherein the natural man was put out of sight.

The Lord Jesus took a position in the will of God. His position was that nothing shall be in His life that is not of the Father by the Holy Spirit. That is what it means when He said, "not my will but thy will be done" (Luke 22: 42). What we need to realise is that the Son of Man took a real position in the rivers of Jordan. In Him it was wholly true. But in us it is a position that needs to be taken and then made real as we walk in the Spirit. God's people have to be baptised into His death deep enough in these days. The Church must come into a deeper apprehension of His death and experience it. This is the need of the hour.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them
likewise. Luke 6:31*

Today's Reading : Numbers 10:1-11:23
Mark 14:1-21
Psalm 51:1-19
Proverbs 10:31-32



There are two kinds of builders mentioned in Matthew Chapter 7. The two builders, in no way, refer to an unbeliever and a believer. They talk about those who know the Lord. They represent two categories of people, those who do the will of God, and those who do their own will. Jesus said “ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven ;but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 7:21). And this He said about thetwo builders, the one who built on the rock and the one who built on mere sand. The two kinds of builders are right here in our midst. One heard the Word and obeyed it in his heart. The other one heard the voice of God but did not bring it into practice, in his life. He did not obey that voice. And that man was likened to the man who built on sand. What he built looked exactly like the building that stood upon the rock. They looked alike on the outside. Both types of believers are found in the church, clapping and raising their hands. Both attend all the camp meetings. But the Scripture says, “And the rain descended” and not if the rains descended. The rains shall surely come despite every favourable forecast by “blessing” preachers. One house fell and the other stood for the Lord.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 1Pe 4:15



Today's Reading : Numbers 11:24-13:33

Mark 14:22-52

Psalm 52:1-9

Proverbs 11:1-3



“In the days of His flesh he cried with strong cries” (Hebrews 5:5). Why did He do so? It was because He wanted to walk in fellowship with the Father. He never wanted to be separated from the bright presence of the Father. “in the days of His flesh (Jesus) offered up definite, special petitions (for that which He not only wanted but needed), and supplications, with strong crying and tears, to Him Who was (always) able to save Him (out) from death, and he was heard because of His reverence toward God — His godly fear, His piety (that is, in that He shrank from horrors of separation from the bright presence of the Father). (Hebrew 5:5 Amplified Bible). Every time His own will rose up, He cried with a strong cry and said, “Father, I revere your will. I do not want to be separated from your fellowship”. This was the way He became the ‘first-born’. He is our elder brother, our forerunner. He has shown us how to walk in fellowship with the Father. This fellowship with the eternal Son does not seem to be an important matter to many but it is the basis of our very existence in Christ. Let there be a strong cry from our inner man, “Lord Jesus, I do not want to be separated from you.” The answer to all kinds of spiritual problems lies in having a revelation of the call and the Person of the Lord Jesus.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful

Luke 6:36

Today's Reading : Numbers 14:1-15:16
Mark 14:53-72
Psalm 53:1-6
Proverbs 11:4

10
MARCH



In the Old Covenant days the Lord spoke by the prophets in different ways. But His speech is totally different in the New Covenant days. The Amplified version of Hebrews 1: 2 says, “But in the last of these days He has spoken to us in the person of a Son, Whom He appointed Heir and lawful Owner of all things, also by and through Whom He created the worlds and the reaches of space and the ages of time He made, produced, built, operated, and arranged them in order.” He has spoken to us in the person of a Son. He has not spoken “through His Son”, but He speaks to us “by his Son”, “in His Son”, “in the person of a Son”. In these last days, the Lord is speaking to us IN the Person of His Son. If only we could understand this we would be quick to realise that is an enormous and a tremendous thing. It means God is not speaking to us about His son. He is not giving us a doctrine or a teaching. He is speaking to us IN the person of His Son. We must allow that to sink into the depths of our being so that we may fully be apprehended by it. Beloved, it is in Him, in Christ that God speaks.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints.

Hebrews 13:24



Today's Reading : Numbers 15:17-16:40

Mark 15:1-47

Psalms 54:1-7

Proverbs 11:5-6



The apostle Paul says, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh". (1 Tim 3:16). When Jesus was here upon the earth, He was a great mystery. What was the mystery? The mystery concerned Jesus, the man, moving in the flesh, subject to passions of man, and yet He was the 'heir of all things'. Do you see the enigma of it all? While He was here, upon the earth, in the human body, He was appointed to be the 'heir of all the universe' by the Father. This was the mystery that puzzled every man. The Heir, the eternal Inheritor stood before man and yet man was not able to see Him. Praise be to the name of the Lord! The truth must go beyond the mental knowledge and intellect of man and be registered in the spirit of man. Today, this Jesus is still a mystery and a hidden truth for many. Though there are many Christians who confess that Jesus is Lord, they are yet to recognise and acknowledge this Jesus. The eternal mystery remains an enigma for them and needs to be unfolded and revealed.

Jesus was the manifestation of the Creator in the midst of the creation.

Today's Command

Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, Philippians 3:16

Today's Reading : Numbers 16:41-18:32
Mark 16:1-20
Psalm 55:1-23
Proverbs 11:7

12
MARCH



My life was once shattered and broken. It had no meaning. It was empty and barren. Praise the Lord that one-day, He came into my life and put all things in order. I know one thing that He is holding me together. My life will disintegrate the moment He leaves me. The reason why many are miserable, filled with loneliness and pain, is because Jesus is on the outside of their lives, and not on the inside. Jesus holds all things together in our lives and in the lives of our families. The integration in our lives comes from our union with Christ.

All around us, there are people who are disillusioned, disappointed, dissatisfied and scattered in their lives. Multitudes have put Jesus outside their lives and neglected the only One who can hold their lives together. Beloved, your family life can be changed; God can do a new work of integration and harmony in your family; you too can experience an elemental constituting within, by the Heir of all things provided He is given His rightful place in your family. Let us hold fast to this Saviour, who holds all things together. Let Him hold everything together in your life.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 19:14

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MARCH

Today's Reading : Numbers 19:1-20:29
Luke 1:1-25
Psalm 56:1-13
Proverbs 11:8



“The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet” (Proverbs 27:7) This verse is true in the lives of many believers today. The word of God is loathsome to them. Some people ask me, “Why are you repeating the same things.” I often feel sad for them. They do not see the poverty of their spirit! They think that hearing is ‘knowing’. Saints of the Most High, hearing is not knowing! Hence, we must move carefully not just hearing words but weighing them. Beloved, we must weigh each word, because, God always weighs everything.

It is the Holy Spirit who has to work in our lives and we must give Him time and space to do so. The Spirit knows what is standing against the name of Jesus in our lives. Sometimes we are tempted to only read familiar portions in the Bible. This is the way we get deceived and fail to understand the truth or catch what the Spirit is saying behind the words. Beloved, we need to weigh every word carefully. We have to weigh them. God always weighs everything. He always looks at them in line with His eternal purposes.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

In your patience possess ye your souls. Luke 21:19

Today's Reading : Numbers 21:1-22:20
Luke 1:26-56
Psalm 57:1-11
Proverbs 11:9-11

14
MARCH

The Word of God, from the beginning to the end, conspicuously declares one important fact, that God always looks for a place of rest for Himself. He has been looking for a place that satisfies His heart from the very beginning. In the book of Genesis, we however read that as soon as God began to rest in His creation, there was someone who didn't like it! Yes, almost immediately the forces of evil came against and opposed the rest that God had found in His own creation!! Right from that time there has been a battle concerning God's rightful place of rest in His creation. This eternal issue highlights two things. Firstly, God is ever and always seeking for a place where He can be satisfied and where he could rest. He desires to have a place where His presence would be unchallenged. He desires to have a place where His presence would be accepted without any controversy. Secondly, there is a perpetual conflict raging in the realms of the cosmic. This conflict is directed against all that God wants to establish upon the earth. The Bible is full of accounts of this dispute of God's right to have a place of rest here. God has always wanted to have a place where the name and the glory of His Son would be manifested, and where He would be able to rule and reign as the undisputed King.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and
drunkenness, Romans 13:13*

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MARCH

Today's Reading : Numbers 22:21-23:30
Luke 1:57-80
Psalm 58:1-11
Proverbs 11:12-13



The whole Bible is filled with accounts of people that heard the call. Some heard and responded, and went on with God. Some heard the call and made a response but turned aside from that call later on. Nevertheless, God did not stop, but moved on. Then again, others heard the call of God, but hesitated to make any decision. They began to reason and weigh things. They found it was a costly decision, and therefore, they refused to go on. Nevertheless, God went on. These three categories of people are clearly distinguishable throughout the Bible. The Old Testament history is full of these categories of people. Many people in the past have missed this call and many continue to miss the call, but God has been gradually collecting a people through the ages. He is slowly but steadily gathering and collected a people. He is forming a people of His call. He is still collecting a people in the earth. He is calling a people into fellowship in His Son. Glory to God! He is not calling people into some man-made association. At different places people are being called unto the Son. We are being called to align our lives with the eternal purposes of God, in His Son, Christ Jesus

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 1 Corinthians 9:24

Today's Reading : Numbers 24:1-25:18

Luke 2:1-35

Psalm 59:1-17

Proverbs 11:14

16
MARCH

The God of glory appeared unto Abraham. The call of God gripped Abraham from that very moment, in the Ur of the Chaldees, where Abraham worshipped idols. Abraham met the Living God right there. This Eternal God met him. Abraham could distinguish the eternal God from among all other gods whom he worshipped. He distinguished a voice, a person, that settled the whole matter of relationship with all other god's that he was accustomed to worship. He was drawn to one focus, to the God of glory, not just a god who is in glory but who is the God of Glory. God of glory is one thing and a god who is in glory, is another thing. The God of Glory talks of God who is glorious in His very being and who has glory at the end as His object! God brings those whom He has called ultimately into that very glory. When Abraham heard this call he responded to it without delay. I do not know how this call was conveyed; may be it was done in some strange and inexplicable way. I am convinced that Abraham, somehow, came to know that this call was related to God's Son. In John 8:56 we read, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw, and was glad."

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

1Corinthians 16:13

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MARCH

Today's Reading :

Numbers 26:1-51

Luke 2:36-52

Psalms 60:1-12

Proverbs 11:15



Acts 13:27 tells us that for hundreds of years, on every Sabbath day the words of the prophets were read in the midst of God's people. The statement made therein is a very astonishing and arresting one and in itself becomes a message and a warning from the prophets. It says in very precise terms that the 'prophets' were read in the temple at Jerusalem; they were read in various synagogues; and they were read far and wide for the hearing of God's people. And all the while, the Scriptures were heard through the mouths of priests and synagogue leaders! The Scriptures were read out with one intention—that through the mouths of those who read out the Scriptures, the people would in fact hear what the prophets spoke. But what happened was that the rulers and the people missed the 'voices of the prophets' through what was being read. The words, the Scriptures, and the sounds, were heard, times without number, whenever the people assembled together; but the 'voices of the prophets' went unheard, undiscerned and undetected. What a tragedy! The vital message of the prophets went unheard and was of no avail. The whole purpose of their coming together, to detect and discern His voice through the prophets was nullified.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 12:7

Today's Reading : Numbers 26:52-28:15
Luke 3:1-22
Psalm 61:1-8
Proverbs 11:16-17

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MARCH

I am sure that many of God's people are guilty of not hearing the voice of the Lord, though they have heard a message or a teaching. Beloved, it is not a matter of our intelligence; for our spiritual life does not depend on our intellectual ability.

Our intellect can not save us, nor can it help us to further our spiritual lives. It is not a matter of our education, our intelligence or our mental capacities. Spiritual life is one of conception. You are a Christian, a child of God by conception and not by education or by instruction. Your spiritual life has been initiated by God; we are born from above as children of God; it is a work of the Spirit and not of the intellect or of the ability of man. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13) Therefore, our growth and progression must also come through His Spirit and His Word. None of us can ever educate someone to become a Christian! Our birthing, our growth and subsequent progression is a work of the Spirit and the Word. The Holy Spirit uses the Word to produce this life in us initially, and subsequently as well.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Children, obey [your] parents in all things: for this is well
pleasing unto the Lord. Colossians 3:20*

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MARCH

Today's Reading : Numbers 28:16-29:40

Luke 3:23-38

Psalms 62:1-12

Proverbs 11:18-19



Everything hangs upon one thing—the place and measure given to Christ. That is what is important in the eyes of the Lord. There are many issues before us—problems of various kinds, weaknesses, and infirmities. There are a multitude of things in us which are not in consonance with the perfect will of God and with God's Word, yet the most important issue is the place and the measure that Christ has in our lives. That is the most important issue in the eyes of the Father. The eternal God can forgive all sins however bad or terrible they may be. Every sin under the sun can be forgiven by God. However, there is one sin which the Father can never forgive, and for which there is no provision in God's economy: that is the rejection of the Son. So, the place and the measure of the Son is what the Father looks for in everything. Everything is going to be judged by this measure. We read in the book of Acts "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:31)

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. 2Corinthians 13:5

Today's Reading : Numbers 30:1-31:54
Luke 4:1-30
Psalm 63:1-11
Proverbs 11:20-21

20
MARCH

There comes a time when the more we hear, the more we are unable to really hear the Lord and His Spirit! As Apostle Paul says “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Tim. 3:7)

Let us note that the failure and its consequences referred to in *Acts* 13 were not because the prophets were not faithful, but because their teachers and leaders were unfaithful and sought after personal gains! God had His true prophets speaking His voice in the midst of those prophets who went after their own gain. Let me illustrate this with the example of a child at school. If a child is not doing well in studies, one cannot always put the blame on the teacher! It could be that some teachers were not good enough or not dedicated enough. Failure could also be attributable to a lazy, indolent, careless and rebellious child. Though there would always be some teachers who would be sincere and committed, the fact is that the best and most hardworking teacher could also be prone to failures and limitations. The blame rested squarely upon the hearers!

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the
lust of the flesh. Galatians 5:16*

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MARCH

Today's Reading : Numbers 32:1-33:39

Luke 4:31-5:11

Psalm 64:1-10

Proverbs 11:22



In Jeremiah, we find a man, a servant of the Lord, who shared the sorrow and the pain of the Lord! Here was a man who was drawn to the Lord and came so near to Him that he could have close fellowship with the Lord. He went the unpopular way and stands as an example to encourage every man who would care to embrace the ostracized way; for he was one who ploughed alone, away from everyone else.

In these days, not many people choose to plough the lonely field or go into that which is known as unpopular. But praise God there are some - not many, but some - who refuse to be a part of that which others find good and pleasant. There are but a few who are willing to plough alone and keep themselves away from the fields of popular Christianity. They feel called to stand against the strong currents of the evangelical and charismatic world, and therefore - they choose to go it alone, though it would mean much suffering and rejection. People do not want to stand and bear an unwelcome testimony in this hour. They are more concerned about their personal testimony and their ministry, than the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord [is] at hand. Philippians 4:5

Today's Reading : Numbers 33:40-35:34
Luke 5:12-28
Psalm 65:1-13
Proverbs 11:23

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MARCH

Today the church persuades and challenges God's people to labor and work hard for the Lord. The emphasis in churches all around is on service and upon doing some work for the Lord, whereas the Lord is more concerned about His testimony.

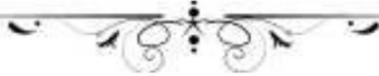
The seven churches in Revelation were judged in the light of His testimony. These churches were brought into existence to bear the light of His testimony. They were constituted to this end. But when they failed to bear His testimony, when there was no moral and spiritual ground for their continuation, the verdict of the Lord then came upon them! Has God changed the standard of His judgments for us today? No, He has not! The people of God today have lost the purpose of their salvation. Churches have become a platform for social work and a stage for political and other activities which seem good and favourable in the eyes of man. Looking around, we see that the Church is least concerned about the testimony of Jesus Christ: they are concerned more about their own ministry, their own name, and their own kingdoms!

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,
whereunto thou art also called, 1 Timothy 6:12*



Today's Reading Numbers 36:1-Deuteronomy 1:46
Luke 5:29-6:11
Psalm 66:1-20
Proverbs 11:24-26



The cost we have paid in the past is no guarantee that we shall not become compromisers or withdraw under pressure. The cost, the pain, the sorrow, the losses we have incurred will not help us to stand as un-compromisers, in this hour. Many men of God who made great sacrifices in the past are now living in compromise. The sacrifices they made in the past could not guarantee them a safe and secure life; the good feelings they had after they had made sacrifices unto the Lord could not help them stand before God without guilt and blame. Consider the lives of Saul, Jonathan and many others who had obeyed the Lord at one time but later they compromised and fell away from their commitments. Their enemies pinned their bodies on the walls of Bethshan (1 Sam. 31:12)! They fought against God's enemies at one time; but they died in disgrace and the Lord was not with them. Many times we think that because we are on God's side fighting His enemies, we will not compromise or withdraw from this calling and purpose later. This attitude is totally wrong. History has repeatedly shown this to us. The obedience, the sacrifices, the good deeds, and the devoted works we may have had in the past are no guarantee for today. The sacrifices of yesterday are no excuse for compromising today.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine

Titus 2:1

Today's Reading : Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29

Luke 6:12-38

Psalms 67:1-7

Proverbs 11:27

24
MARCH

I would like to specially warn young brothers and sisters of the second generation, whose parents know the Lord and who have heard this truth and are walking in it. If these young ones want to walk in the ways of their parents, they need to be prepared to pay a price. If they were privileged to hear the counsel of God and the 'voices of the prophets' during their childhood and in their teens, they need to now demonstrate it through their lives. Their lives must not stand in contradiction to whatever they have heard in the House of God. And here is the sorrow of His love! Countless children have not had the privilege they have had. Therefore, they need to go out of their way to establish and prove this by the kind of lives they live and the testimony they hold. They need to realize the demands of this call upon their lives. They could have wasted their lives elsewhere, but God in His mercy had something better for them. When Jeremiah was yet in his youth, he opened his life to the Lord; the same goes for Samuel the prophet. This call would place you in a path that is unpopular; it will bring you no fame or riches; it is not a path where you will get a great name; and few will be your companions, but it is a path that will please the Lord. So there is a need for each one of you to be open to the voice of God in this crucial time.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful. Titus 3:14

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MARCH

Today's Reading : Deuteronomy 4:1-49
Luke 6:39-7:10
Psalm 68:1-18
Proverbs 11:28



Jeremiah knew that his ministry would be intensely painful. He was called to root out, to pull down, to destroy and to throw down—but also to build and to plant. Today, everybody expects his ministry to take off smoothly, without a hitch. They want to enlarge their ministry in a short span of six months. They could begin with a small group of twenty people, but within six months they would like to show that their ministry has expanded to a thousand! In other words, every ministry is eager to build and to plant, but nobody wants to first root out, pull down and to destroy. Remember, something worthwhile can only be built after there has been a tearing down. But who is willing to accept such a ministry? To root out, to pull down and to destroy is an unpopular way! It is only after things have been pulled down and rooted-out that something after the mind of God can be built! It is easy to build a ministry on the lines of man's designs for it will not attract any opposition, reproach or rejection. Saints, many things are happening in Christendom, but God is looking for a body in the earth, a people who will be a prophetic voice in this age.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. Hebrews 10:35

Today's Reading : Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25
Luke 7:11-35
Psalm 68:19-35
Proverbs 11:29-31

26
MARCH

Outward worship was rampant in the days of Jeremiah. People came to the house of the Lord and said, "This is the temple of the Lord; this is the temple of the Lord." The more they said this, the more spiritual they felt. The vital application of the word and its inner conviction were lost. They thought they had become more spiritual because they gave themselves to ritualistic forms of worship. But the Lord said that He would burn down the house of God because His people were worshipping God with hearts that were insensitive and deceptive. Unfortunately, by and large, worship is no different these days. People of God have become so 'religious' that the vital application of spiritual things to their lives has been totally lost. This is a very dangerous state to be in!

So we see that in Jeremiah's days, religion went into one pocket and the vital application to life went through a hole in the other! The Lord said: "*They have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and have hewn them out cisterns, broken cisterns, which can hold no water.*" Human substitutes for the Lord and His principles; are in plenty today, but they are broken and cannot hold water for long!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, [the Lord] of glory, with respect of persons. James 2:1

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MARCH

Today's Reading : Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20
Luke 7:36-8:3
Psalm 69:1-18
Proverbs 12:1



Let me caution you to be careful not to embrace the principles of this world in the matter of marriage. Keep your heart open to the Lord and His word. Paul's counsel to Timothy and to those who have entered the ministry is to flee from youthful lusts. But the unfortunate thing is that many young people are looking for job opportunities in the very places from where they need to flee! Saints, the choices open to believers are few and far between in this world. Many who are living in compromise have fallen over the cliff of immorality. Where is the preacher of righteousness such as Noah of old? We need such men today. When young people come with fond ideas of having jobs in places that are circumspect and seek the prayers of elders, we need men who can counsel them to flee from such places. But instead, we have leaders to bless them and pray for their success! What a compromise! Where is the leader who will openly deny them prayer support, correct them and tell them to give up any thought of working in places where they could easily lose their moral character and values? It is sad that many leaders and even parents are numb towards these crucial moral issues. Bigger pay packets and perks have blinded the eyes and hardened the lives of many believers!

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 1 Peter 2:11-12

Today's Reading : Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22

Luke 8:4-21

Psalm 69:19-36

Proverbs 12:2-3

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MARCH

Success has become a dominating feature of ministry; profit-making and commercial gain has taken the front bench. Religious channels in TV provide ample evidence of the commercial obsession that is binding God's people. Their programmes reflect a satanic twist and distortion that many are unable to discern. Many preachers and leaders talk about prosperity, materialism, and wealth to the exclusion of other important spiritual matters. It is no more Christ-likeness and His nature that makes this sin-sick world turn to the living God!

On TV, I heard a preacher sermonize, "If you are not rich, God will not be glorified; you would not glorify your God!" Such people insist that material prosperity and material advancement are a sign of God's blessing upon our lives. Satan has convinced them that prosperity and success are a token of God's approval of our lives. Therefore, their successes and gains have turned people away from the call to follow the living Lord. Apostle Paul warns the New Testament believers about this very thing. That which they call success has turned them away from desiring to be near the Lord. In their love for material success, many preachers have lost their anointing. The overriding need for success has sapped the spiritual growth of many people.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: Ephesians 4:31

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MARCH

Today's Reading :Deuteronomy 11:1-12:32

Luke 8:22-39

Psalms 70:1-5

Proverbs 12:4



We see the seeming failure of the Lord's earthly life and labour. To many people as far as the Lord's labour was concerned, it seemed that His life was a failure. He was "crucified through weakness." (2 Cor. 13:4); He was deserted by the people; He was forsaken by one and all. His disciples ran for their lives. When we see His life from this angle, it seems that His earthly life and labour resulted in nothing but failure. But the Father in Heaven raised Him up and gave Him a name and a place on the throne. The Father vindicated His life and His labour. What looked like failure and loss has been vindicated over and through many centuries. The Father gave Him a name and a throne vindicating all the work of His hands. And through the centuries we see that His name has been upheld and magnified, though it was rejected and discarded in His time. And it will go on and on unto all eternity! However, the reality is that He did not see the fruit of His labour during His days upon the earth! He did it all for a time to come. As the Hebrew writer says, "who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:2).

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

*So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law
of liberty. James 2:12*

Today's Reading :Deuteronomy 13:1-15:23

Luke 8:40-9:6

Psalm 71:1-24

Proverbs 12:5-7

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MARCH

We see in Apostle Paul's life and ministry the desertion, the forsaking, the discrediting and the discounting that marked the closing days of his earthly course! Towards the end of his ministry, we read, "all they which are in Asia be turned away from me" (2 Tim. 1:15). People discredited his ministry; he faced rejections and reproach. His closing days were marked by these incidents of desertion and discarding. Many people forsook him; and the churches began to depart from the reality to which they were brought in by the apostle. The churches were on the decline, and many people abandoned them.

When we read the Scriptures and also the history of God's people, we see a galaxy of lonely heroes of faith who compose the noble army of "despised and rejected men". Whether their lives were a failure or a success did not matter; their burden was to do God's will, and to bear a testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ in their generation. Such is the army of the eternal God. They were men who were rejected and despised by the world. Their ministry and labour involved a lot of sacrifice, suffering and personal loss. The verdict of men in their lifetime was, "This man served no purpose; this man was of no use; he served in no profitable way."

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump,
as ye are unleavened. 1Corinthians 5:7*

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MARCH

Today's Reading :Deuteronomy 16:1-17:20

Luke 9:7-27

Psalms 72:1-20

Proverbs 12:8-9

I am truly burdened to bring a certain word that the Lord is prompting me to speak. As long as we walk in the way of the Lord, in this narrow path and in this call of God where we are called to be a testimony of the Lord, then no one need to question our lives. As long as we are in step with the mind of God, hearing God's word and the 'voices of the prophets', and walking in it as well, no one needs to come and tell us anything. Nobody needs to tell one anything. But the necessity arises only when we side step, when our priorities are jumbled up, when our lives are not in line with our calling, when our lives are contrary to the very purpose of God, then one needs to hear a voice to tell us how to return to the paths of the Lord. Whether we are involved in ministry or some work of the Lord, or as members of a local church, we need help at such times. That is why God has a divine arrangement over our lives, and places us in a living body of believers. The voice comes to us from God to show us how to align our lives with the call of God upon our lives. Let us not be offended at hearing these things. It is not a good sign if one is offended by the word of correction. A heart of offence shows that there is a hardness that has set in. Hardness sets in when we are offended by the word of correction in the house of God.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. 1 Corinthians 14:20

Today's Reading :Deuteronomy 18:1-20:20

Luke 9:28-50

Psalm 73:1-28

Proverbs 12:10

1

APRIL



The convicting work of the Spirit is the first step. That will be followed by a conforming work of the Spirit. That is where we have to be open to the Holy Spirit to reconsider many things in our lives. We may have made many promises or plans, or taken many decisions in our lives; but if we are open to the Spirit, we will be ready to change them and pay the cost involved. When we are able to reconsider those decisions and promises in the light of the Spirit, then we know that we are open to the conforming work of the Spirit; and it will eventually result in a deeper work of the life of Christ within.

We are often quick to keep the promises we may make to men; but in matters of the Lord, we hesitate and often justify ourselves and do not fulfill our promises to the Lord. We prefer not to sacrifice the desires of our flesh at the altar of the Lord. I do believe that there are many readers who need this counsel, for as much as their growth in the Lord is in danger of becoming stagnant. Be prepared to undo your decisions, to walk away from the promises you may have made, and to reconsider your plans if you are open to the convicting work of the Spirit. Then you will experience a greater measure of the life of Christ.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be

Anathema Maranatha. 1 Corinthians 16:22



Today's Reading Deuteronomy 21:1-22:30
Luke 9:51-10:12
Psalm 74:1-23
Proverbs 12:11



From the very beginning, there has been an incorrigible propensity in man to lay his hands upon the divine things of God. This has been man's tendency—to put his hand possessively and firmly upon the things which are of divine nature, to bring it under his control. This was Lucifer's sin which led to his fall. He also put this spirit in man. God therefore calls it an evil. It is evil when God is removed from His place. If God is taken out of His place, it is evil. In other words, it is the evil of dividing God's place, of insinuating man's independence and implying man's ability. This is seen at the heart of humanism, of autocracy – the flesh! It is the principle of an uncrucified heart. Man's ability and independence, the flesh of man and the uncrucified heart always want to impinge upon what is of divine nature. It is like the uncircumcised Philistines who always wanted to come against that which is of God. This is full of significance. Until David came fully and pre-eminently to the throne, the Philistines were not completely rooted out of Mount Zion. That signifies that they always wanted to impinge upon the throne and the rule. Let us bear in mind that there is a hand against the throne. Not until Christ is absolutely Lord will this tendency to self-assertion be overruled completely!

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

If a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; Galatians 6:1

Today's Reading :Deuteronomy 23:1-25:19

Luke 10:13-37

Psalms 75:1-10

Proverbs 12:12-14

3

APRIL

The Lord gave a great commission to His disciples to go into all the world, but he also said, "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem,." (Acts 1:4). Five hundred people heard these words that He spoke just before He ascended to the heavens. But 380 people left the gathering day after day till, only 120 were finally left. With a fresh command and commission from the Lord to go and preach, accompanied by the promise of His presence, and the whole world before them (Matt. 28:19-20), they were told to wait till they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The command was to 'go', but also 'not to go'. They were so given to the Holy Spirit after they were filled with the Spirit, that they did not move out of Jerusalem for almost 15 years, though they were full of the power of the Holy Spirit and His might. They waited for the word 'go'. Today the scene is so different. People quote the great commission and command in Matthew 28 and verses 19 and 20, and they go where they want to go. All that people hear is "GO". They never hear a word 'not to go'. If the Holy Spirit told them 'not to go', they would not hear His voice because they are so full of their own voices. The Lord commanded them to go, and yet also not to go, but to wait! It is God. It is go, but don't go—that is difficult!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward

all [men]. 1Thessalonians 5:14



Today's Reading :Deuteronomy 26:1-27:26

Luke 10:38-11:13

Psalms 76:1-12

Proverbs 12:15-17



Beloved, the calling of God demands a separation from much that is going on in contemporary Christian world. How can you live in a place where man's system is being promoted? How can you sit there and appreciate those things? You can never do so if your eyes have been opened to see the reality in the Son. Some people take the example of Apostle Paul preaching in synagogues, as a reason to explain their own attitude and behavior regarding their visits to organized gatherings or denominational meetings functioning in the systems of men. However, they fail to understand that firstly, Paul was living in a time of transition between the end of the old order and the coming in of the new order, which is the church age; and secondly, he was always thrown out of the synagogues after he had delivered the first or second word and message of truth! Today, however, we are not living in the time of a transition. Saints, we cannot promote all that is happening in the majority of Christian gatherings, for much of it is contrary to the word of God. We must maintain this separation. We need to be discrete and also discriminate.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly. 2Thessalonians 3:6

Today's Reading : Deuteronomy 28:1-68
Luke 11:14-36
Psalm 77:1-20
Proverbs 12:18

5

APRIL

Writing his last letter to his spiritual son, Apostle Paul says these words: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (2 Ti. 4:2-4) The Amplified Version says, "Herald and preach the Word! Keep your sense of urgency [stand by, be at hand and ready], whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. [Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.] And convince them, rebuking and correcting, warning and urging and encouraging them, being unflagging and inexhaustible in patience and teaching. For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold, And will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions." (2 Ti. 4:2-4)

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

1 Timothy 5:20



Today's Reading :Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20

Luke 11:37-12:7

Psalms 78:1-31

Proverbs 12:19-20



These are not the days to make provisions for our desires and ways or for our own ambitions and our plans. God's remnant needs to sense the urgency of the times in their hearts. These are not the days to be offended in our hearts or to make provisions for our own desires. A sense of urgency must rule God's people in these days. The very issues and things for which some parents paid a great price at one time, are being lost by the younger generation. We are living in times when the spiritual things we once acquired by paying a great price, are now being lost by our children. Let us, therefore, nurture a sense of urgency in our spirit in this hour to bring forth correction. Let us parents not become weak before our children because we love them and lose the ground that we so far have gained by our obedience. That is where we need to honor God more than our children. I am reminded of a Scripture which says, "For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day (Exod. 32:29). It was a tremendous call and these people did it. They consecrated themselves upon their own children and kith and kin. The blessing they received was that they were chosen to be priests unto the Lord!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God. Hebrews 13:7

Today's Reading :Deuteronomy 31:1-32:27

Luke 12:8-34

Psalm 78:32-55

Proverbs 12:21-23

7

APRIL

In our lives we stand in a great danger if we have the language, the phraseology, the terms, the tones and the terminologies. It can all be an outward thing in our lives, mere appearance and pretense. The other great danger is that there can be an association with all that is right and true in God's word outwardly. God is not raising organizations and associations, He is building His Body. Therefore, wherever we may be, God wants us to be true to His higher calling. I know in my heart that we are joined together in the eternal purpose of God in His Son. That is what brought us together, and also keeps us together. People who are living an outward kind of life, without experiencing the inner reality are nothing but 'chaff', for inside they are empty. How many live like that? It is good to examine our lives to see what really moves, motivates and propels us to be a part of the body of Christ. Let the prayer of the psalmist be the prayer of our heart, "Lord search me, and know my heart today, and see if there is any way in me that is not in line with Your own heart,"

If we feed on 'chaff' we will end up as 'chaff'. We will become whatever we feed upon!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned:
behold, the judge standeth before the door. Jam 5:9*



Today's Reading : Deuteronomy 32:28-52
Luke 12:35-59
Psalm 78:56-64
Proverbs 12:24



Nehemiah was called to restore the testimony of the Lord; he was called to restore the walls of Jerusalem, which is the picture of the testimony of the Lord. He had heard the call clearly, but the conditions of God's people, of the Temple and of the city of Jerusalem which is 'the beauty of the whole earth', were in ruins. Nehemiah sat and wept over the condition of God's people and the agony of the Lord. He was broken and disquieted, but he never knew that he was entering into the fellowship of His suffering. Beloved, the Spirit of God desires to bring His remnant into a place of brokenness where they shall also enter the threshold of experiencing the fellowship of His suffering in this hour. As a result of God's workings in our lives, we shall surely experience brokenness within as we move on and travail with the burden of the Lord. People may view our sorrow as mere emotional outbursts, but God knows what lies in their hearts and what He is doing in our lives. Nehemiah was a man who entered into the fellowship of His suffering; he touched the heart, the pain, the suffering, and the testimony of God. And he went on alone in the anointing and the power of the Holy Spirit upon his life. He was just a simple, common man but God was with him. He was a man in fellowship with God's suffering.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition
reject; Titus 3:10*

Today's Reading : Deuteronomy 33:1-29
Luke 13:1-21
Psalm 78:65-72
Proverbs 12:25

9

APRIL

The opposition did not delay in hounding Nehemiah. Allegations, accusations and contentious arguments blaming Nehemiah for wanting to make a name for himself and that he wanted to rule over the lives of others, were aired freely by the enemies of God's purpose. However, these made no dent upon Nehemiah's spirit, he knew what he had to do and what he was into. He did not attempt to justify himself. He went on with what God had called him to do. If you are a man or a woman who has heard the voice of God, you will not be concerned with what people say. What is important is hearing God and walking in obedience to His will. Let us be in a place of hearing the Lord, seeking to do His will and meet His need in this hour. Jeremiah, the prophet of God, was a suffering servant acquainted with sorrow and grief. All that mattered to him was to fulfill the calling of God. And God vindicated this man. The opinion of men, the prevailing situations and circumstances, and the reproaches of the people did not discourage him. He was not troubled about his future; he had no fears; he left it all in the hands of the Lord.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. Revelation 2:16

10
APRIL

Today's Reading : Deut34:1-Joshua 2:24
Luke 13:22-14:6
Psalm 79:1-13
Proverbs 12:26



Some people who lived in Old Testament like David, saw what God desired in their lives. David therefore cried out, "Lord, You desire truth in the inward parts." David went beyond his times and was able to see what was upon the heart of God. Reality lies only in a life lived inwardly. Today, many still live according to outward manifestations and observances which identify them to Old Testament standards. Although they are living in the New Covenant, they are in reality living under the Old Covenant. Inwardly they are still in bondage and subject to many other things, but outwardly they show something different. The Lord said that He would put His law within them. This refers to a change of nature. God also promises to give us the means to live an inward life. The 'means' is Christ, the Son of God. "Christ in you the hope of glory" is the reality of the New Covenant, as mentioned in *Col. 1:27*. The means to live this Christian life is through Christ living in us by the Holy Spirit. The law was placed in our hearts by the Lord. The Bible in 2 Cor. 4:6 says, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Amen!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house a house of merchandise. John 2:16

Today's Reading :

Joshua 3:1-4:24

Luke 14:7-35

Psalms 80:1-19

Proverbs 12:27-28

11

APRIL

Today compromise is seen as broadmindedness. To be tolerant of evil is considered a great virtue in these times, and it is often contrary to the narrow way of the cross. Many people are against us on account of the path we choose, which is the strait and narrow way, come what may. Today many broadminded preachers are crowd-pullers because they pull down the narrow gates of the kingdom of God and make them broad! The prophets suffered to go the narrow way while false prophets gave room to people to take the broad way by compromising the truth. The reality is that the multitudes will always take the broad way of ease and convenience. Large numbers attend churches primarily because they follow the broad way. These mega churches have become a status symbol for the believers of today. They are essentially a company of compromisers. Many come to church to identify with big congregations and to avail of their social facilities for marriage and burial. But if anyone wants to be a part of a small company of truth-seekers, they will surely be ex-communicated. Today, one has to pay a great cost to continuously stand for the truth and walk the narrow way. Truly, it takes faithfulness to reach the destiny of our calling.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Colossians 3:8

12
APRIL

Today's Reading :

Joshua 5:1-7:15

Luke 15:1-32

Psalms 81:1-16

Proverbs 13:1



2 Tim. 1:8 “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;”

It was very costly to stand for the Lord in the days of the early church. For anyone to show allegiance to a man like Paul meant ostracism and prison; it touched and affected every area of the soul. It was a great triumph for a young man to stick loyally with Paul to the very end! Apostle Paul knew the afflictions which came upon men for preaching and professing the Gospel; for though the Gospel is a gospel of peace, yet, through the corruption and depravity of men, it brings a sword, division, and trouble. Tribulation arises on account of it; and this should be endured patiently and constantly, for the sake of it. He told Timothy, “Take your share of the sufferings.” And Timothy did not hesitate to take the counsel of Paul.

It costs us to be faithful, to be loyal, and to be courageous. It puts our popularity and acceptance at jeopardy. It is costly to sponsor an unpopular but valuable cause and ministry!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let all things be done decently and in order.

1 Corinthians 14:40

Today's Reading :

Joshua 7:16-9:2

Luke 16:1-18

Psalms 82:1-8

Proverbs 13:2-3

13

APRIL

God had chosen Israel out of many other nations. We need to recognize that God chose the Hebrew nation to be a representation in history of His eternal and heavenly thought for mankind and the world. It must be clearly understood that God's sovereign thought lay behind Israel's election and selection. The workings of God over Israel were based on Divine thought and wisdom. That explains God's mighty sovereign acts in that nation, His mighty ways in securing that nation. It also explains the infinite pain and patience He had taken in bearing with those people. It also explains God's grace and love towards a nation that tested Him to an extreme degree. We see God's sovereignty working in this nation over a period of many years. In constituting this nation, as well as in forming this nation, God initiated many precious precepts. In other words, in constituting and forming the nation of Israel, God brought into play several spiritual features. It is not like the constitution and formation of other nations in the world. It is of great importance for God's people to understand that God brought in the spiritual features of His very Son, in a symbolic way, to form this nation and constitute it. Their only specialty was that the spiritual features of the Son were constituted in them in a symbolic way.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 1Corinthians 10:31

14**APRIL**

Today's Reading :

Joshua 9:3-10:43

Luke 16:19-17:10

Psalm 83:1-18

Proverbs 13:4

“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.” Jer. 9:23,24. The Lord tells of His disapproval of man's wisdom, man's might and man's riches. At the same time the Lord tells man what He approves—the glory of His Name and His Son. These three things, man's wisdom, power and riches, are not evil in themselves. The Lord is not condemning these things. Wisdom in itself is not wrong, bad or evil. Neither are power and riches things of evil per se. One of Satan's cleverest devices is to make good things look bad and bad things look good. This is one of the effective devices of Satan that is commonly found everywhere in the world. The enemy turns wisdom, which is not bad in itself, into something bad. He always does this; he is a deceiver to the very core. In this threefold “not” the Lord says that man ought not to glory in three things – wisdom, power or might, and riches. In “not glorying” the Lord will give them the glory of life!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. 1Timothy 4:15

Today's Reading : Joshua 11:1-12:24
 Luke 17:11-37
 Psalm 84:1-12
 Proverbs 13:5-6

15
APRIL

Israel believed in God's redemption, they had faith that God would bring them out; but after some time their intellect overtook their faith in God. "How could God bring them to the Promised Land?", they asked, "How can we overcome these giants?" They could not understand that at one time they had victory over Pharaoh and his chariots, but a time came when their intellect came between them and God. So they refused to believe that they could overcome the giants in the land of Canaan. Their thoughts were fixed on their own security; they forgot the mighty miracles that God had done. Their intellectualism got the better of them. This is where Christianity has failed again and again. We think that God could save us through the blood of Christ, but the blood has no power to give us victory over sin, the flesh and the world, here and now! The reasoning of man has been ruling God's people, robbing them of the highest in Christ. The tragedy is that man always wants to possess a knowledge of things because that is the tree from which he was nourished in the Garden at the cost of the Tree of Life. There is a mental Christianity out there and we need to be very careful about it. Intellectual Christianity is a counterfeit. The exaltation of human intellect is the surest way to build Babylon!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: Matthew 6:19

16
APRIL

Today's Reading : Joshua 13:1-14:15
Luke 18:1-17
Psalm 85:1-13
Proverbs 13:7-8



What is wisdom? Wisdom is the power to judge; it is the power to discriminate; it is the power to determine, and it is the power to decide. In the natural man, there is a lust in this area, wherein he uses his own wisdom and intelligence to judge, to discriminate, to determine and to decide. In a spiritual man, God's wisdom helps him to judge all things. It provides him the power to judge, to discriminate, to determine and to decide things.

As God's people, we can either use the wisdom of God or our own wisdom. Just because we are God's people having the indwelling Holy Spirit, there is no guarantee that we will always use the wisdom of God. Nothing is automatic in the spiritual field and we require sensitivity to judge and to discriminate. Jesus is made unto us wisdom, He has become our wisdom; but we need to be sensitive to draw from His wisdom, and not from the powerful intellect of the natural man. How many times our natural wisdom robs us of the things that God has given us in His Son, the Lord Jesus? We must desire to receive the wisdom of God and operate it.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. Matthew 24:4

Today's Reading :

Joshua 15:1-63

Luke 18:18-43

Psalms 86:1-17

Proverbs 13:9-10

17

APRIL

A clear indication that intellectualism is ruling the majority of God's people today can be obtained by looking at the state of their moral fiber and condition. The depth of moral decline can be seen from the manner in which churches accommodate divorce and remarriage, though these are clearly contrary to God's word. Man has used his intellect to interpret God's pure word, twisting it to promote his own lustful desires and make room for his perverted mind. A majority of church leaders have meekly given in and accepted this downward trend of easy divorce and remarriage. Many have done this to maintain their place and position in the church as well as to keep the churches from totally falling apart.

The prophets of old did not propagate divorce and remarriage, the Lord Jesus did not, the early apostles did not, and even the early fathers of faith after the apostolic days did not practice divorce and remarriage as is done today. Then from where did this come? It was born out of the corrupt mind of man, out of the intellect of man that has willingly twisted and turned the word of God. Truly we have to be fools in the midst of a church world that is living by its own wisdom!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. Romans 13:8

18
APRIL

Today's Reading : Joshua 16:1-18:28
Luke 19:1-27
Psalm 87:1-7
Proverbs 13:11



Many believers talk glibly about the time when man will reign with God upon the earth, having His authority, rule, and power. It will be catastrophic if we have His authority without His wisdom. In the eyes of God, His authority is where His wisdom is. Remember that in His kingdom authority is based not only upon one's position in the kingdom, but also upon one's wisdom! God will not give His authority to someone who will not have His wisdom. In the world people exercise authority without wisdom; but in God's kingdom, authority will be given to those who have His wisdom. The Cross is the wisdom of God; and as we allow the Cross to operate in us, so also will the wisdom of God come upon us. People want some position of power so that they can have authority, but what brings authority to God's kingdom is His wisdom. His authority lies in another wisdom, a wisdom "which is not of this world". God's wisdom is wrapped up in the Cross. His wisdom flows out of us as the Cross works in us. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom and understanding. Therefore, the Holy Spirit imparts to us the power to discriminate, to discern and to understand; He helps us to take the right decisions. This wisdom that the Holy Spirit imparts to us cannot be received by the wise men of the world.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Ephesians 5:3

Today's Reading : Joshua 19:1-20:9
 Luke 19:28-48
 Psalm 88:1-18
 Proverbs 13:12-14

19
APRIL

He said, "I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him". David knew very well that Saul had lost his anointing and that the weapons of Saul had no power against the enemy. No doubt, his weapons were powerful at one time and there was no dearth of weapons and armour in Israel. But they had lost their power and effectiveness against the enemy. The Scripture says that God's Word is the sword in the armour of God (Eph. 6:17). It is the word or truth that one has obeyed that is powerful and sharp against the enemy. The Lord used the sharp edge of the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, when He was tempted by the enemy in the desert. People often quote Scripture without obeying it and therefore that Scripture loses its sharpness and is ineffective against the enemy in the day of battle. It is the word that is obeyed and lived that gives us victory. Yes, Saul's sword was sharp against the enemy and he slaughtered the Philistines at one time. However, the same sword had lost its sharpness through disobedience and rebellion!

It was not the lack of swords in Israel that brought defeat. No never! There were so many weapons hanging in the tents of Israel; but they had lost their sharpness!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful
disputations. Romans 14:1*

20
APRIL

Today's Reading : Joshua 21:1-22:20
Luke 20:1-26
Psalm 89:1-13
Proverbs 13:15-16



Choose the way of the cross which is the wisdom of God. God's wisdom is wrapped up in the Cross. That is the place where every wise man stumbles. Have you seen this happening practically? Have you not seen educated, learned men bowing shamelessly before a mute stone that they have made into an icon? Wise, scholarly and learned as they may be, they foolishly bow before something that is totally, ridiculously lifeless and mindless. Yet, if one were to tell them that God loves them and has made a way of salvation for them through His death, these very intelligent human beings would readily rise up in anger against us. Tell him that there is One who died for him and took upon Himself all the sin of mankind, died in his place on the cross, and having been buried, rose again and ascended to heaven, and this so-called 'normal' man would find it difficult to accept what we have to say! And all that this intellectual being would be able to say is, "How can I believe this?" Yet, he will believe that he must bow before a mute stone in faith, believing that the stone is God! Man in his wisdom can believe everything other than the Cross, even the most foolish of things. Oh! the stupidity and foolishness of the man who thinks he is such a clever genius! The Cross becomes utter foolishness to him. That is the wisdom of our God!

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Revelation 3:11

Today's Reading : Joshua 22:21-23:16
Luke 20:27-47
Psalm 89:14-37
Proverbs 13:17-19

21
APRIL

The Psalms represent of what remains when a history of outward things as to the general instrumentality has ended in failure. The Psalms were written against a background of failure on the part of God's people, when the condition of Israel, God's people, had gone into total decay and deterioration. The nation lived in an abject state of deterioration, departure and weakness. Though their beginnings with God had been great and awesome, they had come to a shameful state. The history of Israel in its first phase closes with the book of Kings in a shameful way! Israel, the instrument that God had raised to serve Him, had failed Him. Weakness, paralysis, decay and reproach characterized God's people. However, out of that sordid mess something that represents a permanent spiritual gain and principle is spoken in Psalms, some people represented what was upon the heart of God. In those difficult times, there were just a handful of people who gained preeminently a personal and an inward spiritual knowledge of the Lord experientially. God's vessels in those times, men like David and others experienced a rich life with God, despite the decline that Israel as a nation was going through. David and all those who contributed to the Book of Psalms spoke of the inward realities of God's presence that they richly experienced. Psalms, in a very special way, is, therefore, a ministry of experience.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another,
envying one another. Galatians 5:26*



Today's Reading :

Joshua 24:1-33

Luke 21:1-28

Psalm 89:38-52

Proverbs 13:20-23



What is a covenant? Covenant simply means, an entering into what the Lord Jesus has done by and through His shed blood. It is an appreciation and apprehension of Him in His great work upon the Cross. However, we need to be reminded of what that involves as a covenant of God into which we enter. Through the covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15:5-10), God began to make things clear to Abraham. God showed him the stand that He Himself would take. God was in effect saying, "Abraham, I'm wholly for you. And all that I am and all that I have is committed in this covenant with you. I would keep nothing back from you but would place My very life, My Name, My Glory and My Honor to fulfill this covenant." Beloved, this was God's side of the covenant. Later in the life of Abraham, God adequately proved what He said. In keeping with His covenant, the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world as the Seed of Abraham, as the Savior of the world. It is amply clear that God stood by His covenant. He assigned His Name, His Honor and His Glory to the fulfillment of the covenant with Abraham! Have we realized how much of God is entrusted into this covenant? God will hold back nothing so far as His side of the covenant is concerned! *Hallelujah!*

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13

Today's Reading :

Judges 1:1-2:9

Luke 21:29-22:13

Psalm 90:1-91:16

Proverbs 13:24-25

23

APRIL

When Abraham stood by his part of the covenant, God became the provider of his need. Sadly, today we have a Christianity that only wants to receive blessings from God at every opportunity, without ever giving, letting go or yielding anything to the Lord. May the Holy Spirit help us to look, once again, at the true meaning of 'Jehovah-jireh' in the light of this word in situations and circumstances that envelope us. It was after Abraham had virtually offered Isaac to the Lord, that the Lord came in with His oath, saying, "By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." (Gen 22:16-18). The Lord moved towards fulfilling His promise to Abraham and this is very significant. Many a time, believers cry out to God for Him to fulfill His promises in their lives. However, they are not sensitive to the voice of God wanting them to come to places of sacrifice and obedience. Which often is a prelude to the fulfillment of God's promises!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

Philippians 2:14

24
APRIL

Today's Reading : Judges 2:10-3:31
Luke 22:14-34
Psalm 92:1-93:5
Proverbs 14:1-2



There is no doubt that in these days, there needs to be a re-gathering of the saints unto the Lord. But this gathering unto the Lord is not an organized movement, a sect, a society or a fraternity. When we speak of a 'gathering' we do not even faintly advocate or have in mind an organized system, a form of things or an order. Beloved, the Church of the New Testament never began as an organized movement. It was purely spiritual from the very beginning. It began as a work of the Spirit of God. There was no thought of having an organized affiliation of believers at various places. When the Church was birthed, it was something purely spiritual, that sprung up spontaneously at different places because of the infusion of divine life, united only by the Holy Spirit, in mutual love and solicitude.

If a 'society' or an 'association' is divided, they still remain a society and an association in character. Their nature and makeup remains unaffected by any division. However, one cannot divide a body without destroying it. So it is with the Body of Christ, the Church. If the Body of Christ is divided, it will lose its basic, essential, quality and character because it is an organic entity. Division will rob it of its basic character of oneness.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock,
and it shall be opened unto you: Matthew 7:7*

Today's Reading :

Judges 4:1-5:31

Luke 22:35-53

Psalm 94:1-23

Proverbs 14:3-4

25
APRIL

A deep and a travailing concern for re-gathering is one of the marks of the end time move of God. It will further take a deep turn, that these saints will come into a burden for the remnant in the earth. In other words, if we have a travailing concern for such a gathering, we will also be brought into a realm of intercession, and we will be able to give ourselves to interceding for the remnant in the earth. An end-time move of God is often characterized by such 'prayer-instruments'. Their concern is not for self-interests, the expansion of their ministry, the enlargement of their territories, or to build their own kingdoms. Their concern is for 'all the saints', for the 'Church', and for the purpose of the Lord. This kind of burden for prayer that God lays upon His people in different parts of the world is His way of uniting .

Do you realize that you are the beneficiary of prayers made by someone, somewhere in the world? You may not have known your benefactor personally, but the specific prayers of some saint for the remnant of God would undoubtedly have benefited you spiritually. Beloved, prayer is a unifying factor and it is also a gathering factor!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. Luke 22:46

26
APRIL

Today's Reading :

Judges 6:1-40

Luke 22:54-23:12

Psalm 95:1-96:13

Proverbs 14:5-6



In the early church, the Holy Spirit through ministering servants who moved from one place to another ministered Christ to the saints. Paul and Barnabas preached Christ in Lystra and some were drawn and there was a gathering unto the Lord in Lystra. Paul and Barnabas then moved on to Iconium, they preached Christ again and there was once again a gathering unto the Lord in Iconium. Between Lystra and Iconium there was a gathering unto the Lord. In this manner the saints were brought into a fellowship with one another. They were not brought into fellowship by affiliation but by the ministration of Christ through His word in the Spirit. In other words, it was not first of all through an organized affiliation that Lystra and Iconium were joined. It was the ministration of Christ through the word in the Spirit that joined the gatherings in different localities. The ministers were the 'joints of supply' (Ephesians 4:16).

Churches today are like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle and efforts to piece them together only result in frustration! We can have the best of ecumenical movements, but that is not going to join the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle! The proper joining of people into a Body can only be done through the ministration of Christ, by anointed ministries.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

*Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man
with his deeds; Colossians 3:9*

Today's Reading :

Judges 7:1-8:17

Luke 23:13-43

Psalms 97:1-98:9

Proverbs 14:7-8

27

APRIL

A distinguishing feature of today's gatherings, is the utter inability of the members to apprehend anything more than the simple elements of salvation. They have little growth potential. Their knowledge is limited to personal salvation, in the sense of forgiveness of sins, peace with God, and the rudiments of faith. Their only dictum is that they have been 'saved to save'. They faithfully attend their favourite gatherings for years on end, some even for fifty years, but there is little or no sign of any spiritual growth or maturity. It is a 'church' or a 'mission' where people come together to preach and to hear the gospel. It's a preaching center, where people go and hear a well known preacher. The 'Church' for such ones is but a place where people gather in a religious way to follow some routines and hear the words of a preacher or a teacher. Such gatherings are far from the true corporate expression of a Body and the gathering of His saints.

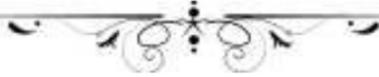
The enemy is not bothered to disturb their complacency, smugness and satisfaction. But let there be a movement in the direction of a real corporate expression of a Holy Spirit constituted testimony to Christ, then the battle is on. Nothing will be left untried to break up that, discredit it or in some way nullify that testimony.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, Ephesians 4:29

28
APRIL

Today's Reading : Judges 8:18-9:21
Luke 23:44-24:12
Psalm 99:1-9
Proverbs 14:9-10



The testimony of our gathering should always be, “I was weary, tired, disheartened and drained physically, mentally and spiritually, when I entered the place of gathering. However, I came away renewed, refreshed, invigorated, rejuvenated, and recharged. Yes, I came away lifted up in my spirit.” There is an undeniable ‘livingness’ in a true gathering of saints. The activity of divine life in the midst of the gathering results in a spiritual re-energizing that gives a person a renewed sense of spiritual well-being. It is an activity of divine life. What makes a gathering ‘living’ is the presence of divine life in the very centre of the gathering. Impressive forms of worship, well-organized systems of service cannot induce life into a gathering. In a gathering of the saints, it is not ‘human activity’ but the ‘activity of divine life’ that brings life to a gathering and imbibes it with a quality of ‘livingness’.

Many people succumb to secondary reasons, that keep them away from meeting with saints. Have you not experienced that headache and fever and those peculiar circumstances that come just before the meetings are to begin? Beloved, the battle is on! The enemy will not relinquish his efforts, he will not leave any stone unturned in his attempt to prevent you from assembling with the saints.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Servants, [be] subject to [your] masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. 1Peter 2:18

Today's Reading : Judges 9:22-10:18
 Luke 24:13-53
 Psalm 100:1-5
 Proverbs 14:11-12

29
APRIL



There is an illusion or a delusion in much of Christianity and in many churches that activity is essentially spiritual life. Hence you find all sorts of programs, attractions, special numbers, special groups, guest speakers, committees, responsibilities and an endless list of items charted out for the gatherings. All this to make an impression of life and robustness in the church or to create and stimulate life. If it is the divine activity, you can be sure that it will result in a greater measure of the Son in the gathering.

True divine activity can only be measured by one gauge. It will always result in a greater measure of the Son. There may be a life of works but it may not be works of life. True life will always manifest a work, but every work may not be life-giving. This was the indictment of the Lord against the Church at Ephesus. That very thing was what God denounced in the church in Ephesus. "I know thy works..." (Revelations 2:2).

Divine life is spontaneous and not a result of being 'worked upon'. The Church does not live by stimulation but by the power of resurrection. That is the hall-mark of divine life.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Hebrews 10:24

30

APRIL

Today's Reading : Judges 11:1-12:15
John 1:1-28
Psalm 101:1-8
Proverbs 14:13-14



The Lord Jesus before he ascended to heaven, called His disciples and told them to tarry for the Holy Spirit. Around five hundred disciples saw the Lord ascend to the heavens. Then they gathered according to the command of the Lord. The Lord did not specify a date or time for the Holy Spirit to come. He said, "Wait, and He who is to come will come." In that gathering of the saints, perhaps many did not really gather unto the Lord. Finally, we know that only 120 disciples waited with abated breath for the promise of the Father. This remnant continued to gather steadfastly, not forsaking the gathering together of the saints. It was not long after that, the promise of the Father descended upon them. The Lord appeared to those who were faithful in gathering unto Him. He came to the true gathering of the saints. Beloved, the Lord is sifting the gathering of the saints from the phony ones even today. He is searching for true gatherings of His people, that are unto Him alone. He will manifest Himself only in their midst. 'And the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly appear in His temple' and he who has to come will come, but many who were called and who gave in initially will not be there finally! Beloved saints, there is a true gathering of saints in the earth today. Are you a part of that gathering?

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

1Thessalonians 5:21

Today's Reading : Judges 13:1-14:20
 John 1:29-51
 Psalm 102:1-28
 Proverbs 14:15-16

1
MAY

A picture of the 'ONE MAN' that God desires to raise can be seen in the First book of Samuel. The Philistine, Goliath stood and bellowed to the armies of Israel. 'choose you A MAN for you and let him come down to me' (I Samuel 17:8). Goliath said that he would fight with any 'ONE MAN' of Israel. He challenged the armies of Israel to produce 'ONE MAN' who could face him. And the men of Israel saw the might of Goliath and fled, as they were afraid. They searched their ranks for 'one man' but they couldn't find one who would be able to stand upto Goliath. But, praise God, there was one young lad, David, who said 'Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?' In the whole of Israel there were many men of valour who had won many great battles, but none could respond to the call and the challenge. In Israel's need of the hour, none responded to her need though there were many men of great stature. There was only one man whose desire was to see that God's name was vindicated amongst the nations. This young man broke the rank and file and ran towards Goliath, with just a sling and five pebbles. He stood in the gap at that time of need.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. Mark 8:34



Today's Reading : Judges 15:1-16:31
John 2:1-25
Psalm 103:1-22
Proverbs 14:17-19



Once some Pharisees came to Jesus to tempt Him and test Him (Matthew 19:3). They did not seek to know Him, to acquire some wisdom concerning the Scriptures or to understand the things He said. Their whole purpose was to find fault with Jesus. When Jesus told them that in marriage man and woman were 'no more twain, but one flesh' for God hath joined them and man had no authority to separate them, they asked Him, "Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?" (Matthew 19: 6,7). The Pharisees wanted to know why Moses permitted man and woman to be divorced, if such be the case. The Lord replied, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so." (Matthew 19:8). 'But from the beginning it was not so'. How significant this is. God's directive will for man and woman from the very beginning was to be one. God did not desire man and woman to be separate. But because of the hardness of heart God allowed a separation to take place. Separation does not alter the fact that in God's view man and woman were made to be 'ONE FLESH'! The Bible, from Genesis to Revelations, shows that God's desire from the very beginning is to have 'one new man' - a corporate many-membered Body.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another,
even as also ye do. 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Today's Reading : Judges 17:1-18:31
 John 3:1-21
 Psalm 104:1-23
 Proverbs 14:20-21

3
MAY

In the days of Jesus, there were many who knew the Lord Jesus Christ 'after the flesh'. They were not able to discern the spiritual content of His words. They looked at Jesus Christ from the natural point of view as being Joseph's son. For instance some said, "Shall Christ come out of Galilee?" (John 7:41). They saw Jesus' brothers and sisters and found that Jesus was no different to them! Some people claimed to have a special relationship with Jesus Christ because they had walked with Him and touched His garments; they had supped with Him and seen Him perform miracles; they had even shared His personal concerns. Yet they were not able to appreciate who Jesus really was, nor were they able to understand the depths of His words. The Apostle Paul, on the other hand, who had neither shared a meal with Jesus Christ, nor heard Him speak nor walked at His side, yet he was the one who had a greater revelation in the Spirit than those who knew Jesus in the flesh. That is why Paul said that he would boast of such a one who was 'caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words which is not lawful for a man to utter' (II Corinthians 12:4). Paul saw mysteries unfolded before his eyes when he was in the Spirit. He saw the Lord at Damascus and he had revelation of the Son. We have to hear the Word of God with spiritual ears.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, Ephesians 6:5



Today's Reading :

Judges 19:1-20:48

John 3:22-4:3

Psalms 104:24-35

Proverbs 14:22-24



David was used to the wisdom of God. When the lion and the bear confronted him while he was shepherding the flock, he depended on God's wisdom to resist the attacks of these fierce animals. The weapons of his warfare were not of the flesh and of the wisdom of man, but of the wisdom of the Lord. Saints, we are to battle the situations we face, as David battled the lion and the bear; they will not go away by wishful thinking or a play of semantics. The lion will not close its mouth and run away; the bear will not run up a tree and disappear! David had to wrestle hard against the enemy. The lion and the bear that he faced did not just vanish into thin air. He had to wrestle with them. We too have to wrestle with situations and circumstances we face. There are hard situations in life that we have to come to grips with and overcome. There are many believers who are looking for miracles to save them so that they do not have to wrestle with situations. They do not want to wrestle with issues and circumstances. They do not want to take risks and be faced with uncertainties! They want to escape from suffering any discomfort and fear. But that is not the way of the Lord for His overcomers. Saints, we are to battle the situations we face, as David battled the lion and the bear.

Today's Command

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;

Colossians 3:16

Today's Reading : Judges 21:1-Ruth 1:22

John 4:4-42

Psalm 105:1-15

Proverbs 14:25

5

MAY

“And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him. “ (1Sam. 18:14-15) Look at that! When Saul saw that David walked wisely Saul feared David! Even in the life of Daniel we see that the more he suffered and separated himself from others, the angrier his peers became. Beloved, walking in God's wisdom is not easy, for it brings and breeds enemies who become jealous, envious and even murderous. Remember, all these things will happen to us if we walk in the wisdom of God. This can happen to any and all of us, wherever we are, be it the church, the office, the family and in every place. People will hate you because you walk in God's wisdom! The Scripture says, “David behaved himself wisely in all his ways”. David behaved more wisely, and yet Saul, who worshipped the same God, became increasingly hateful towards David. He devised many cunning methods and plans to trap David into difficult positions. And yet he was all the more afraid of David! And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually. Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by. (1 Sam. 18:29-30)

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; 1

Corinthians 3:21



Today's Reading :

Ruth 2:1-4:22

John 4:43-54

Psalms 105:16-36

Proverbs 14:26-27



I have found that most of us take very few things to the Lord in prayer. Common problems such as our differences with the boss in office, and the disagreements with our families, neighbours and relatives are seldom brought before the Lord, even though we know that His intervention would make all the difference. I have observed that when office-going brethren apply for leave to attend some specific meeting of the church, and the boss refuses to grant them leave, the brethren often side with the boss's and even defend his decision to refuse them leave! They accept and even support the boss's decision to stay away from office for the good of the office! At such times, I encourage brethren to pray with faith and not to take the boss' decision as final, for we have a greater Master or 'Boss' in the Lord. We need to place God first and bring every matter to Him in prayer. But most of the time people just accept situations and decisions of their boss as unchallengeable and final. They do not even bring it to the Lord with a real heart of passion for Him. The pressures we experience are realities in life. We need to bring the Lord into our situations. We must petition the Lord to help us in our jobs. God will help us. In the majority of cases, we bring things to the Lord at the eleventh hour and not at the start or in the beginning.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus

Christ. 2Timothy 2:3

Today's Reading : 1 Samuel 1:1-2:21
John 5:1-23
Psalm 105:37-45
Proverbs 14:28-29



The will in man for power has destroyed peace and security in the world. It has driven man to deeper frustration and defeat. The craving for power has invaded politics, industry, and social life, national and international ambitions. It has not stopped there, but gone further and even entered into the religious world. We see the might of man working not only in the secular world but also in the spiritual arena. We find that man's might in Christianity has brought about rivalry, jealousy, factions, and divisions in the church. In the Corinthian church Paul said that there were divisions, bickering, and striving one against another etc. This is nothing but man glorifying himself in his own might!

We are living in a world where might is right; this has come into the church as well. The fabric of life is shot through and through with the expansion of the original, initial, primal assertion of the will to power, the ego or self hood! This dislocated lust for power is working itself out to universal destruction. We get to hear about super powers and other powers in the world. This lust for power and might will eventually bring about the very destruction of man.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, Matthew 7:6



Today's Reading : 1 Samuel 2:22-4:22
John 5:24-47
Psalm 106:1-12
Proverbs 14:30-31



The serpent is moving about today just as he did in the Garden, with fascination and hypnotism toward his prey—the spiritual life of God's people. As “the serpent beguiled” to possess without consideration or reference to fellowship with God, so it has ever been! Saints, the serpent is roaming throughout all generations with fascination and hypnotism toward his prey. It wants to divest people of their spiritual life and the calling that is resting upon God's people. Is that not true today? They sell out their time and energy for material things. How many believers have been beguiled by the serpent? They want to have blessings in life without reference to God—without His headship over their lives, without having God and His will. People want blessings in terms of materialism only. It is not a matter of need but it is a matter of greed today! The philosophy of our times is that both husband and wife need to work to live! God's promise is to meet our need and not our greed! How can we have a four door sedan? We see many examples of the husband working in one place, the wife in another, separated from one another for years because of work. The children are neither with mother nor with father! This is the norm today. Where are the men of God to bring the word into these lives?

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. 1 Corinthians 7:27

Today's Reading : 1 Samuel 5:1-7:17
John 6:1-21
Psalm 106:13-31
Proverbs 14:32-33

9

MAY

Even when people have a great knowledge of the truth, we find that there is often a lack of life. That is why we need to examine our lives. Many believers have a lot of mental knowledge and intellectual understanding of the truth; truth as truth, truth as doctrine and truth as instruction, but they lack life. What this tells us is that all they received pertained to the realm of words, and they missed hearing the voice of the Lord. Where there is a lack of hearing the voice, there will always be a lack of spiritual life. We get to see terrible contradictions in the lives of God's people in these days, even though they have a lot of knowledge of the truth. Moral contradictions in the realm of marriage, divorce and remarriage take place as a result of shortfalls in spiritual life. This is a violent contradiction to the life unto which we have been called as His true remnant in these last days. It was so with Israel of old: there were violent contradictions in their lives. They went against Jesus Christ, though they heard the word week after week; they had a mental knowledge of the word and the things of God, but their lives were contrary to that which they heard. This can well happen with us; and therefore the Spirit would like to remind us of the need to be open to Him.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Romans 12:12

10
MAY

Today's Reading : 1 Samuel 8:1-9:27
John 6:22-42
Psalm 106:32-48
Proverbs 14:34-35



Though the disciples saw something in this man Jesus that caused them to leave their homes and their people, to make sacrifices, and to walk with Him, yet there were strong sentiments of self interest working in them. It is so true that self interest governs many of our decisions. The disciples thought that this man Jesus would bring them freedom from Roman rule and redeem Israel, but contrary to that this man was being crucified! Their hopes had come to an end and they said, "We had hoped that it had been he who should redeem Israel" (Luke 24:21). Again they asked him, after His resurrection and before His ascension, "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). Though the disciples did many good things outwardly but inwardly we see that self-interest governed their actions and decisions. "Seekest thou great things for thy self?" This is what we must be careful about; we must guard against our self-seeking interests. Many a time, beneath our seemingly good sacrifices and outward actions, self interest is at work in a subtle way! Before Pentecost, self interest governed the disciples to a very great extent. They had great expectations for themselves; most of the time their thoughts were self-centered. But afterwards, their lives changed.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

*Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own
masters worthy of all honour, 1 Timothy 6:1*

Today's Reading : 1 Samuel 10:1-11:15
John 6:43-71
Psalm 107:1-43
Proverbs 15:1-3

11
MAY

“I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.” (John 10:16).

From the above we can well understand that Jesus was talking about a people (sheep) who would hear His voice and become one flock. Because they hear His voice they shall be one flock. It is not the place (the fold or the pen) but the people (the flock) that our Lord is concerned with. The Living Bible quotes this verse as follows: “I have other sheep, too, in another fold. I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice, and there, will be ONE FLOCK with ONE SHEPHERD.” The Lord told the Jews that as the Shepherd, he had other sheep, the Gentiles whom He must bring into the fold, so that there may be one flock that follows Him. Beloved, the ONE FLOCK is the Church, the Body of Christ, the corporate Body that God is raising up through His Son (Ephesians 2:14-16). The fold in Jesus' time was Judaism, whereas the flock is the Church. One was mere religion and of the letter; the other is spirit and life. We know that the Lord opened the way for the Gentiles to belong to His flock because of His work upon the cross of Calvary.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. 1Corinthians 15:33

12
MAY

Today's Reading : 1 Samuel 12:1-13:23
John 7:1-30
Psalm 108:1-13
Proverbs 15:4



“And you hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins.”(Ephesians 2:1).All of us who have been brought to life in Christ Jesus can readily identify with what Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus because we too were dead in our sins but have been raised to life. In the past we were children of the darkness having Satan as our father! We belonged to him; we served him; we walked according to the desires of the flesh; the spirit of disobedience was working in us and we desired the things of the world rather than of the Spirit. But, praise be to God for He quickened us and brought us to life. We were without God and without Christ but have been brought nigh unto God. “Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hour, and without God in the world; But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.” (Ephesians 2:11-13).We could never have come into God's presence but for His grace whereby we were washed by His blood and were lifted out of the miry clay.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by
prophecy, 1Timothy 4:14*

Today's Reading :

1 Samuel 14:1-52

John 7:31-53

Psalms 109:1-31

Proverbs 15:5-7

13

MAY

Today we can be members of organizations such as The Graduates Fellowship, Officers' Christian Fellowship, Businessmen's Fellowship, Nurses Fellowship and the like. Do not these proclaim a certain kind of exclusiveness? But if any preach and teach that such efforts of man are unscriptural and not in line with the principles of God, they like the Apostle Paul, will surely be persecuted and cast out. Churches and fellowships have sprung up all over the world where people of similar social status or language want to gather together as friends. Such togetherness beloved saints, is no different from the social clubs one finds in society such as The Rotary Club, The Lions Club or The Gymkhana Club, where gentry meet and socialize together. The true Body of Christ cannot have such 'walls'. However, in most evangelical groups and gatherings we still find such exclusive organizations that are unholy and cheap counterfeits of the true Church. Note that the Apostle Peter did not feel burdened to start a Fishermen Evangelical Fellowship! Nor did Matthew start an Evangelical Tax-collectors Fellowship! Beloved, the early disciples had a vision of the true Body of Christ wherein the hardworking, poor fisherman, the wealthy tax collector and weak, suffering, women were built up together into one Body.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power
of his might. Ephesians 6:10*



“No, a real Jew is anyone whose heart is right with God. For God is not looking for those who cut their bodies in actual body circumcision. but He is looking for those with changed hearts and minds.” (Romans 2:29 Living Bible) The Apostle Paul writes that he is a true Jew whose circumcision is of the heart. In other words he says that the person who has been renewed within or inwardly, is a true Israelite. The Scripture here is plain and unambiguous. It tells us that the true Israelite may be born anywhere but he will be one whose heart is circumcised, one who has experienced the workings of God within him and one who has thus acquired a new nature. Beloved, God is no longer interested in the circumcision which is outward. In the days of the Apostle Paul, there were Jews who insisted that they were a special people, the chosen people of God who were circumcised according to God’s law. Paul was at pain to explain to them that the circumcision availeth nothing before God; that all the outward actions according to the Mosaic Law would not be of any profit in the New Covenant age. He emphasizes that all people, including the Jew, had to go the same way to be acceptable of God. There has to be a circumcision of the heart, rather than an outward bodily circumcision.

Today's Command

And above all these things [put on] charity, which is the bond of perfectness. Colossians 3:14

Today's Reading : 1 Samuel 17:1-18:4
John 8:21-30
Psalm 111:1-10
Proverbs 15:11

15
MAY

In traditional Christian circles one often hears people say, "My grandfather was a preacher; my father is also a preacher and loves the Lord." They imply by that that they also love the Lord because their father loved Him. But this kind of 'automatic love' for the Lord by virtue of ones ancestry and birth is a fallacy! Our forefathers may have been mighty men of God who received revelations on several aspects of Christian life, but we shall not benefit from their testimony unless we act by faith and move-on in God. Each person needs to believe, act, obey and move-on in God individually. No one can claim spiritual benefit from what their ancestors did. This also applies to the Jew of this day. Every Israelite in Palestine or Jerusalem must personally put his trust in the Lord and believe by faith. None of them can pose to inherit the promises of God merely because Abraham or Moses or Joshua was their ancestor! There is no discrimination in God's government. The believer who is not a natural Jew is no longer a Gentile. He is now part of the Israel of God because the middle wall has been broken down by the death and resurrection of our Lord.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Brethren, pray for us. 1Thessalonians 5:25

16
MAY

Today's Reading : 1 Samuel 18:5-19:24
John 8:31-59
Psalm 112:1-10
Proverbs 15:12-14



As the New Testament times open, we observe that God had begun to do a new work amongst His people. First He prepared the way for His Son to come and then He sent His Son that people may receive the truth, the way, and the life. This plan of God was, however, not a spur-of-the-moment decision. The concept of the Body of Christ, the Church, the corporate man was not an after thought in God's mind; it was not a reaction to the attitude of the Jews towards the Law and the Temple. God always had the Church upon His heart from the very beginning of time. Just as God's redemptive plan was conceived within His heart much before the fall of man, so also was the truth of the Body of Christ in His thoughts from the inception of the creative plan of God. Jesus the Son of God did not come merely to save us from our sins, as part of God's plan of redemption. The Lamb of God was slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8). So also the Body of Christ was upon God's heart from the very beginning. So too did God choose us from the beginning unto salvation (II Thessalonians 2:13). He has chosen every believer before the 'foundation of the world' (Ephesians 1:4) and 'put all things under Christ's feet' that He may be 'the head over all' things to the Church which is his body, the fullness of Him that filleth 'all in all' (Ephesians 1 :22-23).

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:24

Today's Reading : 1 Samuel 20:1-21:15
John 9:1-41
Psalm 113:1-114:8
Proverbs 15:15-17

17
MAY

John the Baptist stood upon the banks of the River Jordan and looked at the unbelieving Pharisees as they came forward to be baptized. He knew in his heart that they were not open to receive the truth that the Lord Jesus Christ was going to bring forth. There was a witness in his spirit that these holier-than-thou preachers and pretenders would never accept the truth that they had to die to their self to be built up together into one new man. John realized that they wanted to run away from God's wrath that was to come upon Jerusalem, the temple and the priesthood. That is why John called them a brood of vipers or a generation of vipers (Matthew 3:7). They were like cunning snakes that were trying to wriggle out of a tight spot. They had not really come to repent and be baptized; they just wanted to step into the waters of River Jordan and come out of it to escape the coming wrath of God and to show that they were outwardly humble and open to the truth (even though it came from a crude prophet like John!). Even today there are many who are only interested in the forgiveness of their past sins. But when it comes to the narrow way and the life of the cross they prefer to go their own way. They raise their hands at meetings to acknowledge God's precepts but they live contrary to that in their personal lives.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit
in the Lord. Colossians 3:18*



“For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him”(Isaiah 53:2).

While the Lord laid an axe to the unfruitful tree of natural Israel, the prophets of God in the past had heralded a wonderful promise of a NEW ROOT! While the Lord uprooted the unfruitful tree of Israel, He also brought forth a new root that would eventually become a tree that would bear the right fruit. God uprooted the unfruitful tree of Israel in the times of Jesus. The new root would now grow into a fruitful tree consisting of the Jew and the Gentiles. They would be brought up and nurtured together as one tree. This is God's plan. This new tree will not be uprooted for that which is planted in Christ Jesus cannot ever be unproductive. There are many, today, who hold to the thought that God will once again bring forth that tree that was hewn down and uprooted. This is contrary to God's Word. He has only one tree now – the tree planted in Christ, which consists of the Jew and Gentiles.

Today's Command

Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; Hebrews 12:12-13

Today's Reading : 1 Samuel 24:1-25:44

John 10:22-42

Psalms 116:1-19

Proverbs 15:20-21

19
MAY



The picture of the Vine and the branches admirably portrays the union and relationship between Christ, and His Church. All the branches, be they Jew, Gentile or Greek, spring from the heavenly Vine. The branch is exactly like the vine, for the vine imparts life to the branches. Though there are many branches, in reality there is only one Vine, one branch, one people, one nature, one fruit. Together they form the fruit bearing tree. They are inseparably ONE, in perfect conformity and absolute consonance. One cannot live without the other. There is one nature, one life, one spirit of the vine. As believers we are individual branches corporately joined to the Living Vine. There are no 'special' branches. The sole purpose of the branch is to bear the fruit of the Vine. Just as the branch is the glory of the Vine, so also the fruit is the glory of the branch. "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit He taketh away" (John 15:2). "The branch cannot bear fruit except it abide in the vine" (John 15:4). Those who reject Christ cannot be of this vine, be they the natural sons of Abraham or the inhabitants of Jerusalem. "He has chosen us and not we Him" (John 15:16). He has chosen us that His purpose may be fulfilled. "... That ye may bear fruit". There is only one type of fruit; the fruit that is in the image of the seed - a Christ-like life.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: 1Corinthians 10:32

20
MAY

Today's Reading : 1 Samuel 26:1-28:25
John 11:1-54
Psalm 117:1-2
Proverbs 15:22-23



Some imagine that the temple will be physically built in Jerusalem according to their inaccurate interpretation of God's Word. If Matthew 24 is for the Jews only as many contend, then we may also infer that John 3:16 is for the Jews for it was spoken to Jews. We may also foolishly say that to be 'born again' is only for the Jews because Jesus spoke that word to Nichodemus who was a Jew. People often fall into error when they divide the Scriptures and apply some portion of it to the Jews, some others to the Gentiles and yet others to the Church. However, the Pauline teaching is distinctly clear that both the Jews and Gentiles will be gathered into one Body which is the Church. Therefore, we need to understand that some misguided people tend to twist and misinterpret the Word of God and that our minds also need to be cleansed from such mentalities. In these last days, let us bind ourselves to the truth that God's main purpose is to build His Church. His Church is the sole agent of His work in the Kingdom of God; it is through the Church that the Kingdom of God will eventually be established upon this earth. God does not have two agents through whom He purposes to create a new earth. Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, has only one Body which is the Church, in which the Jew and the Gentile are merged and integrated into one new man.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

*We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow
helpers to the truth. 3John 1:8*

Today's Reading : 1 Samuel 29:1-31:13
John 11:55-12:19
Psalm 118:1-18
Proverbs 15:24-26

21
MAY

In the Scriptures, it is amazing to see how many times the Lord Jesus used the word 'Father'. How often He used the term, 'My Father'! He also used the expression, 'My Father and I' many times. And that is where many of His enemies got agitated and were so unhappy. The Son had made God, the Father, His own sacred asylum and sanctuary for Himself. It is not just a matter of holding and confessing something, but it is a matter of a union, relationship and even an intimacy. "But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God." (Joh 5:17,18). So we see that the intimacy the Son had with the Father became a point of rallying for the enemy, where enemy forces could barge in and do whatever they wanted even to the point of killing Him. The legions of the enemy saw the point at which they needed to muster forces against Him; they were not slow to pick on what they thought was heresy and blasphemy saying, "He makes Himself equal with God". The expression of the Lord about His intimacy with the Father made them upset and angry. We see very clearly that the Man Jesus made the Father His sanctuary and in this there was no breach. He made Him a sacred and indestructible asylum.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; Romans 12:10



Today's Reading :

2 Samuel 1:1-2:11

John 12:20-50

Psalms 118:19-29

Proverbs 15:27-28



If we fence up a small piece of land and leave it bare for some time we will find that after several months the entire plot will be crammed with all kinds of shrubs, thistles, thorns and weeds. The surprising thing is that what comes up is not what had been planted and watered! Yet there are thorns, thistles and weeds that spring up all around. They grew up themselves. This is the law of wilderness. This is the downward element at work. And this is true even spiritually. First is that which is natural and then that which is spiritual. If we have no concern and care for our spiritual life, it will go down in no time. Any attitude that leaves our spiritual life to care for itself, any approach that has no specific concern for the quality of this life and any kind of complacency towards our spiritual life can be extremely dangerous because of the ubiquitous law of the wilderness. Our lethargic approach and complacent mentality is enough to start a downward trend in our spiritual life that will turn it into a spiritual wilderness before long! People are willing to spend hours to watch a cricket match or a soccer game on TV, but to sit with the word of God brings instant drowsiness. When it comes to God we feel tired and spent for we are insensitive when God's purpose is involved. There is a downward pull when the things of God are taken into hand.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous

judgment. John 7:24

Today's Reading : 2 Samuel 2:12-3:39
John 13:1-30
Psalm 119:1-16
Proverbs 15:29-30

23
MAY

There is a habitual desire to bring down divine things to human level. This trend in man to play down things to an easy level has come into its full height today. It was there in the days of old no doubt, but it is found in greater abundance today. To make the things of God easier is what some of us do all the time. In the world people always seek to do things the easy way, the shortcut, the convenient way. The preachers of today are doing the same. They are bringing down the things of God to the easy level of man. Several preachers have diluted the word of God and have made it so easy for the people to follow it. They take the truths of God's word and make them into 'Three Easy Steps' and 'Five Easy Ways'. Even the word of God is re-written and made easy in ways that the word of God loses its very meaning. Many modern translations have changed the original meaning of God's word for His people. In trying to make the Bible readable and understandable for the common man the Scripture has lost its power to deliver man from sin and self. We are living in such times. It has multiplied into into an evil of horrendous dimensions. We need to watch over our lives to make sure that we are not caught following any popular trend to bring the things of God down to our own level of humanity. May God watch over us!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it. Colossians 4:17



Today's Reading :

2 Samuel 4:1-6:23

John 13:31-14:14

Psalm 119:17-32

Proverbs 15:31-32



The Church is not a welfare agency for man. It is a totally wrong concept that people have and bring others into. The Church is for the Lord and not for man. The Scripture is clear that He loved the church and gave Himself for her that He might have for Himself a glorious church! (Eph. 5: 27). The Church is for His own sake and not for ours. It is unto Him and for Him. But today the Church has become a place for man's welfare. Church is considered a social institution today! May God deliver us from this terrible error! No wonder people come to church seeking their own welfare! They do not come to church with the intention of giving their lives to God, but they come to receive and take away whatever they can get for themselves. The so called 'churches' are busy running schools and hospitals today. They are engaged in running many social works. It is so clear that they have strayed from God's primary purpose for the Church. What a tragedy! May God deliver His people from such concepts, ideas and teachings! It is His Church and for His purpose. This realization will change your whole life. If some people still have this idea that the church is meant for their own benefit and wellbeing, they need to change. If you give yourself to God, He will not overlook your welfare. No, He will never. If you set yourself to meet His need, He will not neglect to meet your need.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

See that ye refuse not him that speaketh.

Hebrews 12:25

Today's Reading : 2 Samuel 7:1-8:18
John 14:15-31
Psalm 119:33-48
Proverbs 15:33



If you are among those who stand for the recovery of lost values, lost standards and lost spiritual measures, you will not be a popular figure. On the contrary you will be lonely and ever thrust into further lonely paths. You will be rejected by many. The Prophets were very lonely men and their ministry was very costly. How true this was in the New Testament also! Towards the end of Apostle Paul's life, as the path began to become exceedingly narrow, Paul says all in Asia forsook him (2 Tim. 1:15). Though he was a prominent preacher at one time, as can be gauged by people offering to pluck out their eyes for him (Gal. 4:14-15), yet a time came when they all left him. They owed their very lives to the Apostle Paul but in the end they forsook him. We see that they paid a heavy price for forsaking him for those churches were severely dealt with by the Lord (see Revelations chapters 2 and 3). Rejecting the man who had brought them to life in Christ resulted in great danger to them spiritually. It eventually resulted in their losing their place in the things of God. Let us remember that Paul faced severe rejection in his life and we also will face refutation and repudiation if we stand for the recovery of lost ground.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25



Today's Reading : 2 Samuel 9:1-11:27
John 15:1-27
Psalm 119:49-64
Proverbs 16:1-3



“My strength is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Cor. 12:9). His strength is made perfect in our weakness. He never makes provision for the weakness of our flesh. Don't expect God to be a baby sitter over your weaknesses! His strength will be made perfect in that area where we are weak. He makes no provision for our flesh, but He makes provision for us to be overcomers. He makes no provision to bring us down or lower our calling. Many times believers pray confessing their weaknesses. This shows that they are asking God to come down to their level! But what the Lord says is, “I know you are weak. I will come to pick you up. I agree you are weak for I am your maker, but I will not be a baby sitter to your weaknesses! I will come and my strength will be made perfect in the area of your weakness. Are you willing to let My strength take over? I will help you, but I will not let you limit me. I will come to strengthen and to lift you up.” *Halleluiab!*

When we say that we are weak, and have no ability, then God listens to us, but let us not try to bring God to accept our own low measure and thus limit Him. This is where many have erred and left this call.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Despise not prophesyings.

1Thessalonians 5:20

Today's Reading :

2 Samuel 12:1-31

John 16:1-33

Psalms 119:65-80

Proverbs 16:4-5

27
MAY

Some refer to Palestine as a 'holy land' but there is nothing holy about Palestine or Jerusalem for these are just earthly places. There is no reason for us to worship and offer sacrifices in Jerusalem. It is difficult to accept what people say concerning the building of a natural temple at Jerusalem in the last days. We are to emphasize the things of the Spirit. God is now moving in the realm of the Spirit. We must understand the spiritual meaning of New Testament things from many Old Testament teachings so that we may really understand the purposes of God. We are to give ourselves to those spiritual things that the Holy Spirit of God reveals to us.

Beloved, let us be quite clear that in these days that God is concerned only about one land and one city, which is a spiritual land and a spiritual city - a heavenly city. The city of God is the new Jerusalem that cometh down from above. Let us not be deceived by the mind of man which plays down and devalues the things of God. It is time to forget the realm of the natural, the tangible and the earthly. Now is the time to press into the realm of the spiritual. Let us take the true teachings of our Teacher to heart.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven Colossians 4:1

28
MAY

Today's Reading :

2 Samuel 13:1-39

John 17:1-26

Psalm 119:81-96

Proverbs 16:6-7



Many believers are still wrapped up in the natural realm particularly concerning Israel. Somebody once said that he wanted to be baptized in the river Jordan and was waiting to go to Palestine. This sounds spiritual, but it is a natural, carnal desire. Then again, there are people, even Spirit-filled groups, that often organize trips to the so called 'holy land'. One spirit-filled believer returned with a bottle containing the water of the river Jordan, and distributed the so-called 'holy water' to friends and relatives. This is a heathen concept. Someone brought a piece of wood from Jerusalem believing that it was a part of the wooden cross upon which Christ was crucified! They even embedded a few splinters in the house they were constructing hoping thereby to obtain God's blessings upon their dwelling place. Such desires and actions spring from the heart of a soulish man and have nothing to do with spirituality. It is so sad to see that people are deceived into believing that relics from the birthplace of Christ have a spiritual value and power to keep them from evil. Undoubtedly, trips to Jerusalem and Palestine will have educational and informative value, especially for young people, but to think that one could grow spiritually by visiting Jerusalem is the height of incredulity

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the
concision. Philippians 3:2*

Today's Reading : 2 Samuel 14:1-15:22
John 18:1-24
Psalm 119:97-112
Proverbs 16:8-9

29
MAY

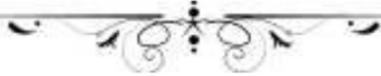
If Apostle Paul were to walk into some of the churches of our day and if he were to hear what people discuss about the church, the temple, the land, the city and so on, he would be shocked beyond measure! Perhaps he would jump up to take a stick and chase them out of the church! Why? Because what people teach and believe in church today is so contrary to the burden that the Apostle had. It would be no surprise if Apostle Paul were to remark, "You are worshipping an unknown God because you worship in ignorance" (that is what Paul said when he went to Athens...Acts 17:23). Many believers are unaware of their place and inheritance in God. They do not know God's purposes for their lives. One can say, God is still an 'unknown God to them in many areas of their lives. They do not know their identity in Christ Jesus. They cannot say why God saved them. All they know is that they shall not go to hell. O what a pathetic state for some people to be in! Our inheritance has nothing to do with silver and gold and other corruptible things. We have an incorruptible spiritual inheritance. God is not glorified by the things of the flesh for He is holy. No flesh, no natural man, no natural temple or literal land shall glorify Him who is God Almighty.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. Luke 9:23

30
MAY

Today's Reading : 2 Samuel 15:23-16:23
John 18:25-19:22
Psalm 119:113-128
Proverbs 16:10-11



In the Old Testament Abraham looked for a city, but WE HAVE COME UNTO A CITY. We must accept this as a present reality and an ongoing experience of our lives. Paul says, “Ye are come unto Mount Zion, and the city of the living” God, the heavenly Jerusalem’ and then follows up by saying, “to the general assembly and the church of the first born” (Hebrews 12:23). The phrase ‘general assembly’ denotes ‘a company’ or to use a modern Word, a congregation. We have come to that company of the just and the righteous. We have come to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant. We have come into a true covenant with God which has been procured by the blood of Jesus. Let us not be confused by the traditional teaching that only harps on what we shall possess when He shall come again. We need to walk in the light of God’s truth. We need to know and experience the reality of His presence in our daily lives. We are His peculiar people (I Peter 2:9). We are His chosen people which ‘in time past were not his people’ (I Peter 2:10). It is not natural Jews who are His chosen people today but the people who having believed Christ, repented, and received new birth. They have become His peculiar people.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Ephesians 5:21

Today's Reading : 2 Samuel 17:1-29
 John 19:23-42
 Psalm 119:129-152
 Proverbs 16:12-13

31
MAY

John saw a remarkable sight! He saw God bringing forth the holy city, Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-3). He saw the city descending from the heavens. The city he saw coming down was none other than the mature, glorified Church of the living God. How could this be, one asks? According to God's Word those who have been born again by the Spirit of God are seated in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). They have entered a heavenly or a spiritual realm. So in a spiritual and divine sense, what John saw upon the island in the Spirit was the birthing of the glorified Church.

Beloved, the time is soon coming when there shall be a manifestation of this glorious Church upon the earth in a measure that the world has never seen. John saw a projection of the Church, upon His mind's screen, as it were. He saw her coming down from out of the heavens and descending upon the earth, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. He saw by the eye of the Holy Spirit of God, a pure Church without spot and wrinkle, descending and becoming a reality upon the earth. John saw God dwelling among men. He saw the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind. He saw the church in all her glory—the glory of God.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober,

1Peter 1:13



Today's Reading : 2 Samuel 18:1-19:10
John 20:1-31
Psalm 119:153-176
Proverbs 16:14-15



As far as God is concerned, the Church is not a subject or even an object! It is a fallacy to think and speak of the Church as a separate entity without knowing that the Church is Christ Himself. The Bible says that the Church is Christ's body. It is Christ. The Church is His bride, His wife. Ephesians five makes it clear that, the Church is His body and that being of one flesh She is an integral part of Him. Beloved, we must make sure that the Church, by itself, is not the object of our attention and devotion. We must not pursue after the Church as an object having a distinctive identity of its own, but rather pursue after the person of Christ, Himself. It would be a tremendous tragedy if we have the Church but miss Christ! Then we would have the misfortune of having the blessing but missing the One who blesses! God and Heaven are not looking for something called the universal Church. O no, they are not! Neither are they looking out for any local church. The Father's eye is only upon Christ, His Son. God is looking for one thing only and that is Christ! We thank God for the Church but it must not be a Christ-less Church, for she is the wife of the Lord, Jesus Christ. God is looking for Christ's nature, His life, His conduct and behavior, His virtue and character, His influence and impact, His victory over Satan and the forces of darkness.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 1 Peter 5:8

Today's Reading : 2 Samuel 19:11-20:13
John 21:1-25
Psalm 120:1-7
Proverbs 16:16-17

2
JUNE

Are you displeased with your style of life? Are you dissatisfied with your spiritual growth in the midst of God's people? Has the absence of hunger caused you to be satisfied with a substandard life in the church? Do you live far from the experience of His fullness? Has success and achievements in the ministry weaned you away from the things of God? If you are hungry for the Lord, you will always remain dissatisfied because nothing but His fullness will satisfy you. Forced to live without His fullness, you will always remain hungry for more of Him! God's people today do not display the hunger that the psalmists had. There is a strong sense of spiritual poverty and a lack of true hunger in the Church. Many things are likely to happen in these last days. The Lord Himself said that the love of many would wax cold. Will He find faith when He returns? Many shall depart from faith. These very things are happening in these last days. Yet, in the midst of such spiritual apathy, the Lord's desire is to repossess His church. He is looking for the thirsty and the hungry in the earth, in this hour. One thing prevents Him and restrains Him from filling the desires of His people, beloved. He is waiting for His people to have a deeper hunger for His manifest Presence and Person.

✠ *Today's Command* ✠

Stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. 2 Timothy 1:6



Today's Reading : 2 Samuel 20:14-21:22

Acts 1:1-26

Psalm 121:1-8

Proverbs 16:18



For a long time the Church has been trying to make things happen and work things out in the power of its own strength! However, now, the Lord wants to make things happen by the power of His Presence. God wants us to turn our faces towards Him so that we can begin to see what He is doing. This involves a radical turn-about. Instead of asking Him to join us, we have to take the initiative to join Him! The general cry of His people, so far, has been, "Lord, I have a burden to do this work. I need your help, Lord. Please come and bless my sacrifice and this work!" However, what we need to do is to seek His face first, and know His will and the desire of His heart. Then, we have to give ourselves to the execution of His will. Though our ways are so different to the ways of the Lord, the Lord has set His heart upon drawing a people to Himself. Let us therefore, see what He is doing, and what is upon His heart. Let us not delay to join Him in this hour. That is what Jesus, the Son of Man did. God is no respecter of persons. He would like to manifest Himself to His people, but He is looking for something specific in us – a true hunger. He will go wherever there is a true hunger for His Presence. He is coming back to repossess His Church, but we need to have the kind of hunger that He is looking for in these days.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12

Today's Reading : 2 Samuel 22:1-23:23
Acts 2:1-47
Psalm 122:1-9
Proverbs 16:19-20

4

JUNE

Is there a strong hunger and yearning in your depths for the Presence of the Lord? Have you come to a point where you do not care what your near and dear ones, relatives, and neighbours would say? Is your response to God, "Let the people say what they want to, but I deeply yearn for you, your Presence, and your person!" How long has it been since you hungered for more of God? Do you have a hunger for Him that consumes you to the point that nothing else counts? God is looking for a certain condition in us. Today, we find plenty of religious literature with catchy titles such as, "Ten Steps to Gold", "Five Principles to God's Presence", "Easy Steps to Know God" etc. These have not helped God's people to progress and grow. We cannot use some forms and methods to approach the Lord and come into a greater intimacy with Him. First, there must be a deep dissatisfaction within. In the midst of your successes, your accomplishments, and even your spiritual growth, there must be a deep discontent. Forget about what people think of you or have thought of you in the past. Saints, let me challenge you to forget about every distraction, set aside every human opinion including your own, and let the Spirit of God cultivate one thing within each one of us, namely a genuine hunger and thirst for His manifest Presence.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

1Corinthians 10:14

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Today's Reading : 2 Samuel 23:24-24:25
Acts 3:1-26
Psalm 123:1-4
Proverbs 16:21-23



“And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way. And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;” (Genesis 18:16,17) The Lord said to Himself, “Shall I hide from Abraham that which I do.” Just as the Father showed everything to the Son and hid nothing from Him, so also the Father hid nothing from Abraham. Why did the God do that? He was not honour bound to tell all things to Abraham, but there was something in Abraham that began to draw God to Abraham. That something in Abraham prompted the Lord to think, “How can I withhold this from my friend Abraham?” What a relationship that was! A people should arise like Abraham to maintain a posture before the Lord from whom the Lord would not hide anything. This is the need of the hour, beloved saints of God. Saints, there was a bringing forth of God’s promise to Abraham. The Lord began to speak to him about the son that He had promised him. There was a surfacing and a breaking forth of God’s work in his life. There was an emphasizing of the promise, once again. God’s promises will not fall into our laps all of a sudden, merely because He has made a covenant with us. Because of Abraham’s posture and attitude towards the Lord, the Lord would not hide anything from Abraham.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2

Today's Reading :

1 Kings 1:1-53

Acts 4:1-37

Psalms 124:1-8

Proverbs 16:24

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JUNE

John the Baptist opens the New Testament with a cry for repentance. He shows that repentance is the way to return to God. Repentance prepares the road of our heart that leads straight to the Lord. Repentance builds up every low place. Repentance brings down every exalted state and high thinking. Both individually and collectively, repentance prepares the way for the Lord to enter our lives. Repentance prepares us for His Presence. O may this go deep into our being. Let us not justify our ways, beloved people of God. If we do not have an attitude of repentance, we cannot hope to reach God.

We repented before we received Jesus Christ into our lives, but that is not good enough. Repentance has to work in us continually. It is time to take note of this. To have a spirit of repentance we need to seek the face of God continually. If we find that we lack in a hunger for the Lord, it is because we have yet to repent of our ways fully. Repentance paves the way to get to God. It prepares us for His Presence. We cannot live in His Presence without repentance! No one can live in the Presence of God without humility and meekness. It is through continual repentance alone that one is able to remain in the Presence of such a Holy One.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Quench not the Spirit. 1Thessalonians 5:19

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JUNE

Today's Reading :

1 Kings 2:1-3:2

Acts 5:1-42

Psalms 125:1-5

Proverbs 16:25



How long has it been since you said, “Lord, I want you in my life”? When did you last lay down all things and cry out to the Lord, “Lord I desire you and none other. I desire nothing else and no one else in my life.” When you pursue God in this manner and run after Him; when you run on the road of repentance and say, “Lord I want nothing else but you in my life”, you will surely find Him, you will experience His Presence in greater measures in your life! When we run on the road of repentance, crying out to Him, we will find that He turns to meet us half way. This is what we see in the life of the prodigal son! When he repented of his ways in the midst of feeding with the swine, He saw the Father walk towards him with outstretched arms. Many will try to hinder us from going this way. They will stop and ask, “Where are you going? What are you doing?” However, do not stop to answer them, or wonder what we should say to them. All we have to say is, “I am running after Him. I am going after God. I must meet Him somehow.” Let nothing discourage, daunt, or dishearten you. Let your heart be set on one thing alone. You will meet with Him as you run on this road of repentance. This is not a matter of pride. It is a matter of hunger for the Lord! May we settle this in our heart!

Today's Command

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God:Romans 13:1

Today's Reading :

1 Kings 3:3-4:34

Acts 6:1-15

Psalms 126:1-6

Proverbs 16:26-27

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JUNE

When Jesus said, "I am the Bread," even the disciples lost their hunger for bread! They lost the desire for the bread of this world, but set their eyes upon the Bread of Heaven. Is this your condition today? Do you feel something deep within your being? The Lord is tired of the superficiality and hypocrisy of His people. He is weary of their double standards. What His people consider good is just not good enough for the Lord. He is exhausted with their pretentiousness and love for religious, showy, false, outward things. Their good things have become the enemy of His best things.

As you read this and hear the voice of the Spirit let your heart be broken by the Holy Spirit. If you yearn and hunger for the Lord, the Holy Spirit will deal with you and break you. The power of the Spirit of God will crush and break you. It is time to be holy. It is time to make our lives holy. The time has come to choose God. It is time to refrain from many legitimate things that you indulge in. Quit reading other books more than you read the Word of God. Quit watching what you used to watch. Be diligent to redeem the time. It is time to reschedule your priorities and be holy (which really means to be separated and devoted). Therefore, take time to be holy.

✠ *Today's Command* ✠

Take heed therefore how ye hear: Luke 8:18



Today's Reading :

1 Kings 5:1-6:38

Acts 7:1-29

Psalms 127:1-5

Proverbs 16:28-30



For what do you truly hunger? Do you hunger to do many things for the Lord and then in the midst of all your activities give Him second place in your life? This is what is happening in churches all over the world. People gather to worship the Lord, but He is not found in their midst. The music instruments are there, the voices are there, the beautiful songs are there! But, where is the One whom they sought to worship? This is the tragedy that causes my heart to break. The main point is that in the midst of all the worship and the Christian activities that are taking place, He is missing. He occupies the second place in every worship service and meeting! The motivating factor of our lives should be doing His will and meeting His pleasure. We should do nothing out of a selfish motive. Apart from His will and His pleasure, nothing else should draw us to Him. To do things for Him and forget Him midway is not the way of pursuing God. What we do must be “Him” and not “His”! God’s deep desire is for a people who will hunger and ask, “God where are you? Where are you in our midst?” We have satiated our hunger for Him by filling our lives with many other things. People finish their meetings and return home! They are satisfied with their worship and their service to the Lord. We have satiated our hunger for Him by many unnecessary activities.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Flee fornication. 1Corinthians 6:18

Today's Reading :

1 Kings 7:1-51

Acts 7:30-50

Psalms 128:1-6

Proverbs 16:31-33

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JUNE

Too often, God's people draw false finish lines in their lives, because the flesh sometimes gets excited in matters concerning the Lord. The natural man would like to interpret God's revelations according to the flesh. We like to build our own sand castles, which are quickly built, but easily broken. We desire to make a monument and draw our own boundaries and lines. We choose to make our own memorials and portray our own opinions. In our zeal, we prefer to draw our own conclusions to events and situations, without grasping the whole picture. We feel so good about the spiritual things we have experienced, and delightedly exclaim, "It is good for us to be here, Lord." Peter on the mount of transfiguration did not realize that there was much more in store for him, in the Lord (Luke 9:30-36). He had no idea in what manner God wanted to use him in the days ahead. In childish enthusiasm, Peter suggested that the three disciples build some structures (monuments), which did not quite fit into God's economy. At that point of his life, Peter innocently drew a false finish line. He thought it was good to be there. Many have erected monuments around some good experiences in their lives and have settled there. Many have false finish lines!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

Romans 12:13

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JUNE

Today's Reading :

1 Kings 8:1-66

Acts 7:51-8:13

Psalm 129:1-8

Proverbs 17:1



In the Scriptures, both in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament, we find that the Lord knocks at the door of His house. In the Old Testament, we see Him prophetically knocking at the door of His own House, seeking the attention of His beloved people, in the Song of Solomon, "I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night." (S of S 5:2)

The Lord is knocking at the door of His own House! In the New Testament also, He is seeking the attention of His beloved, the Church. Why is the door of His own house locked? Who has the key to the door of His house? The door is locked because He has given the keys away. To whom has He given the keys? We read of this in the book of Matthew. "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Matthew 16:18,19)

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: Matthew 24:20

Today's Reading : 1 Kings 9:1-10:29
Acts 8:14-40
Psalm 130:1-8
Proverbs 17:2-3

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JUNE

David's wife, Michal, became barren because of her attitude towards David, the king. (2 Samuel 6:20-23) She valued dignity over deity! She refused to look upon and behold the king in an uncovered state (without his kingly robes). She felt offended and slighted because David danced, sang, and worshipped before the Lord in an uncovered condition in front of his people. She paid more attention to the outward rather than to the inward. She placed greater emphasis upon the dignity of the king before the people, and did not value the desire of his heart to honour the Lord above all else. The Scripture says that she was barren from that day. Could it be that David was never again intimate with Michal, his wife? Her barrenness may be because he was not intimate with her any longer!. The disgust she felt towards David locked the door to intimacy, joy and fruitfulness! May we not find ourselves barren like David's wife Michal!

Beloved, the Church's reluctance to pay the seemingly high cost of intimate worship is the root cause of her barrenness! The bride of Christ has grown accustomed to living in the King's house, in the absence of the King! The Church, the bride of Christ, has become accustomed to the luxuries of the King's palace and the absence of the King of Kings.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also
in me. John 14:1*

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Today's Reading : 1 Kings 11:1-12:19

Acts 9:1-25

Psalm 131:1-3

Proverbs 17:4-5



The cry of God's remnant in this hour must be for the Reviver Himself and not merely for revival! The cry of Lord's people today must not be for a visitation or a revival but a cry must go out from them for the Reviver Himself. Instead of seeking for the One who is the Reviver, God's people are running helter-skelter to find places where revivals are taking place. Some have named their church Revival Church, though the Reviver left them long ago! All their works and efforts are nothing but mere doctrine! The Church instead had memorialized the visitations of the past as if her Spouse has passed away and all future meetings with Him (except the meeting in the sky) are out of question! What a tragedy!

The Lord does not want me to embrace the hollow memory of what once was! I want Him! We must want Him! If we listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, we shall know when He knocks on the door of our lives. However good and nice our experiences have been with Him in the past, let us not be satisfied with the fragrance of 'where He once stood in our lives'. "Lord, show me your face. I am not content with your fragrance. I deeply yearn for your face, Lord. Show me your face."

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Therefore let us not sleep, as [do] others; but let us watch and be sober. 1Thessalonians 5:6

Today's Reading : 1 Kings 12:20-13:34
Acts 9:26-43
Psalm 132:1-18
Proverbs 17:6

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JUNE

Bartimaeus was the blind man who ignored the cries of disapproval from the crowd, but cried out to Jesus for mercy. (Mark 10:46-52). He was a blind man who could not see Jesus himself, but had to have blind faith to believe the testimony of someone who told him, "Jesus is close by".

Someone told Bartimaeus that Jesus had come to Jericho. He told him that Jesus would pass through the gates of Jericho city. Being a beggar who was considered useless by the citizens, he took his usual place outside the city gates. He did not know where the Lord Jesus was and when He would pass by. He confessed that there was no way he could know where He was. But someone came and told him that Jesus had come and was very close by. Bartimaeus believed him though he could not see Jesus. It was difficult for him to believe the testimony of another person, nor was he familiar with Jesus' voice, yet he relied and believed upon someone else's confession and experience that Jesus was near. Though Bartimaeus had never seen Jesus, believing in His Presence and in His nearness through someone else's testimony, resulted in the commencement of a deep work of God in within him.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: Matthew 7:12

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Today's Reading : 1 Kings 14:1-15:24
Acts 10:1-23
Psalm 133:1-3
Proverbs 17:7-8



Many of us suffer from spiritual blindness. Many things have clouded our eyes and dimmed our vision. We have many hindrances. Many things hinder our seeing of the Lord; the cares of life and the weariness of life can temporarily blind us or numb our senses so that we cannot perceive the nearness of God! (Nevertheless, there are men of God who were been able to see and experience the Presence of God). Bartimaeus' blindness did not stop him from crying out to the Lord to receive a touch from Him. Why should our blindness stop us? Something incredible worked within him to bring forth a cry for Jesus, the Son of David. Let us be humble enough to admit that we are blind, but let our blindness not stop us from crying out to Jesus. When we hear that Christ is here, in our midst, let us not hesitate to cry out to Him from our depths!

If you cannot see, feel or sense the Presence of the Lord in these days, then it is time to find someone you can trust, who can sense His Presence. It is time to hear about the nearness of the Lord from such people. Take them at their word. They may have encountered God in some small measure only, but be willing to hear them and follow their example.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
Ephesians 6:18*

Today's Reading : 1 Kings 15:25-17:24
Acts 10:24-48
Psalm 134:1-3
Proverbs 17:9-11

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JUNE

There are many in Christendom whose eyes remain dry. They were broken vessels at one time, but now they have lost their sensitivity for the Spirit of God. In the past, a slight touch from the Lord would have caused them to be broken, but they seem to have lost their feeling for heaven's workings. Some have lost that brokenness! I am not talking about emotions, but of something initiated by the Holy Spirit. We need to be open to the Spirit so that He can work upon us and bring about a brokenness upon our inner man. Only God can initiate a brokenness in us. True godly sorrow will invariably bring forth tears and deep emotions as well.

Tears are valuable to the Lord. Beloved, let us not waste our tears in self-pity. The tears that flow at railway stations, airports, and places of farewell are the product of our natural affections. However, the tears of brokenness and repentance, fall at the feet of the Lord. We need to wash His feet with such tears continually. Our tears are so precious to the Lord. They are meant for His feet. He has promised to accept the sacrifices, worship, and praises of those who have a broken spirit. He will not overlook such a heart. Are your eyes dry in these days? Is there a brokenness welling up within your being?

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. 1Corinthians 12:31

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Today's Reading :

1 Kings 18:1-46

Acts 11:1-30

Psalms 135:1-21

Proverbs 17:12-13



Hebrews 12, Verse 18 says, “For ye are not come....”. Then in Verse 22 we read, “But ye are come....” There is a ‘NOT’ and there is also a ‘BUT’. The words NOT and BUT, in relation to one another, occur frequently in the New Testament. When we read the expressions of the Spirit in the New Testament, we see that the word NOT is used frequently and repetitiously. We also cannot fail to notice that the NOT invariably culminates in a resounding BUT of God. These two words are two governing words.

To make it clear, there lies a new comprehension (revelation) of the meaning of Christ, of the difference that He has made to us, of the great divide we see and of our present position. Let us first take a verse from the Gospel according to John. John 1:13. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. There is a negative side and also a positive side. Jesus was born to the accompaniment of a NOT (or NOR used thrice in succession); at the same time He was born to a BUT of God! There is something positive and dynamic in the use of the BUT of God, for it is linked and coupled to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. ‘BUT’ is the positive of God.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you
fishers of men. Matthew 4:19*

Today's Reading :

1 Kings 19:1-21
Acts 12:1-23
Psalm 136:1-26
Proverbs 17:14-15

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JUNE

“Almost unannounced and mostly undetected there has come in modern times a new cross into popular evangelical circles. From this new cross has sprung a new philosophy of the Christian life, and from that new philosophy has come a new evangelical technique – a new meeting and a new kind of preaching.

The old Cross would have no truck with the world. For Adam's proud flesh it meant the end of the journey. The new cross, if understood right, is the source of oceans of good clean fun and innocent enjoyment. It lets Adam live without interference. His life motivation is unchanged, he still lives for his own pleasure.

The new cross does not slay the sinner, it direct him. It gears him into cleaner and jollier way of living and saves his self- respect. The old Cross is a symbol of death, God salvages the individual by liquidating him and then raising him again to newness of life. God offers life, but not an improved life. The life He offers is life out of death. It stands always on the far side of the cross.”

- The Old Cross and the New, A. W Tozer

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. Luke 12:40

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Today's Reading : 1 Kings 20:1-21:29
Acts 12:24-13:15
Psalm 137:1-9
Proverbs 17:16



In the Old Covenant days, talking of the new nation of Israel, God declared, "I have chosen thee" (Isaiah 41:8) , "Thou art My people" (Isaiah 51:16). These words are repeated several times in different books of the Old Testament signifying that from that time onwards the Israelites were designated as God's own people. Thus Sinai is remembered for the birthing of a nation, a nation that was non-existent, a nation separated from other nations. Something new was wrought by the hand of God. History was made. When God said, "Thou art My people." He meant, "You are the result of My working." This is what God reminded His people repeatedly through the prophets. A new beginning had been made. God had laid hold of a nation.

We need to know that our God is a God of action. He has been working from the beginning and He is still working. In Genesis 1:1 it is written, "In the beginning God" and in Hebrews 1:1 we read, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, .." God is still speaking to us. He is still a God of action.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. 1Pe 2:18

Today's Reading :

1 Kings 22:1-53

Acts 13:16-41

Psalms 138:1-8

Proverbs 17:17-18

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JUNE

Our natural birth was different. You are not born Christians. We are never born naturally as a child of God. We never inherit divine life by natural birth, BUT when we are born again, it is a divine act of God. The new man is not born of the natural. This new creation, after the Lord Jesus, is not the result of the mingling of the bloods of man and woman. It is not the result of the joining of two sexes. It is not a mixture of bloods, but it is a direct work of the hand of God. This is what we need to understand very clearly. It is not of man but it is of God. We are born again by the Spirit of God, Hallelujah. Thus, we become a part of His new creation, which He has brought forth by His own hand.

Praise God that every born-again believer is born, not as a result of the mingling of bloods of their natural parents, but as a direct consequence of the hand of God in their lives. **We are God's act.** We have become Christians by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! This is a precious truth we need to hold on to. No wonder that Jesus told Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:6).

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Galatians 6:7

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Today's Reading : 2 Kings 1:1-2:25
Acts 13:42-14:7
Psalm 139:1-24
Proverbs 17:19-21



'Messiah' is a Hebrew term. It's equivalent in the New Testament is 'Christ'. They both mean the same. The 'Messiah' in history and the 'Messiah' according to Hebrew concept and expectation is the 'Christ' in the New Testament of the new Israel of God. It is one name, the same name, with the same meaning but carried over now to the New Testament. The Book of Hebrews makes it very clear, that all of the old Israel's hopes, expectations of the coming Messiah and all they had associated with that name are now taken up in Christ. Christ comprehends and fulfils it and goes beyond their conceptions and thus beyond their acceptance! The Scriptures clearly show that the Jews had placed all their hope in the Messiah to save them from foreign rule. They had associated themselves fully with the concept that the Messiah would come as a saviour in the natural sense. Their conceptions were limited to the outward and the physical, compared to what the Father had purposed for them in and through Christ, His Son. Their conception concerning the Messiah was one of exclusiveness pertaining to the Jews. However, the Christ of the New Testament of God's New Israel is much much greater and much bigger than all that the Old Israel ever hoped for, looked for, prayed for and anticipated!

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Colossians 4:5

Today's Reading :

2 Kings 3:1-4:17

Acts 14:8-28

Psalms 140:1-13

Proverbs 17:22

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JUNE

Jesus was not revived! Yes, he was raised to life. JESUS is God's act in His resurrection. The Father saw to it that His Son was properly, clinically dead before the Holy Spirit raised Him up and made Him to sit on the right of the Father's throne. Jesus was under the earth for three days, before He was raised from the dead. This makes it clear that it was nothing but a divine act of the Eternal God that raised Him from the dead. Anybody can revive a man from coma or unconsciousness, but a man who has been dead for three days cannot be revived unless God intervenes and raises him up. Paul writes in his letters that there was a direct intervention of God in raising His Son from the dead. It was an act of the Eternal God that Jesus was raised to life and to the throne. It must register very clearly in our spirits that Jesus was not revived but was raised from the dead. Many believers are living as though they have been revived in Christ and not raised up with Christ from the dead. One can only be raised up if one is fully dead! Several Christians, however, fail to appropriate their death in Christ. They continue to live with the old man still alive and kicking! They live a revived life, only to slump back to their old state after sometime. We are not revived in Christ but raised up in Christ. We are called NOT to live a revived life BUT a resurrected life!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: 1Peter 3:15



Today's Reading :

2 Kings 4:18-5:27

Acts 15:1-35

Psalms 141:1-10

Proverbs 17:23



The kingdom of God is constituted within an individual. It is something inward. This is what the new humanity is all about. It is something, which is engraved within. It does not come by doing certain outward activities. It does not come by observation; it comes by conception. It is conceived within an individual by the Holy Spirit. It is not acquired by certain outward adjustments or conformities. It is wrought within by the process of conception. The life of Christ does not come by following some outward rules and regulations.

It is a sad reflection upon Christianity that the Christian life we see all around us is something that has come by outward observation rather than by an inward conceiving and constituting work by the Spirit. The new man and the new humanity comes by the working of the Holy Spirit in the individual's life. It is organic. It is something innate, intrinsic and inherent. It is not something, which is the result of man's desire to organise, categorise and classify. He has given us a new constitution within that is conceived by the Holy Spirit Himself and that enables us to truly worship Him and follow Him. It is something that radiates life. It is a movement of life within. It is not an activity, that is a product of man's zeal.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Mark 9:50

Today's Reading :

2 Kings 6:1-7:20

Acts 15:36-16:15

Psalms 142:1-7

Proverbs 17:24-25

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JUNE

When the Lord lowered a basket and told Peter to arise, kill and eat, Peter was in a particular place with God where the Lord was wanting to bring about a change in his constitution. The account in Acts Chapter 10 shows us that Peter was very reluctant to move ahead at the bidding of the Spirit. God was wanting to change Peter in an organic manner. This is so often the case with us, as well. It is a matter of a divine movement within us wherein we need to allow the Holy Spirit to work within us. Sometimes those in leadership lose patience with brothers and sisters who resist the workings of the Spirit or when they do not see a quick work of the Spirit in them. The way of the Holy Spirit, however, is so different. God the Holy Spirit had to perform a work in the life of Peter. There was a movement of God within him, as there is so often within us. It is not something legal; it is not a matter of do's and don'ts or of must and must not. It has to come from within us, as we would subject ourselves to the Holy Spirit. It is the act of God, the initiative of God, the dawning of a new awareness that "Something is happening to me because it is happening in me".

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

Mark 13:23

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Today's Reading :

2 Kings 8:1-9:13

Acts 16:16-40

Psalms 143:1-12

Proverbs 17:26



One of my friends visited me after many years. As a part of a group, he is committed to raise New Testament local churches. He shared some of his convictions with me. He explained what was actually happening. The intentions were noble and worthy, but the birthing power of the Spirit was absent. We have never had such confusion as we have today among God's people. Men are trying to set up spiritual things in the name of the Lord, and many of them seem to be sincere. We know that we could also be a part of such a company if we do not exercise extreme caution. Many are working hard to raise up the Body of Christ. Christian movements are taking place, brethren are coming together with a new understanding of one another, institutions and organisations are being raised up to meet the demands of the day. Nevertheless, in the midst of all this activity, the confusion increases. I am not exaggerating, nor am I saying that we are the only people who seem to be going in the right direction. We stand in as much danger as anybody else does, if we are not sensitive to the working of the Holy Spirit. Beloved, the only answer in this hour is for God, the Holy Spirit to work in us and bring about a new constitution among God's people.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

*But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself
rather unto godliness. 1 Timothy 4:7*

Today's Reading : 2 Kings 9:14-10:31
Acts 17:1-34
Psalm 144:1-15
Proverbs 17:27-28

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JUNE

I read a statement that said that 'the empty tomb proves that Jesus is alive'. We may have heard this earlier for it is a popular phrase or slogan. There were times in our lives when we appreciated such slogans and also used them to witness about Christ. However, in the light of all that the Lord is speaking to us in these days, we know that there is an artificial ring about such popular statements. The statements are correct and proper by themselves. The basis of the statements are legal and officially acceptable, but the statements lack conviction because of the absence of life.

The proof that Jesus is alive is that He is living in you. The empty tomb does not prove that Jesus is alive. The world is never going to believe that Jesus is alive, unless Jesus is manifested in and through our lives. It is not an official or legal matter but it is a matter of LIFE. This is a very important principle to apply to our daily lives. The Scriptures say that we have passed from death to life. We have moved from death to life, where the power of resurrection has begun to take hold of our lives. The Lord is looking for a constitution of His life in His people. This is not a matter of a legal or official standing, but of life.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

Mark 11:22



Today's Reading : 2 Kings 10:32-12:21

Acts 18:1-22

Psalms 145:1-21

Proverbs 18:1



A man of God named John Owen, an old puritan leader, warned his people with these words:

“You have an imaginary Christ and if you are satisfied with an imaginary Christ, you must be satisfied with an imaginary salvation.”

Many people live according to an imaginary Christ in them. Your salvation is not by the work of your intellectual ability. It is by the pure work of the Spirit of God. What Owen says is true and relevant today. Many have an imaginary Christ today, a Christ of their theology and doctrine. This Christ of their doctrine and theology does not resemble the One in the Scripture! The Christ of their imaginations revolves around their self life. This is true even among the so-called believers! If any of us are going to be satisfied with an imaginary Christ of our own making then we must be satisfied with an imaginary salvation in our lives, as well.

“There are a great many bogus Christ's among us these days”.
-A.W.Tozer

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let no man seek his own, but every man another's [wealth].

1Corinthians 10:24

Today's Reading : 2 Kings 13:1-14:29
Acts 18:23-19:12
Psalm 146:1-10
Proverbs 18:2-3

28
JUNE



Zion is not a place in heaven; it is a realm in God. People have misunderstood the true meaning of Zion. In reality it is quite different from what people have thought. Today, the emphasis is that, when we are born again by the Spirit of God, we find a berth in heaven after our death. This is Scriptural no doubt, but the early disciples did not give such an emphasis to their messages. Nor did this form the major part of the teaching of the early apostles.

When a person accepts Jesus as His Saviour and Lord, the important thing is that the person has come to a new place or realm. He has not only become a new person in Christ but he has also come to a new place in Christ. Yes, he has come to Zion, the city of God. The Scripture does not say that we are coming to Mt. Zion. but that we have already come to Mt Zion, which is the picture of the consummation of all things in Christ. We have become the inhabitants of Mt Zion by virtue of believing in Christ, the Son of God. There are many experiences we have to go through yet, but the end of them lies in Zion, which, is the consummation of the full purposes of God. Zion comes into view in one's life, when one turns to the Lord and is born again by the Spirit.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Mat 28:19

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JUNE

Today's Reading : 2 Kings 15:1-16:20
 Acts 19:13-41
 Psalm 147:1-20
 Proverbs 18:4-5



The Lord has given the key of His House to His own people! He has given His people the strength and ability to open the windows of heaven and close the gates of hell! In other words, the Lord has given His Church the keys that will unlock the door to His own appearance! If His people open the door, He will enter in. Opening the door will lead to His very Presence. The latch is on our side! Beloved, the Church has locked and bolted the door from inside. The door is securely locked from within. Therefore, it is up to His people to open the door so that He may come in! Who has locked the door? The religious traditions of men have barred the door and even closed the windows. There is no way for light to filter into the Church through barred doors and windows. Religious men have painted the windows of His home with the traditions of man! Nevertheless, the reality is that the Lord has given the keys of the door to His people. The seeming tragedy in this hour is that the Lord is persistently knocking at the door of His own house, and there is none to listen to His knock and open the door. In the Song of Solomon, we get an accurate picture of the Bridegroom (the Lord Jesus Christ), persistently and continually knocking at the door. We find a double-hearted woman (the Church) say, "I sleep but my heart waketh. . ."

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; 1 Timothy 5:1-2

Today's Reading : 2 Kings 17:1-18:12
Acts 20:1-38
Psalm 148:1-14
Proverbs 18:6-7

30
JUNE

Man is attempting to master space, nuclear forces, and many other things, but he has not yet been able to master or overcome the landslide moral degradation that has set in. We have advanced scientifically and technologically more than any other generation, and yet there is a new kind of barbarism, inhumanity, cruelty, lust and destruction! We get to read about it in newspapers and get to see and hear it in the news channels. Intellectual advancement has not been able to stop the moral decline of man. Many scientists wonder and fear what will happen in the earth. They are fearful of the outcome of their research programs. They warn the world of an unspeakable holocaust! There is much more ungodliness and unrighteousness in the world today than ever before! Truly we are living in times when the wisdom of man is at its peak; it is driving man to his destruction. Though ungodliness and unrighteousness abound universally, the prince of this world has also contrived to give a small place to the Divine, be it politics, in society and secularism, as if to show his great understanding and knowledge of all things. In the zenith of man's wisdom even the things of God are handled with impunity. It seems therefore that man can manage everything, and yet he cannot manage himself!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. 1Corinthians 8:9

1
JULY

Today's Reading : 2 Kings 18:13-19:37
Acts 21:1-17
Psalm 149:1-9
Proverbs 18:8



“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” (Hosea 4:6). The scripture says that in the days of Hosea the people were not keen to hear the truth. They were occupied with several other activities. In these days too we see how Christians are held in bondage by the traditions of man. It grieves ones heart to see that knowledge of the truth of the Holy God of Israel is not with them. Some Christians reject God’s Word but they most gladly receive the traditions held by their forefathers. They reject the truth because it is not according to what they have been taught. The above Scriptures say that because they have rejected knowledge God has also rejected them! We cannot afford to reject His Word. In the book of Thessalonians we read, “And for this cause (lack of a love for the truth) God shall send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie.” (2 Thess 2:14). It is because many Christians have no real love for the truth and because they do not love what God would minister to them from the Word of God that the Lord will send other influences among them. Such as these will be led to believe lies.

Today's Command

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Today's Reading : 2 Kings 20:1-22:2
Acts 21:18-36
Psalm 150:1-6
Proverbs 18:9-10

2
JULY

“Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say...O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts.” (Ezek 13:2,4 KJV). The prophets like foxes enjoy staying amongst foxes in the wilderness. And the Lord says, that these prophets enjoy being in that condition. There is no other way for them. They are happy to stay in the wilderness and amongst ruins which are their habitat. But the Son of Man has no place to lay His head!! In the days of Jesus there were many foxes and they had their own ‘holes’ to live in! They had their own religious places where they felt at ease and comfortable. But the Son of Man, who owns the whole earth, did not have a place to lay His head! The Lord had no place to dwell! How tragic, beloved!

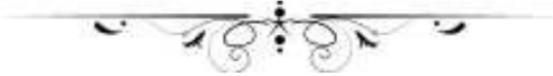
Just as a strong magnet is able to attract bits of iron from a heap of rubbish, so also we should become magnets in the church of the Living God. Whether we are two or three in number, when we give ourselves to God's Word, we shall become magnets. There are many thousands in every city in this land who are tired of the traditions of man. They have been taught to participate in religious activities. They are confused in their minds. They are afraid of religious heads. Such ones shall come out and be joined to the living church through magnets like us.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James 1:22

3
JULY

Today's Reading : 2 Kings 22:3-23:30
Acts 21:37-22:16
Psalm 1:1-6
Proverbs 18:11-12



Let us not opt for ‘convenience’ but let us be built according to the Word of the Lord. To receive anything from God, we must first submit ourselves to the Word. Then the Lord will reveal Himself to us. Chapter six of the book of John is a good example of this. Lord Jesus spoke to the people who came in their boats to seek Him, and told them that in reality they had not come to follow Him, but they had come to eat some bread and fish. He said to them, ‘labor not for the meat that perisheth (outward things) but (labour) for the that meat that endureth unto everlasting life....’ (Jn 6:27). He told them that He had yet another meat to eat and that was to do the will of His father. And not only that – but also to complete it (Jn 4:34). The people could not understand all this. They began to reason in their hearts. Then Jesus said, “I am that manna that your fathers ate” (Jn 6:49-51). But the people could not receive this truth. It was still difficult for them to understand. Then He said, “I am the living bread”. But the people were filled with unbelief. They said, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?” They said that they knew His brothers and sisters. He was but a carpenter’s son and now He claimed that He was the bread that came from heaven. “O what a terrible blasphemy!” they said. And they were about to stone Him to death!

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual [gifts], but rather that ye may prophesy. 1Corinthians 14:1

Today's Reading : 2 Kings 23:31-25:30
Acts 22:17-23:10
Psalm 2:1-12
Proverbs 18:13

4

JULY

A marriage in the family truly reveals whether we are still bound by the traditions of men or not. A believer who had several domestic problems including that of the marriage of his daughters once asked me for my counsel. I encouraged him and told him to be a radical man for the truth. He was very much worried and anxious. 'What shall I do?' he asked, 'If one wants a bridegroom with an engineering degree, one has to give lakhs of Rupees!' oh, how terrible are men's traditions. A father who decides to bow down to such traditions would never be able to lift his head again. My beloved brothers and sisters, when we are faced with such situations we have to be right of top...number one in humility, number one in submission and number one in not compromising the truth. That is how we have to maintain a true balance of God's Word. The Word of God says, "If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who will freely give it to him." We are surrounded by believers who say that they are not bound by traditions but who are in fact bound by traditions. And when life's circumstances come their way, then they realize that their hands are bound. We are all aware that today many social evils are taking place in the name of marriage. I encourage parents and young men and women to stand for God's Word.

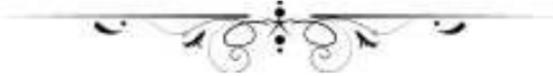
✢ *Today's Command* ✢

Cut it off and throw it away (if you hand causes you to sin)

- Matthew 5:30

5
JULY

Today's Reading : 1 Chronicles 1:1-2:17
Acts 23:11-35
Psalm 3:1-8
Proverbs 18:14-15



I remember when I was born again I was exceedingly joyful and carried a New Testament wherever I went. But when I began to read about various truths in the Word of God then I began to realize that I was still bound by what I had heard and experienced earlier! I was not able to take in the hard truths of the Bible into my life. I realized that I was bound by the teaching of traditional churches. I could not go into the waters of baptism. Then when I began to see the truth, the truth set me free and I walked into the waters of baptism. When we see the truth of God's Word, and begin to notice that there are some traditions that keep us bound! And if and when we cry out to God, "Lord, I see that there are unseen fetters that are binding me." Then those fetters will surely fall away and we shall begin to walk in the truth of God's Word.

Some people accept their defeat in various situations as inevitable and as something ordained by God from which there is not running away. They think that there is no way out from their situations. But there are still some who cry out, "Lord, there is surely a way out. Lord, I trust in you; show the way." And the Lord does indeed answer their prayer and show them the way.

Today's Command

Get behind me, Satan! – Matthew 16:23

Today's Reading : 1 Chronicles 2:18-4:4
Acts 24:1-27
Psalm 4:1-8
Proverbs 18:16-18

6

JULY

When John the Baptist began to preach a great multitude came to the rivers of Jordan for baptism. He told those who were coming forward to be baptized, “you brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” (Matt 3:7). The Living Bible explains this verse beautifully.

“But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to be baptized, he denounced them. “You sons of snakes!” he warned. “Who said that you could escape the coming wrath of God?” (Matt 3:7 TLB) The reason why many people go to church today is because they are afraid of going to hell. If the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were to declare that there would be no hell from tomorrow then our churches would be empty! In the days of John, the Baptist, the people were afraid to go to hell and so they went to John to be baptized. But he scolded them. He chastened them for wanting baptism without first repenting; he rebuked them for wanting to take a shortcut and for wanting to avoid hell! Although the same moral conditions prevail in the world today, unfortunately we do not have forthright preachers like John, the Baptist. He was so unlike the preachers of this day.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing
(when giving) – Matthew 6:3*



Today's Reading : 1 Chronicles 4:5-5:17
Acts 25:1-27
Psalm 5:1-12
Proverbs 18:19



Many people believe that when Jesus Christ returns in power and glory, He shall in some way cause this earth to be thrown away and that He shall create a new earth wherein He shall rule and reign. But it is not going to be so. We can draw a very good example from the days of Noah. The Word says, "And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; and God said, I will DESTROY THEM WITH THE EARTH" (Genesis 6:12-13). 'And I will establish neither shall there any more be a flood to DESTROY THE EARTH' (Genesis 9:11). Did the Lord really destroy the earth? Did he destroy all the living things upon the earth such as animals and men who lived unrighteously? God wiped out wickedness and unrighteousness from the face of the earth. The Lord didn't destroy the earth in reality but preserved the earth and also the righteous Noah and his family and two of every living creature. "And God spared not the OLD WORLD but saved Noah" (II Peter 2:5) Here we clearly see the term 'old world' being used to denote the days of Noah, which could mean the 'old earth'. Further we read, 'Whereby the WORLD THAT THEN was being over flowed with water perished' (II Peter 3:6). And so when Noah came out of the ark, he entered into a NEW EARTH. We are still living upon the same earth.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

You are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. – Matthew 23:8

Today's Reading : 1 Chronicles 5:18-6:81
Acts 26:1-32
Psalm 6:1-10
Proverbs 18:20-21

8

JULY

The traditional teaching that we have been accustomed to is that every Christian enters heaven upon his death. How mistaken our teaching have been, beloved. We enter heaven by virtue of being born again and not by virtue of death! John 3:3 clearly state that, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God". Again in John 3:5, we read, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God". The Scripture makes it very clear that it is by new birth that we enter into the kingdom of heaven. Yet, many people think of going to heaven at their death. Beloved, we can enter into heaven while we are yet alive. And as many of us are born by the Spirit of God, are in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. We see this in Ephesians 2:5 & 6, "Even, when we were dead in sins. (God) had quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved); And hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." So, where are we today? We are in heavenly places. Praise the Lord! We were formerly dead in sins and trespasses; we were indulging in the desires of the flesh; but God in His mercy brought us back to life, raised us up with Him and helped us to be seated with Him in heavenly places. So even when we are upon this earth we are in the heavenlies with Him. We are seated with Him in heavenly places.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Hebrews 12:15



Today's Reading : 1 Chronicles 7:1-8:40

Acts 27:1-20

Psalm 7:1-17

Proverbs 18:22



Many people ask for prayer before they get a job, but once they get the job it seems that their wisdom takes over and that God's wisdom has no further place in their lives. This is the problem. They think that God cannot catch up with today's technology; that He does not know how computers work! They think that they alone can understand the way their secular, unbelieving boss behaves and that God cannot understand him. So they cease to depend on God's wisdom. It appears to them that God's wisdom is old fashioned and out-dated! It is sad that some people come to a place where they cannot know where and when to apply their own wisdom and where and when to have faith in God's wisdom. It is here that we must make sure that our intellect does not get into the faith that we have—that faith that is based upon His wisdom. It must have the supreme place in us. If we try to mix the faith that He has given us and that operates on His wisdom with the faith that operates man's wisdom, then it will not work. We are living in a time of intellectual Christianity because intellectualism has entered into Christian life. Intellectual Christianity has reduced everything to a matter of the mind rather than to the matter of life. It has all become a matter of mental gain. This is the erroneous emphasis that is increasing in the church day by day.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen

1John 5:21

Today's Reading : 1 Chronicles 9:1-10:14
Acts 27:21-44
Psalm 8:1-9
Proverbs 18:23-24

10
JULY

God will raise up a remnant who will really bring back the glory and honor that is due unto His name, Undoubtedly, when, God begins to do that, the enemy will also intensify his efforts to, frustrate the establishment of Gods Word. There are Sanballat's and Tobiah's; there are the Ammonites and Ashdodites who are conspiring to stand against this work of God (Nehemiah 4:1, 3 & 7). But as Apostle Paul says, "We are not ignorant of the devices of the evil one." Sanballat in Hebrew means "enemy in secret". Yes, there is an enemy in secret. Tobiah means, 'Jehovah is Good', despite that Tobiah is serving Sanballat! There are many people like Tobiah who say that God has been gracious to them and answered all their prayers they say the Lord is good, He has done many wonders in their lives. Yet, these very people serve Sanballat - they serve the enemy. Some people have good Christian names but they serve the enemy. Many claim that 'they are believers and are baptized in the Holy Spirit but there is no love for the truth in their hearts. Beloved, the people around us may join hands and get together to say, 'stone these people'. They may unite to oppose us. Marvel not when these things come to pass in your lives. All those who want to go in the way of truth will suffer persecution. So let us encourage one another to be men who shall stand for the truth in this hour.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞
Have faith in God – Mark 11:22

11
JULY

Today's Reading : 1 Chronicles 11:1-12:18
Acts 28:1-31
Psalm 9:1-12
Proverbs 19:1-3



Our Lord, according to the Scriptures, cleansed the temple on two occasions—one at the beginning of His earthly ministry and one toward the end of His ministry. In the first instance Jesus said, “Don’t make My Father’s house a house of merchandise” (John 2:16); but in the second case Jesus said “Look YOUR HOUSE is left to you desolate,” (Matthew 23:38). That natural house is no more HIS HOUSE but THEIR HOUSE. So He left it to them and walked out.

Jesus cleansed the temple but the Jews defiled it. So Jesus walked out of that temple. He walked out of that temple concept; the people had made the temple as their place of security. It is as if they said. “This is the house of God. We can be safe in it (from tax authorities)’. They used the temple for all kinds of activities according to their own will and carnal desires. When Christ began to tell them of a new concept of the temple, it didn’t make any sense to them. Christ was bringing forth a new concept of the temple of God. But they refused to receive His teaching. They rejected the words and thoughts of Jesus in their hearts. They didn’t wish to receive new concepts for they were quite content using their temple for their own carnal purposes. It was no more His house.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned

— Luke 6:37

Today's Reading :1 Chronicles 12:19-14:17

Romans 1:1-17

Psalms 9:13-20

Proverbs 19:4-5

12

JULY

In 2 Kings 18: 4, "And he (Hezekiah) did that which was right in the sight of the lord. He removed the high poles and broke in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made; for unto THOSE DAYS the children of Israel DID BURN INCENSE TO IT: and he called it NEHUSHTAN." It is true that God commanded Moses to make a brass serpent and lift it upon a pole so that those who were bitten by the serpents could be healed. But somehow the brass serpent acquired a mantle of holiness and people visiting the tabernacle began to worship it. As people came to the Tabernacle to worship the Lord, they also burned incense to the brazen serpent. This was contrary to God's Word. This practice had been going on for many years. No one had the courage to remove this wrong and abominable practice from the temple. But as the Word says, "Hezekiah was one who did that which was right in the sight of the Lord." So one day he took this brass serpent and threw it down and called it NEHUSHTAN meaning mere pieces of brass. He showed the children of Israel that there was nothing holy, spiritual or supernatural in it. Surely when the Lord spoke to them to lift the serpent up and look at it He said something of great significance. But when he left that, it remained mere brass pieces with no importance. Brass cannot heal wounds caused by serpent's bite. But what healed them was the Word of the Lord and their obedience to it.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.

— John 5:14

13
JULY

Today's Reading : 1 Chronicles 15:1-16:36
Romans 1:18-32
Psalm 10:1-15
Proverbs 19:6-7



“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”. (Rev 17:3-5)

The word ‘waters’ (v 1) is an allegory or metaphor and refers to people. This is clear from revelation 17:15, which reads, “And he saith unto me, the waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” The word ‘woman’ is also allegorical. Here ‘woman’ refers to the false church, which is not in line with the Word of God. The harlot woman signifies the church that has gone astray. She is the picture of the denominational system. There is a harlot woman who is ruling the lives of many people (the great whore that sitteth upon many waters – the scriptures says, “Babylon the great, the mother of harlots...” the mother has several daughters. She is known as the mother for she has borne many daughters.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. –

Matthew 26:40

Today's Reading 1 Chronicles 16:37-18:17

Romans 2:1-24

Psalms 10:16-18

Proverbs 19:8-9

14

JULY

Unfortunately the Old Testament is a dead book for many people! They only read the New Testament and thus they are unable to see the types and shadows of Christ. They think that the Old Testament has nothing to teach them and that it is of no benefit. But true believers can see the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the Scriptures. For its readers the Open Bible (Ex-panded Edition) conveniently points out the Christ as seen in every book of the Old Testament. Yes, only when one can see the Lord Jesus Christ revealed in every Old Testament book can the New Testament take all a new meaning. For every type, shadow, model, parable and illustration points to Christ Jesus. One should understand that the natural Israel mentioned so frequently in the Old Testament is also a type and shadow of the true Israel of God-those who are circumcised in the heart and who are born out of the seed of Abraham-the true Christian believer and the true Body of Christ. When one reads the Word of God from cover to cover and when the Holy Spirit opens one's eyes, one can truly see the eternal purposes of God through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Augustine said that in the Old, the New is concealed; in the New the Old is revealed. Another man of God wrote that the New Testament without the Old is like a house standing in the air. They are one yet they are distinct.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Feed my lambs – John 21:15

15
JULY

Today's Reading : 1 Chronicles 19:1-21:30
Romans 2:25-3:8
Psalm 11:1-7
Proverbs 19:10-12



The boards of the tabernacle wall had to be “standing upright” (Exodus 26:15). The psalmist says, “...the upright shall dwell in Thy presence” (Psalms 140:13). Only the righteous, the upright shall stand in the day of the Lord. Only the upright shall be used to build God’s dwelling place. God is looking for men and women who are upright and who seek God and His righteousness. The upright will structure God’s house and when all things made by human effort come tumbling down, God’s house alone will remain standing. That shall be the sign of the true dwelling place of God. It shall be a house that shall be everlasting and eternal. The zeal of man has no place in the work of God. The eye and the hand of the Holy Spirit shall be used by God to build His House according to His divine standards. And he that hath an ear will listen to what the Spirit is saying in this hour. Beloved, God is in the process of building up his Corporate Temple. He is structuring it so that He may dwell in it. God has to work upon our lives; He has to change us till we conform to the Lord, Jesus Christ. He is using the carpenter’s plane upon our lives so that we may be of the right size, smoothness, and identical one to another, in the Lord. Marvel not at what God is doing in your lives. Let the Master Builder have His way.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

– Revelation 1:17

Today's Reading : 1 Chronicles 22:1-23:32

Romans 3:9-31

Psalm 12:1-8

Proverbs 19:13-14

16
JULY

“Ten cubits shall be the length of a board, and a cubit and a half shall be the breadth of one board.” (Exodus 26: 16). There were forty-eight boards and all forty-eight of them were to be of the same size, length, and width. We are to have only one standard, one height—the Lord Jesus Christ. Every single board in this corporate wall had to measure up to ten cubits. In Bible numerology the number ten represents testing, trials and tribulations; it also represents law and order (ten commandments; ten virgins). The tabernacle boards were all of ten cubits height. God structures His dwelling place from lives that have been tested, tried, submitted, and committed to the dealings of God. Jesus said, “If you suffer with me, you shall also reign with me”. Jesus learned obedience through the things He suffered. The width of the board was one and a half cubits. This is not a full number. It is an incomplete number. Only when two boards were joined together could they stand to measure a complete number (three—a divine number). “for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20). There were twenty boards each on two sides, but none standing alone. There is no place for a believer who attempts to stand alone. We are built up together.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Seventy-seven times (number of times in a day you should forgive someone) – Matthew 18:22

17
JULY

Today's Reading : 1 Chronicles 24:1-26:11

Romans 4:1-12

Psalms 13:1-6

Proverbs 19:15-16



“Two tenons shall there be in one board, set in order one against another; thus shalt thou make for all the boards of the Tabernacle.” (Exodus 27: 17)

‘Tenons’ in Hebrew means hands or projections. Bible scholars agree that each board having two tenons each were designed to fit securely into the silver sockets or foundations. These tenons translated ‘hands’ were provided so that the boards could stand securely upon their foundational sockets. Silver in Bible language refers to the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The sockets were made of silver redemption money, the price of the ransom. Thirty pieces of silver were paid as a price for the Lord. The boards were not to rest upon the earth but they were to rest upon the redemptive work of Lord. Beloved, we are not to stand upon the strength of our flesh but we are to stand upon the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are kept secure by His power. Every board, every believer is secure in the redemptive work of the Lord for He took our place and put our sins upon Himself. The two tenons also signify that we are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.

– Mark 6:31

Today's Reading :1 Chronicles 26:12-27:34

Romans 4:13-5:5

Psalms 14:1-7

Proverbs 19:17

18

JULY



“And thou shalt make bars of shittim wood; five for the boards of the one side of the tabernacle, And the middle bar in the midst of the boards shall reach from end to end.” (Exodus 26: 26, 28) The boards were kept together, side by side, by bars, which were placed into rings fitted to the boards. The bars were like wooden poles that ran through rings and made the boards into a solid, steadfast wall. This is also explained in Exodus 36:31-33. The number five represents the grace of God. There were five bars on each side. God's grace is manifested to the church in many ways. One another way by which God deals with His people to stabilize them is through the five-fold ministry. It is interesting to note that these bars were also made of the same MATERIAL and had the same PROCESS as the BOARDS (Ephesians 4: 8-11). Just as these 5 bars were to stabilize the whole structure, preventing the tabernacle from being shaken to and fro by whatsoever wind that would come against it, even so God has placed these five-fold ministries in His church (tabernacle) to keep the Church from being swayed by every wind of doctrine. Just as the bars were responsible for keeping the boards compacted together even so these ministries keep the church united in their goal. Without the five-fold ministry of the ascended Lord, the church would lack stability, solidity, and proper structure.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” – John 13:34

19
JULY

Today's Reading : 1 Chronicles 28:1-29:30
Romans 5:6-21
Psalm 15:1-5
Proverbs 19:18-19



The Greek word for adoption is *'huiiothesia'* (pronounced hweeoth-es-ee-ah). It is derived from the root word *'huios'* which means son. *'Huios'* (pronounced hwee-os) primarily refers to the children of God who are growing into maturity. The difference between believers as children of God (Greek word is *'tekna'* or *'teknon'*) and as sons, *'huioi'* (pronounced hwee-i) is brought out in Romans 8:14-17.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons (*'huioi'*) of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the Spirit of adoption (*'huiiothesia'*) whereby we cry 'Abba Father', the Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God, (*'teknon'*) and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be glorified together.” (Romans 8:14-17).

A born again child of God is a *'teknon'*; he is a child of God in his relationship to the Father. But a *'huiio'* is a grown up son, one who bears a likeness to the Father's character and who occupies a place of dignity and honour in the family of God.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.

- Matthew 14:27

Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 1:1-3:17
Romans 6:1-23
Psalm 16:1-11
Proverbs 19:20-21

20
JULY

If we are to be the sons of God and share the throne of the Lord Jesus Christ, then we have to learn to be responsible and accountable while upon this earth. God's purpose is to qualify us to be His companions and His fellow workers. God desires that we may be joint-heirs with Christ in the governance of the universe. The church has been delegated with this awesome responsibility. We have been brought into the 'so great salvation' that we may be prepared and raised up to inherit and share that which the Lord Jesus Christ possesses upon the throne. We have been called to rule and reign with Him.

Responsibility and accountability towards God is progressive. It begins with the individual and proceeds to incorporate the church. We are all to first bear a personal responsibility to the Father for our sonship. Then we are to be fellow heirs with Christ and thus share a corporate responsibility. As we jointly share responsibilities in the church, we learn, as a corporate body, to also share all things with Christ, our Head. To live is to grow; to grow means to change. God wants us to be a responsible people, a people who bear the responsibility of His Word.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment. – John 7:24

21
JULY

Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 4:1-6:11
Romans 7:1-13
Psalm 17:1-15
Proverbs 19:22-23



God wants to remove that Jacob nature in us that evades responsibility in difficult situations. He wants us to be a people who face dangers and difficulties with courage and with the assurance that 'the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are attentive to their prayer' (I Peter 3:12). The apostle Peter writes, "The Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials" (II Peter 2:9).

Responsibility is not the concern of only those who are pastors, elders and deacons. All of us are to be responsible-minded; we are to live a life of responsibility before God. Sonship talks of reigning and ruling with Christ and of holding responsible attitudes towards the Word and the things of God. The Lord in these last days is preparing His people to assume greater responsibilities so that in the day of the Lord we shall be able to rule with the King. God is preparing His overcomers company to be people who shall rule and have dominion upon this earth. It is essential to be responsible and accountable to God in all that we say and do, even in these days. If we are to be heirs with Christ Jesus and sons of glory, then we must also prove ourselves as responsible people who are ever willing to discharge our duties and do justice to God's grace upon our lives.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will
give you rest. Matthew 11:28*

Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 6:12-8:10
Romans 7:14-8:8
Psalm 18:1-15
Proverbs 19:24-25

22
JULY

The Lord Jesus told his disciples that in Noah's time the people were 'eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage' right upto the very last day that judgment came upon the people. In Noah's time the people were totally irresponsible and went about doing their usual business undisturbed by the impending floods. They were living unto themselves with no concern for the warnings of God. We need to realise that there is nothing wrong with eating, drinking and marrying as such; these are essential activities; but these people were fully occupied with living in a selfish, materialistic way, with no thought of God and His purposes. The judgment of God, in the form of the flood found them totally unprepared. But there was one family of eight that took heed of God's Word and they alone exercised a sense of responsibility and duty toward God. They knew they would have to answer for their behaviour. They were living under an unspoken obligation to prepare for that day. A great responsibility rested upon their shoulders and they had to prove themselves as mature people. They endured the reproach of the people; they suffered their mocking unbelief; they withstood their childish taunts and entered the ark, a place prepared for them by God.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. Matthew 24:4,5



Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 8:11-10:19
Romans 8:9-25
Psalm 18:16-36
Proverbs 19:26



There are so many of us who, like Jonah, want to take a shortcut in doing the will of God. We may have received God's will in our lives but we prefer to do it our own way and not God's way. Jonah may be termed a 'prejudiced son' or a 'reluctant prophet'. His mind was not given fully to the performance of God's perfect will.

Jonah was deceived into believing that he could save Israel if he disobeyed God. Sometimes we are lured away from God's will in our lives by the whispers and suggestions of Satan. We are led to believe that there is a good motive for not doing the will of God. Our carnal nature is very susceptible to suggestions that reveal an easier way, a shortcut or a deviation from God's straight, direct, inflexible will. Let us awake to the responsibility we have toward our calling in God.

In real life situations there are many who do not want to go the way God shows them. They are reluctant to take up their cross. They hesitate to surrender 'all' at His feet. They despise the responsibility of walking in the ways of God. The easier way, the shortcut is the irresponsible way: the hard way, the extra mile, is the way of Christian responsibility, the way of the sons of God.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. – Revelation 22:20

Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 11:1-13:22

Romans 8:26-39

Psalm 18:37-50

Proverbs 19:27-29

24
JULY

“For (even the whole) creation (all nature) waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God’s sons to be made known (waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship). For the creation (nature) was subjected to frailty (to futility, condemned to frustration) not because of some intentional fault on its part, but by the will of Him Who subjected it (yet) with the hope. That nature (creation) itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption (and gain an entrance) into the glorious freedom of God’s children. (*Romans 8: 19-21 Amp*). The judgment of God came upon the earth because of Adam. The earth will, therefore, be released from the curse through the second Adam and His brothers (the Son and the sons of God). The condition of the earth will remain unchanged until the kingdom comes. The Bible says, “the creation (i.e the earth) shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the sons of God”.

Presently the whole earth is lying in a state of frustration and frailty. But there is hope. The hope lies in the fact that the sons of God are growing and multiplying. They, along with their Perfect Leader, will liberate all creation from its curse that day. The hope of all creation lies in the bringing forth of the matured Sons of God.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. – Acts 1:4

25
JULY

Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 14:1-16:14

Romans 9:1-24

Psalms 19:1-14

Proverbs 20:1



Adoption in the scripture is mainly a word for position (or place), rather than a word denoting a relationship. Scriptures say that we come into a relationship with the Father, as a spiritual child when we are born again by faith, but 'adoption' is different. Adoption is an act of God, which places one who is already a child in the position of an adult son (Galatians 4:1-5). When we are born again, we are justified and forgiven; but when we are adopted then we will be restored the privileges which we did not possess as children because of our sins. Adoption refers to a restoration and maturing of the inner man that brings one into a more intimate position in the Father. The sons (*huioi*) are brought into a place of authority, honour and respect in relation to the Father. A servant in the house has a certain place; but a son has a different placing. Till the child comes of age (i.e. till he grows into maturity), he is kept like a slave or bond servant (Galatians 4:2). He is temporarily under an order of discipline and submission. He is accountable to tutors and guardians or administrators. But when the child grows into adult sonship, he acquires a new place of authority in the household. He receives authority from the Father, and he is able to wield the rod of authority. He operates in the name of the Father and commands the respect of others in the household of God.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light. – John 12:36

Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 17:1-18:34
Romans 9:25-10:13
Psalm 20:1-9
Proverbs 20:2-3

26
JULY

“For we are his workmanship, CREATED in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”, (Ephesians 2:10). Is it not a remarkable and even an astounding fact that God has predestined and created every believer in Christ? We are creatures or beings who have been made alive by our union with Christ Jesus. We are His precious possessions, the work of His hands. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW creature old things are passed away; behold all things are become NEW.”(II Corinthians 5:17). When anyone is united to Christ, he is made anew. At our spiritual birth, we become NEW persons, not just RENEWED persons! There is a new creation whenever a person comes into union with Christ. He enters a new world as an altogether new person. We go through a new experience at our spiritual birth. Ephesians 2:10 shows us that God has pre-ordained our walk in the reality of this new creation. He has predestined that we should live our daily lives according to this new creation pattern. A believer's walk refers to his attitudes, relationships, conduct and behaviour. Our walk is the way we live before man. The Lord desires that in our walk, we should reflect the new creation, the new life, the new inner man.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. – Revelation 3:22

27
JULY

Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 19:1-20:37

Romans 10:14-11:12

Psalms 21:1-13

Proverbs 20:4-6



Our inheritance in Him is guaranteed, provided we suffer with Him, and are, in every sense, His children (here meaning those who are born of the Spirit). Our inheritance or heirship is tied up with a sharing of His suffering. There is a suffering unto which we have been called by the Lord. If we desire to rule and reign with the Lord, if we are to be princes and heirs, then we must be prepared to suffer even this day. The sufferings we are called to undergo, are not so much the sicknesses and illnesses of the flesh, but rather, the sufferings that come upon us as a result of identifying fully with the pattern Son. We share Christ's sufferings in order that we may also share His glory and splendour afterward. If we suffer jointly with Him, we shall also enjoy glory jointly. The apostle Paul assures us that the sufferings we now endure, are nothing compared to the glory that shall be ours later (Romans 8: 18). Paul rightly says that the sufferings of the present moment are to be viewed, not in isolation, but in the light of the glory that shall soon be revealed in us.

God had appointed for Christ a suffering. "But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled" (Acts 3:18).

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you –

Luke 6:28

Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 21:1-23:21

Romans 11:13-36

Psalms 22:1-18

Proverbs 20:7

28
JULY

“Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.” (1 Peter 4:16). Our suffering may take various forms. All of us are not put through the same kind of sufferings. Some may be called to suffer in the environment of the family, some in the sphere of their jobs, and others in strange and divers ways. But the Lord assures us that our suffering is not without a purpose. We are not called to suffer for the sake of suffering, which only leads to a false holiness or an holier-than-thou attitude. If we are moving in the purposes of God, we shall surely experience trials, tribulations and situations that may test us sorely, cause a heaviness, a confusion and even discouragement. But the scripture says, “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth though it be tried by fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:7). Let us also not overlook the fact that whatever may be the nature of our trials and temptations, the Lord provides us a definite guarantee that He “will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able” (1 Corinthians 10:13). God’s call is at all times to overcome our situations that we may be released from suffering through prayer and the work of the cross in our lives.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Remember the height from which you have fallen! –

Revelation 2:5

29
JULY

Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 24:1-25:28

Romans 12:1-21

Psalms 22:19-31

Proverbs 20:8-10



“And has made us unto our God kings and priests : and we shall reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:10). This place of kingship in Christ must be appropriated in our lives. We are to have dominion over sin. We are to subjectively rule and reign over the lusts of our flesh, the lust of our eyes, and the pride of life? The Lord has given us the power and authority, as unto kings, to rule over our sin- nature. We must set our minds and our affections on the things of God whilst exercising complete rulership over the flesh and our carnal nature.

In the days of old, the king invariably led his troops into battle. He was involved in every battle to safeguard the kingdom. Christians need to stop playing games and get down to the battle against sin and Satan. Having been tempted as man, Jesus has ascended into Heaven, to give to every believer (who is prepared by faith to take it) his portion of the victory of the cross. In Christ, we have a place of victory and rest after the battle against Satan. So our kingship in Christ is also synonymous with being overcomers. God calls us to exercise our rule in this life by being overcomers over sin, Satan, flesh and worldliness. “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” (Revelation 3:21).

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Forgive, and you will be forgiven. – Luke 6:37

Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 26:1-28:27

Romans 13:1-14

Psalm 23:1-6

Proverbs 20:11

30

JULY



“Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.” (Hebrews 12:26). We should know that God Almighty will use a people to shake the powers of darkness! This shall happen as a result of their taking their place on the throne, and possessing their places of inheritance and dominion. They shall bring down the prince of the air and, the powers and principalities, which are presently dominating the heavenly places. The Lord of hosts, the Captain of our salvation shall lead a people to wage a war upon the enemies of the kingdom. The Lord declared that He will shake the heavens. For many, many years the church has been in a place of defeat. She has suffered torment, affliction, demonic attacks in total surrender. The powers of darkness have influenced her and controlled her actions all these years. They have fractured and severed the church into numerous denominations; they have caused people to move away from faith in the Lord; they have caused people to have different aspirations and a variety of hopes; they have caused people to overlook the true calling of the church. But God is sounding an alarm in Mount Zion. He has NOW put the trumpet to His lips. He is preparing a people to stand against the devil and all his angels!

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. – Revelation 2:10

31
JULY

Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 29:1-36
Romans 14:1-23
Psalm 24:1-10
Proverbs 20:12



God had prepared two bodies for the Lord Jesus Christ. One was the earthly tabernacle of His physical body. This body was formed by the Father and brought forth by the Holy Spirit. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Mary and said, “.. thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son”, Mary asked the angel, “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” The angel of the Lord replied, “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee”. In other words the angel told Mary that her son would neither be the product of man, nor the result of the will of man. There would be no display of the power of man in the bringing forth of this Son. The first body of the Lord Jesus was birthed of the Spirit; it was born from above. The first fruit was from above; He was heavenly and born of the Spirit. The second body of Christ that the Father is forming and preparing is the many-membered body of Christ, which is the Church. The principles that brought forth the physical body shall also be at work in the bringing forth of this many-membered Body. The angel’s declaration to Mary that the Holy Ghost shall overshadow thee, is also to be true concerning the bringing forth of this body of many sons. If the Firstfruit was not the product of man, nor was born of the will of man, then this shall also be true about Body of Christ, His Church.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Leave her alone – John 12:7

Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 30:1-31:21

Romans 15:1-22

Psalms 25:1-15

Proverbs 20:13-15

1

AUGUST

“Again the kingdom of heaven is like unto a treasure hid in a field; which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth, and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field”. (Matthew 13:44). This parable is often used to explain how one should find salvation, and buy it. May be we could see it from another angle. The kingdom is like a treasure hid in a field. Individually and corporately, we are that earthen field. The kingdom is in us, but hidden, veiled by the flesh. Jesus found it, and “for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross” and He bought that field. He paid the price in full. He purchased our earthen vessels. He also has an eternal plan for us. “For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Corinthians 6:20). Our body has been purchased; so also our spirit. What is He going to do with this earthen body of ours? The Word of God says, “who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body...” (Philippians 3:21). Praise His wonderful name! He will take this very earthly tabernacle we now live in, and change it into a glorious and eternal temple. “We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed” (I Corinthians 15:51).

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.

(on giving) – Matthew 22:21

2
AUGUST

Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 32:1-33:13

Romans 15:23-16:9

Psalm 25:16-22

Proverbs 20:16-18



What is tradition? Tradition is the rules handed down to us by our elders and forefathers. When man gets smarter than God then he gets into tradition. When man takes the Word of God and reads it and says, “The Word of God says, this but I say this!” then he is on the way of establishing a tradition. The scribes were breaking the commandment of God by giving themselves to the tradition of man. They did not realise that by keeping the tradition of man they were breaking and transgressing and disobeying God’s commandments. Jesus emphasises that by adhering to their traditions, the scribes had made the commandments of God to be null and void. Jesus said that they invalidated the Word of God for the sake of their traditions. If you are a true disciple of Jesus you will also be ready to break any tradition today.

One of the greatest enemies of God’s purposes in these days is the “traditions of men”. But the Scripture says, “You shall know the truth (ie. you shall know Him; you shall know the Word) and the truth shall set you free, indeed”.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Peace be with you. – Luke 24:36

Today's Reading 2 Chronicles 33:14-34:33

Romans 16:10-27

Psalm 26:1-12

Proverbs 20:19

3

AUGUST

“In the days of His flesh (Jesus) offered up definite, special petitions (for that which He not only wanted but needed) and supplications, with strong crying and tears to Him Who was (always) able to save Him (out) from death, and He was heard because of His reverence toward God (His godly fear, His piety, in that He shrank from the horrors of separation from the bright presence of the Father). Although He was a Son, He learned (active, special) obedience through what He suffered and (His completed experience) making Him perfect (equipped), He became the Author and Source of eternal salvation to all those who give heed and obey Him,” (*Hebrews 5:7-9, Amplified*). The Lord Jesus had reverence for the will of God. We need to learn true obedience to the will of God. It is one of the most important ingredients in the life of His sons today. We must trust the Father and submit to His perfect will. The Greek word ‘PASCHO’ is used here to denote ‘suffering’. This word does not refer to His suffering on the cross. He learned obedience long before He got to Calvary. He endured every circumstance God brought His way. He allowed the perfect will of God to take place in His life regardless of humiliation and discomfort.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Father, glorify your name! – John 12:28



Today's Reading : 2 Chronicles 35:1-36:23

1 Corinthians 1:1-17

Psalms 27:1-6

Proverbs 20:20-21



“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;” (Hebrews 5:9) The Lord Jesus was perfect when He was born and laid in the manger. With regard to sin and impurity, He was perfect. But in the matter of fulfilling the purposes of God upon this earth, He had to be ‘made perfect’. He was brought to that place of perfection through the dealings of God. And all sons must go the same way. Are you suffering? Do you revere His will? Are you allowing the will of God to take its toll on your ways and desires? Are you enduring every circumstance of life with the knowledge that He is the Lord of your life? The attacks of Satan cannot destroy a son who is so submitted to the Lord. Job and Satan both found out this fact. Every attack of the enemy is only to be overcome. But let the will of God dominate our own wills, our ways, and our self-life. Let the life of the Son within us rise up. All the dealings of God in our lives have one thing in view—that we may have “a harvest of fruit which consists in righteousness — in conformity to God’s will in purpose, thought and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God.” (Hebrews 12:11 Amplified).

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Wake up! – Revelation 3:2

Today's Reading : Ezra 1:1-2:70
 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5
 Psalm 27:7-14
 Proverbs 20:22-23

5
AUGUST

“(The purpose is) that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere.” (*Ephesians* 3:10, Amplified). Upon this earth in this realm of time, God shall have a glorious church without spot and wrinkle or any defilement. This will not just be a theory, or a mystical, hazy, abstract, far-off dream. It will be a visible operation, made real in a company of people who bring forth the life of His Son Jesus, a people, born not of the will of the flesh, but born of God. The ‘many-sons’ are born of the incorruptible Seed, by the Word of God. They are His sons and He is their God. He shall bring these sons unto glory for they shall overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. The Lord will share His throne, His authority and power and dominion with them.

God’s whole programme is aimed at the express purpose of perfecting His sons in this hour. The actions of our enemies, and even all circumstances, are controlled by the Lord with the intent of bringing forth out of us every expression and every spirit that is unlike Him, so that he can deal with them and deliver us.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father
is in me – John 14:11*



Today's Reading : Ezra 3:1-4:23
1 Corinthians 2:6-3:4
Psalm 28:1-9
Proverbs 20:24-25



How careful we need to be in the place of our work! Why do we borrow the wisdom of this world to live our lives? How careful and discerning we ought to be! If we borrow the wisdom of this world, it will question that little faith that God has placed within each one of us. Several begin well in Christ, but the rational man comes in and begins to question the very faith that had saved them. We have to be sensitive about this issue. Our desire should be to have knowledge along with prayers, "Lord, let my learning and my knowledge be together with my God." He is our safety. Every bit of knowledge we acquire is together with Christ who is made unto us the wisdom of God. Let us not have anything without referring to Him, who is the Wisdom of God unto us.

1Cor. 1:21 For when the world with all its earthly wisdom failed to perceive and recognize and know God by means of its own philosophy, God in His wisdom was pleased through the foolishness of preaching [salvation, procured by Christ and to be had through Him], to save those who believed (who clung to and trusted in and relied on Him). We need to give ourselves to the inward prompting of the Spirit so that we may remain related to Christ who is made unto us wisdom.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Stop grumbling among yourselves – John 6:43

Today's Reading : Ezra 4:24-6:22
 1 Corinthians 3:5-23
 Psalm 29:1-11
 Proverbs 20:26-27

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For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Jude 3, 4). The word ‘lasciviousness’ means lacking moral discipline, or having no regard for acceptable moral standards. The English word comes from a Latin word ‘*lesvia*’ which means loose; runaway passion; lust. It signifies lawlessness and the casting away of restraint. It represents all that is filthy and degraded. Jude proclaims that in the last days, men will come into the church of Christ and turn the grace of God into lasciviousness. How terrible! They will turn the grace of God and manipulate it until it allows one to live in all kinds of lawlessness, immorality and filth. Jude says that what is required of us, therefore, is to contend and fight hard to maintain and live in this grace that God has given to us. Jesus called the sin of lasciviousness the sin of the heart. Jude says they will take God’s grace and suddenly twist it. They will manipulate the truth so that it produces immorality in God’s people. False things are not going to enter into the church from outside the church; they will enter the church from within, through the integral ministries operating in the church.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some. – John 21:6



Today's Reading :

Ezra 7:1-8:20

1 Corinthians 4:1-21

Psalms 30:1-12

Proverbs 20:28-30



“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedec.” (Hebrews 6 : 19-20, NASB) A forerunner is the first one to complete the run or race and who is followed by many others. If there is only one person running then he cannot be called a forerunner. A person becomes a forerunner when many more run the same race after him Jesus having completed the course and has entered behind the veil to sit at the right hand of the Father. He is seated, behind the veil at the right hand of the Father. And it is here that our High Priest and Forerunner intercede with the Father to say that there are many more brothers and sisters running behind Him. He is seated behind the veil that we may also complete the race and come to that place, behind the veil, where He is seated. He is our hope, for as long as He is there, we are drawn to that very place where He abides and sits with the Father. “Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7: 25). Our High Priest the Lord Jesus Christ is ever living to make intercession for us. He talks to the Father and implores Him to stay His judgments upon us.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Do not be afraid of them (those that persecute you)

– Matthew 10:26

Today's Reading :

Ezra 8:21-9:15
1 Corinthians 5:1-13
Psalm 31:1-8
Proverbs 21:1-2

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“Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.” (2 Corinthians 13:10) The New Century Bible says, “I am writing this while I am away from you so that when I come I will not have to be harsh in my use of authority. The Lord gave me this authority to build you up, not to tear you down.” The purpose of true ministerial correction in our lives is to build us up and not to destroy us. The aim of anointed ministries is that the saints of God may not be defiled or contaminated and lose their calling in their lives. In the early church, in spite of good, sound, counsel from men of the stature and anointing of the Apostle Paul, the church lapsed into dreadful conditions. If such a thing could happen in the days when men like the Apostle Paul counselled the church, think of the grave danger that the present church experiences today! Beloved, it is awesome and frightening to contemplate this! Today, many come into the house of God only to feed their flesh and souls; they have little thought for the condition of their spirit. They live in great deception, just as some of the Corinthians did. They come to the house of God dutifully, but they fail to repent of their sins.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:35

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Today's Reading :

Ezra 10:1-44
1 Corinthians 6:1-20
Psalm 31:9-18
Proverbs 21:3



“And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.” (Rev 12:15). The picture we get here is of an enraged enemy spewing out evil like flood waters on the earth. This talks about a fuming Satan who will invade the earth in the last days to seduce God’s people. Satan will be occupied in spewing forth a flood of evil and filth upon the earth in the last days. But, through it all, God’s true bride and remnant will be preserved! Though she will be attacked mercilessly by Satan, yet she will be safe and secure in a ‘prepared place’ of God. Men of God, leaders, and people in responsibility, have to be very careful in this hour. From coast to coast, the terrible sin of immorality is becoming an epidemic in the church. Millions are immersing themselves in river of lawlessness of every kind. People are bent upon feeding their souls and their flesh. As a result, millions of believers have developed pitiable moral standards; they are continuously living without any holy restraints. Beloved, believe me, the sin of immorality in the midst of God’s people has reached terrible proportions today. This is true not only in the West but also in our country. Satan’s evil flood waters are sweeping over this country like a Tsunami! The enemy is bent upon deceiving the children of God. O may God help us!

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Listen to him! (God speaking to the disciples about Jesus)

- Mark 9:7

Today's Reading : Nehemiah 1:1-3:14
1 Corinthians 7:1-24
Psalm 31:19-24
Proverbs 21:4

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"For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ..Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth....And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,.. " (Romans 9:15, 18,23). Let us remember that there is a selectiveness of God at work in our lives. It is foolish to think that you have been saved because you cried out to God more than many others! This selectivity of God continues to work in our lives even after we have been saved. Some friends of mine, who were saved at the same time as I was, experienced a splendid beginning in their spiritual lives, but today, they are far away from God's ultimate purposes. However, I have been carried as it were upon the wings of an eagle. Who can explain these workings of God except to say that there is a hand of God that comes upon us! It's not that you found Him but He has found you! That is the reality. If the grace of God has appeared to you, then remember that God has a purpose for you. Every person who is saved must know that he is called and chosen by God for a specific purpose that God has in mind. We need an in-wrought work of God within our spirit to know and accept the fact that we are called according to His purpose.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

- Matthew 7:1

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Today's Reading : Nehemiah 3:15-5:13
1 Corinthians 7:25-40
Psalm 32:1-11
Proverbs 21:5-7



“Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) (2 Peter 2:7) Lot saw and heard men in his day and he was vexed by their unlawful deeds. Lot was a righteous man but because he lived with evil people, his good heart was hurt by the evil things he heard. He was vexed in his being by the things he saw and heard in Sodom. It was so tasteful and appealing to him that he continued to remain in their midst. Beloved, those who are sitting on the fence in these days are going to fall prey to the terrible things that are happening in religious circles in these last days. Those who refuse to enter into the ark of God’s safety will be swept away in these last days by the terrible flood waters that will be released by Satan. It is for us to make sure that we are in a place of safety. We must refuse to sit on the fence so that we can have the good of both worlds. “Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.” (Psalm 1:1)

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. —Matthew 10:28

Today's Reading : Nehemiah 5:14-7:73
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Psalm 33:1-11
Proverbs 21:8-10

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There were so many difficulties that came upon Apostle Paul, yet something held him up and sustained him through all the perils he faced from time to time. Paul, the Apostle says, "We were pressed out of measure, above strength, inasmuch that we despaired even of life" (2 Corinthians 1:8). There is an 'indefinable something' of God that sustains us in every crisis and dilemma, beloved. There is a grip of God upon our lives. When we become despondent, when we feel we cannot go on any longer, when the situation we face seems untenable, unbearable and unsurmountable, an 'indefinable something' holds us and takes us through that circumstance! Something holds us, grips us, and refuses to let us go in any way but the way of God! There is a substance in our salvation that is incomprehensible to us. That indefinable element of God's holding power or keeping power will not allow the situation to get the better of us. But let us not take this in the wrong sense and make it a doctrine. Let us not say that we can live in any way we want and yet be in the centre of God's purpose. Do you experience the deep reality of something keeping you and holding you in the midst of every adverse condition? Can you say that there is a consciousness deep within, that tells you that you are being 'kept', day by day, by an unseen Divine hand!

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Do not let your hearts be troubled. – John 14:1

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Today's Reading : Nehemiah 7:73-9:21
1 Corinthians 9:1-18
Psalm 33:12-22
Proverbs 21:11-12



Saving of man from sin, death and hell and getting them to heaven was nothing compared to what Paul saw as to the significance of a believer now in God's economy in His Son - even their destiny! This is what he explains with great clarity in the books of Ephesians and Colossians. Verses 5 to 11 of Chapter 1 of Ephesians, show us clearly that redemption by the blood of Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of sins and even the obtaining of an inheritance in Christ are all part of our salvation. Thus our salvation has a much higher, purpose, beloved. We are often guilty of limiting our salvation to a few things. If you read the writings of Paul carefully, you will realise that his burden for unbelievers was that they might be saved from sin. When it came to believers, however, Paul's burden was that the believers might live a holy and godly life. He told the believers that the things that they had been called into were much higher — much beyond forgiveness of sins and having a place in Heaven. In the book of Ephesians, we are lifted beyond time to see that our redemption is deeper than the forgiveness of sins. It is something more than being saved from sins. There is a redemption that is ready to be revealed in these last days. It is much deeper and higher than mere deliverance from sin and finding a berth in Heaven.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Seek and you will find; – Matthew 7:7

Today's Reading : Nehemiah 9:22-10:39
1 Corinthians 9:19-10:13
Psalm 34:1-10
Proverbs 21:13

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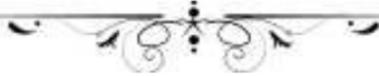
John the Baptist said "He must increase and I must decrease" (John 3:30). What this implies is that there must be a growing revelation of Christ in our lives – that the revelation of Christ must increase in our lives, so that there will be a decrease of the old humanity in our lives, as well. The Scripture does not say "I must decrease and He must increase". The answer of God for me to decrease is that He may increase. When Jesus increases in me by revelation, I shall experience a decrease of my self- life. When there is a growing revelation of the Son and a decrease of the old humanity, there will also be a growing liberation in our lives. We will have a revelation of His Purpose when we have a revelation of the Son. Everything is locked up in the Son. God's whole emphasis is in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. When Apostle Paul had a revelation of Jesus Christ, then he had a revelation of God's purposes. Without a revelation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we will not be able to make an entrance into the purposes of God in our lives. What we need, therefore, above all is for the Father to give us a revelation of the Son in our spirit.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Trust in God; – John 14:1

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Today's Reading : Nehemiah 11:1-12:26
1 Corinthians 10:14-33
Psalm 34:11-22
Proverbs 21:14-16



“Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.” (Jeremiah 23:32). The word ‘lightness’ means ‘froth’ or frivolity (playfulness). In other words, Jeremiah says that these false teachers laugh at the things that are to be revered. Have you seen the lightness with which some people handle things in the house of God? Everything they do is a mockery to the Lord. There is no respect and reverence for His name. They laugh at things that are to be respected and viewed with awe. They scoff at His sovereignty; they mock those who are sober. They ridicule the soberness that accompanies the worship of the Lord. What is the devil’s aim in bringing about and encouraging a spirit of lightness in the church? The devil’s purpose in bringing in a spirit of lightness in the church is to get us to believe that the Lord is not serious about sin. Satan wants us to think that with God there is no such thing as wrath for He is a God of love. The enemy of God wants God’s people to be inoculated with the false idea that in His love for us, the Lord will even overlook sin and shame. Beware!

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. – Revelation 2:16

Today's Reading : Nehemiah 12:27-13:31
1 Corinthians 11:1-16
Psalm 35:1-16
Proverbs 21:17-18

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“All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.” (Matthew 11: 25-27) This Scripture speaks for itself. As we listen to the inner voice of the Spirit in these fragments of the Divine Word, we will surely begin to feel a sense of tremendous meaning, value and content. We should humble ourselves and be like people who have come to the doors of a new realm, full of the unknown, unfamiliar and unexplored truth. At the very threshold, we meet with the statement, "NO MAN KNOWETH THE SON BUT THE FATHER". This statement is intended to check our step! Now listen saints, if we approach with a sense of knowing or already possessing something, or with a sense of contentment and personal satisfaction, or with a sense other than of needing to know everything, then that statement should bring us to a standstill, at once, for it says, "NO MAN KNOWETH"! No man can know the Son, except the Father! Blessed are the people to whom the Father reveals His Son. Often we think we know the Lord and all the Scriptures concerning the Lord. However, we do not know the Son, as we ought to.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. – John 15:4

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Today's Reading : Esther 1:1-3:15
1 Corinthians 11:17-34
Psalm 35:17-28
Proverbs 21:19-20



Satan is planting a lie in the hearts of God's people that God's grace covers unrighteousness! The devil entices us to believe that we can go on sinning fearlessly because His judgments are lie in the wake of God's immense love and grace for the believer. Never believe that lie. Our God is a righteous judge; He is a holy God who cannot tolerate sinfulness and licentiousness. Millions are drinking moral poison from the devil's cup of deception; they mock the Lord's people and laugh at the serious life of the devoted remnant. Sometimes, the enemy whispers in a believers ear, "Don't be frightened by your lust for worldly things. There is abundant mercy and forgiveness in the Lord. The Lord is good all the time." Such thoughts are welcomed and readily accepted by many believers. As a result of this, they become guilty of holding the truth in unrighteousness. Saints, such is the culture of disrespectful and impious believers; they sing a popular song for it is being sung in every church. Soberness, reverence and fear has fled from the congregation and gathering of His saints. May God help us not to be swept away by these flood waters in the last days. Let us make a determined bid to enter into the ark of God's safety in these last days. May we not just gaze at those who are entering into the ark, but make sure that we fail not to enter in along with them while the flood waters of deception are still lapping the sides of the ark.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. – Matthew 6:33

Today's Reading : Esther 4:1-7:10
1 Corinthians 12:1-26
Psalm 36:1-12
Proverbs 21:21-22

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AUGUST

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; (Titus 2:11-13). The Scriptures make it very clear that the grace of God does two things in the life of every believer. **Firstly, it produces anticipation** for the coming of the Lord. **Secondly, it inculcates a godly fear and a holy reverence for the Lord.** These two inward aspects work co-jointly and inseparably in God's people. We cannot possess one without the other. It cannot be that we anticipate His coming eagerly, but at the same time, continue to live without godly fear and reverence. It is impossible for us to possess one without the other if the grace of God is upon us. But what we see today is that while everyone is waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus, their lives and their hearts do not exhibit godly fear and reverence. This is nothing short of turning the grace of God into immorality because of the deception of the evil one. In other words, the grace of God produces reverence and godly fear. Reverence includes awe, respect, and soberness.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

— John 16:24

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Today's Reading : Esther 8:1-10:3
1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13
Psalm 37:1-11
Proverbs 21:23-24



In the days of Moses, twelve people — one from each tribe — were chosen to go into the land of Canaan. They were to spy the land and bring back a report to the people of God. We know that when the twelve returned, they presented two kinds of intelligence reports. One report said that they would never be able to inherit the land of Canaan because giants occupied the land, before which they were like grasshoppers. The other report said that they were well able to take the land at once. We know that it was this good, positive report of Caleb and Joshua that helped the new generation of Israel to enter into the land later on.

When the people heard the report of Joshua and Caleb, they were ready to stone them. This reveals a significant fact. The enemy was not only out there in the land of Canaan, but there was an enemy entrenched in the hearts of God's people as well. The Israelites had not only to overthrow their enemies in the land of Canaan, but there was a formidable enemy within the Israelite camp also. This enemy had a firm foothold in the hearts of the people of God. Unobtrusively, the enemy had made a way into their very hearts! How true that is to principle and to history!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. —

Revelation 2:10

Today's Reading :

Job 1:1-3:26
1 Corinthians 14:1-17
Psalm 37:12-29
Proverbs 21:25-26

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“Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 1:7-8). The Lord says, “You bring polluted sacrifices to me but you do not revere and fear me. Look at the way you behave in my house; look at your worship; look at your attitude; look at your mentality; look at your lifestyle; look how you behave yourself in My house.” And then He adds, “Go and do the same with your earthly boss, and see what he would do and say to you.” Truly, if we were to misbehave and deal with our earthly bosses as we do with the Lord, we would lose our jobs in the twinkling of an eye. The church would be flooded with prayer requests of those who would have lost their jobs! If we continue to behave in a similar manner towards our Lord, what do we expect the Lord to do? Saints, the question is not how much we worship or serve the Lord, but what is the quality of our worship and service unto the Lord. The Word in Malachi shows that there was no shortage of sacrifices (or meetings) or worship in the house of God in those days but quality was wanting.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Take away the stone. – John 11:38



Today's Reading : Job 4:1-7:21
1 Corinthians 14:18-40
Psalm 37:30-40
Proverbs 21:27



“And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12-13). What did the law require of God’s people in days past? Only to fear the Lord, love Him, walk in His ways and serve Him! It is the same even today! To fear the Lord, our God, and to love Him, and to walk in His ways, and to serve the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our being, is the consistent, inflexible and unfailing desire of God for each one of us. “Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.” (Joshua 24:14).

Many believers do not understand that the love of God can never be separated from the reverential fear and respect of God. The fear of God and the love of God are two sides of the same coin. God will be pleased with our lives only if fear and love for Him are not separated from each another.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Repent and do the things you did at first. – Revelation 2:5

Today's Reading : Job 8:1-11:20
 1 Corinthians 15:1-28
 Psalm 38:1-22
 Proverbs 21:28-29

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If we only fear God, and do not also love Him, we will be like slaves who stand in the terror and dread of their masters. God does not want man to be His slave. We know this because He made man in His own image and His likeness. He loves man and He wants man to know the love of God. At the same time, God wants man to fear Him in a reverential, godly way. To fear God does not mean that we become fearful of Him; the right fear of God will bring a desire to obey Him spontaneously. The incorrect kind of fear of God will bring us to obey God in a certain way, it will lead us to a certain kind of obedience, but not to the obedience of faith where love for God is the driving motive. Serving God with a heart that fears Him but does not also love Him, will result in dead works, without a life-fellowship with the Father, the Son and with one another. Abraham did not obey the Lord because he feared that some terrible evil would befall him unless he obeyed God. He obeyed the Lord because of an inherent and integral love for God. The obedience of faith leads us to love the Lord unconditionally. Abraham loved the Lord not because he feared the judgments of the Lord or the punishments that the Lord could mete out to Him, but because a love for the Lord was working in him.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

What you are about to do, do quickly – John 13:27

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Today's Reading : Job 12:1-15:35
1 Corinthians 15:29-58
Psalm 39:1-13
Proverbs 21:30-31



The glory of Christ was because of certain incorruptible characteristics. One of them was His union with the Father. Jesus' union with the Father, and His intimacy with the Holy Spirit of God, was something deep and real. His relationship with the Father was not superficial, theoretical, or judicial. It was something so real, so deep and so unshakeable. It could sustain Him in every trial, test and affliction. In spite of all the efforts of men, demons, the powers of hell, and the devil himself, to separate Jesus from the Father, Jesus kept a close and intimate fellowship with His Father. His union with the Father remained unshakeable. It was not anything superficial; it was something tried, tested and proven. Jesus was sensitive to the Father's desires at all times. His union with the Father remained uninterrupted throughout His life. The Lord made it very clear that the union that existed between Him and the Father could also exist between the Father, Christ and us. We can experience the same organic oneness, reality and fellowship that He went through. This is the kind of relationship and fellowship we ought to have with the Father. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we need to remain in the place of union with God.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Give, and it will be given to you. – Luke 6:38

Today's Reading : Job 16:1-19:29
1 Corinthians 16:1-24
Psalm 40:1-10
Proverbs 22:1

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The history of man is the history of an effort to get glory without getting it from God! This seeking for glory is seen as something that started very early in the scripture and we see it going all the way through; but the glory of man always ended in corruption! We are living in a world where man is trying to obtain glory for himself. The pronouncement of God on the life of man that brings a glory of his own, is one of corruption. This corruption of man which seeks his own glory is a self-destructing thing. It will result in obliterating man from the face of this earth. On one hand, man is trying to invent devices to destroy other men, but on the other, man is clothing himself with a self-made glory, that will result in his own destruction. Men use self-proclaimed designations, grand titles and high-sounding words to glorify themselves. People elevate themselves with the honour that comes from others. Their glory lies in the honour that others give them because of their elaborate titles and terminology. Man honours himself for inventing things — inventions that will, one day, blot out the very human race! Is that something glorious? It seems that man cannot help himself because he is energised by another power and is no more his own master. He is ruled by another spirit. He calls it “glory”, but it is nothing but the blindness of man!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. – Revelation 3:2

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Today's Reading : Job 20:1-22:30
2 Corinthians 1:1-11
Psalm 40:11-17
Proverbs 22:2-4



“That world which our Savior once refused to buy at the price of disobedience to God is now wooing His professed followers with every sly, deceptive artifice. The glory which our Lord once rejected with cold scorn is now being admired and sought after by multitudes who make a loud profession of accepting the gospel. The old trick which our Lord saw through so easily is charming His present day followers into smiling acquiescence. The devil did not know Christ, but apparently he knows Christians. Satan’s effort to destroy Christianity on the doctrinal front has not been a success; there are probably more Bible believers now than at any time in world history. Still the true religion of the cross is in great and serious peril on another front and strangely enough, many of the very warriors who fought so valiantly when the veracity of the Bible was attacked have failed to recognize the enemy when he has approached from a new direction. The real peril today arises from within the fold of orthodox believers. It consists of an acceptance of the world’s values, a belief that the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them are valid prizes to be pursued by believing men and women. Blind leaders of blind souls are admitting that there is something to be said in favor of the world-glory after all; they insist that Christians should not cut themselves off from the pleasures of the world, except, of course, from those that are too degraded for respectable society.” -AWT

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. (when you are arrested) – Matthew 10:19

Today's Reading : Job 23:1-27:23
2 Corinthians 1:12-2:11
Psalm 41:1-13
Proverbs 22:5-6

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The Lord is going to gather those believers whose hearts are really grieved because of the condition of God's house in this hour. In the Old Testament, the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles was called the day of the solemn assembly. On that day the people put aside everything else, and gave themselves wholly to worship the Father. There is more light on the solemn assembly in Isaiah. "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting." (Isaiah 1:11-13) Even on the last day of the feast when the people had separated themselves for focused worship, the Lord was not pleased. However in Zephaniah, the Lord says that He will gather those who are sorrowful for the solemn assembly. The solemn assembly talked about a people who were separated unto God. The feast was a time to meet with the Lord. This is true for the Church as well, for the Church is a solemn assembly. The Church is the gathering of separated people.

✠ *Today's Command* ✠

Receive the Holy Spirit. – John 20:22

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Today's Reading : Job 28:1-30:31
2 Corinthians 2:12-17
Psalm 42:1-11
Proverbs 22:7



We are living in a world where every man seems to have an opinion about everything under the sun, irrespective of whether they have any knowledge about the subject or not! In spiritual circles it is no different. The people of God seem to foster their own opinions about the things of God. We need to understand that in spiritual matters, there are different measures of satisfaction, dissimilar desires and differing aspects of fulfillment. In the midst of such a wide variety of attitudes and opinions, to perceive and know the mind of God, and to see what would satisfy His heart, is not easy. One would speak out and say, "This is of God." Another would say, "This bears the mark of His testimony." Yet another would say that this is not the highest, for there is something more." And some would proclaim that though this would not satisfy a holy, righteous God, but He would be pleased with this or by that. This kind of opinionated approach is so real in the spiritual world. What should we do in the midst of such debate and confusion? It is not easy to differentiate the true things of God. That is why our inward eyes need to be opened. If our eyes fail to behold the right things, then it is only a matter of time when some areas of our lives will begin to fall apart and it could be in our individual lives or in our family life or in the family of God, which is the Church.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. - Matthew 11:29

Today's Reading :

Job 31:1-33:33

2 Corinthians 3:1-18

Psalm 43:1-5

Proverbs 22:8-9

29
AUGUST

David's unfortunate, impulsive action in bringing the Ark back on a new cart (1 Chronicles 13), contrary to the instructions of the Lord, led to an unexpected crisis in Israel. He made a cart like the one he saw when he had escaped to the land of the Philistines some time ago. He saw this 'new technology' for the first time in the land of the Philistines and desired to use it to bring back the sacred Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Beloved, is this not what some people are doing even today – bringing in new ideas and technologies to do the work of the Lord and bring growth in the ministry? David thought that using a new cart was a good and easy way to get the Testimony back from the Philistines. He did not realize that by doing this he would break one of God's important principles. He did not realize that using his 'own way' of bringing back the ark of God's testimony would breach God's principles. In making a cart like that of the Philistine's, David linked God's sacred ark to the things of this world, thus opening the door to death. The result was that the whole movement was brought to a standstill! Despite the zeal, enthusiasm and mighty voices of songsters, God was not happy and did not commit Himself to it.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Do not be afraid of them (those that persecute you)

– Matthew 10:26

30
AUGUST

Today's Reading : Job 34:1-36:33
 2 Corinthians 4:1-12
 Psalm 44:1-8
 Proverbs 22:10-12



Daniel purposed inwardly to refrain from defiling or corrupting himself in the King's palace. "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." (Dan 1:8) It is interesting to look at the word 'defile' in greater detail. In the original the word defile means 'freeing through repudiation'. For Daniel it was a matter of being free inwardly. In other words Daniel said, "If I compromise of standards, in any way, I will be robbed of my freedom". This implies that any compromise of the standards that God has set for me would rob me of my freedom with God. What a tremendous commitment that was in Daniel's life! It talks of an inward commitment to God and not of some wishy-washy, outward commitment made to impress others. Many of God's people do not hesitate to show forth their commitment to God, His church, His work and His purpose when others are around but withdraw their commitments when they are on their own and nobody watches. Daniel was not like that. He purposed that he would not surrender the liberty he had with the living God.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Trust also in me. – John 14:1

Today's Reading : Job 37:1-39:30
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10
Psalm 44:9-26
Proverbs 22:13

31
AUGUST

Daniel was willing to bury all offers of partial acceptance to appease the king. He was prepared to give up his own life to remain pure and undefiled before his God. This is the way Daniel consecrated and sanctified himself unto the Lord. What they saw when they first arrived in Babylon must have shocked them beyond belief. The society in Babylon was hopelessly loose and immoral. The sensitive spiritual senses of the Hebrew children were assaulted, as it were. Therefore, they jointly made a commitment and told each other, "We dare not compromise. We dare not adopt the moral standards of Babylon. We will separate ourselves; we will be wholly disciplined in our walk of faith! Daniel's decision to abstain from the king's meat was not just a matter of eating and drinking. The Babylonian Empire at that time was at its peak of grandiose. Immorality reigned; they were full of pride, vanity and arrogance. In refusing to eat the tasty meal set before him, Daniel made a strong statement or stand against the whole nation that did not serve the living God. That was their resolve. They sanctified themselves to the Lord of Hosts. They did not go about preaching their life to others but they lived that sanctified, separated and holy life. It was strictly a matter between them and their God.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Ask and it will be given to you; – Matthew 7:7

1
SEPTEMBER

Today's Reading : Job 40:1-42:17
2 Corinthians 5:11-21
Psalm 45:1-17
Proverbs 22:14



“Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city! She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God.” (Zephaniah 3: 1,2). To be a part of the true remnant of God, we have to make sure that, first of all, we do not have an attitude that is similar to the leaders of Zephaniah’s time. We must be those who take heed to His voice, accept correction from the Lord, receive correction into our lives, and lean not upon ourselves, but upon the Lord. Many times we think we can be a part of the godly remnant of God by agreeing ideologically with what God says. But we cannot be a part of the remnant of God unless and until we experience a working of the Spirit in our hearts. The Lord meaningfully says that He will have a remnant who will not idle away their time in church when the Church is being invaded by false prophets and teachers! They will not ignore what is happening to the Church as a result of their activities. They will not ignore the false prophets and teachers who are coming into the Church of Jesus Christ and destroying it by their workings. God will gather people who yearn for His presence these days; He will gather people who will not just come to church for the sake of some form and order, but who will be aware of their responsibilities unto the Lord.

Today's Command

Be on your guard against men – Matthew 10:17

Today's Reading : Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:22
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Psalm 46:1-11
Proverbs 22:15

2
SEPTEMBER

For several people, physical and moral convenience is the paramount factor in coming together. People seek for greater convenience in all spheres of activity. This is a common sickness among God's people that God wants to deal with in these days. Oh, it may sound inconsiderate and harsh, but it is the mind of God. God is sounding an alarm in His holy Church and those who can hear it must give themselves to the calling, unmindful of their inconvenience and bother. Beloved, to gather as a remnant is far from a matter of a bargain. Sadly, many of us are still found sitting around the bargaining table. For many, gathering to worship the Lord and fellowshiping with His people is a matter that calls for the display of their bargaining skills! They can attend one meeting but not the prayer meeting! However, if our eyes have beheld the Lord and if we are able to see the right from the wrong in His light, we will cast aside the bargaining spirit. Sometimes, people behave like spoilt and pampered children. They cannot withstand any inconvenience, however minor and insignificant. Let none be deceived! If anyone wants to be part of God's remnant, it is the burden of the Spirit that must govern one's decisions and not one's convenience or handiness. May God help us to correct our mistaken attitudes!

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth

– Matthew 6:19

3
SEPTEMBER

Today's Reading : Ecclesiastes 4:1-6:12
2 Corinthians 6:14-7:7
Psalm 47:1-9
Proverbs 22:16



Sometimes, people talk about the great blessings they have received from God, but their hearts are closed. Has your heart in some way become enslaved to the blessings you have received? Concerning Israel, the Word of God says, "And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul". (Ps 106:15). Many are happy to get what they want from the Lord but it could render their hearts blind! We need to fix our eyes upon the Lord and His purpose so that the eyes of our heart can see what is happening all around. Then we will experience a grief within and there will be no question of being drawn or being tempted by the surrounding apostasy. Let God's remnant cry out, "Lord help me to see that which is upon your heart." It is a matter of beholding Him. Let your heart stay upon the Lord. Over the years, I have been repeatedly telling my brethren to fix their eyes and hearts upon the Lord, and some have given themselves to that counsel, but at the same time there are some who heeded not and they are no more in our midst. The tragedy is that those very persons, who were so much a part of our vision at one time, being opposed to the pomp, hype and superficiality of so called Christian groups, are now propagating the very things they were opposed to when they were a part of the vision that God had given us!

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you (if your brother sins against you) – Matthew 18:15

Today's Reading : Ecclesiastes 7:1-9:18
 2 Corinthians 7:8-16
 Psalm 48:1-14
 Proverbs 22:17-19

4
SEPTEMBER

Daniel was a man who had set his face to seek the Lord. When the order came to kill all those who could not give an interpretation of the king's dream, Daniel simply asked for some time to consider this! He and his Hebrew brethren sought the face of the Lord. Let this challenge each one of us. They were men of prayer, men who sought the Lord's face at every turn. Right through the Book of Daniel we see them to be praying men. The first commitment they made was to live a separated life. Saints, that commitment had to be backed up by a second commitment—to seek the face of the Lord in prayer. It is impossible to live a separated and holy life without spending much time on our knees seeking God for power and authority to lead such a life! With most of us it ends with the commitment we make unto the Lord! It is no wonder that after a week we are back to square one. Saints, if you have decided to separate yourself unto the Lord and be a part of His purpose, you have made a good decision. However, this decision must be backed up by a second commitment to seek the face of the Lord. Let me reiterate that it is nigh impossible to live as Jesus lived without seeking the Lord's mind and being with the Lord in prayer. This principle, of backing up all things by prayer, can be applied to every commitment we make unto the Lord.

Today's Command

Go now and leave your life of sin. – John 8:11

5
SEPTEMBER

Today's Reading : Ecclesiastes 10:1-12:14
2 Corinthians 8:1-15
Psalm 49:1-20
Proverbs 22:20-21



The final battle between light and darkness is drawing near. Everything is moving towards the climax when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of God and Christ. At this crucial juncture in the history of the Church, many believers are being singled out by the enemy. They are picked off one by one by the prince of this world. The adversary seems to have no difficulty in doing so in these last days. But if our hearts are set towards the Lord and His purpose, and to be a part of his remnant in the earth, a part of His pure Body in the earth. In the midst of the chaos and delusion, **there will be a remnant of believers, called the “elect” of God, who will ever remain faithful to the Lord.** They will be those who have beheld the Lord. They will say, “How can I be disobedient to my heavenly calling? How can I forget what the Lord has enabled me to hear and see?” They will bear the testimony of the Lord. Verse 14 of Matthew 24 shows us that the elect will bear the testimony before the nations. The nations will hate them for bearing His testimony. Though the nations will hate them, they will still bear the testimony of the Lord - “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come”. Then shall the end come.

Today's Command

Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. – Matthew 6:34

Today's Reading: Song of Solomon 1:1-4:16
2 Corinthians 8:16-24
Psalm 50:1-23
Proverbs 22:22-23

6
SEPTEMBER

The Lord has told us that great spiritual darkness will engulf the whole world. Darkness signifies religious deception, both in the world and in the Church. Thus darkness will be the hallmark of the last days or the days in which we live. The Lord said that false christs and false prophets will arise. Darkness will intensify and God's people will continue to be deceived. Deception among God's people will be widespread, beloved. Iniquity will increase as believers enter into greater measures of deception. As a result, the love of many shall wax cold. These are the signs of the last days. Who can deny that these things are already taking place today in some measure? The Lord further told us that God's true people shall be hated by all nations. Do not take this lightly. I don't think we have come to this yet, but the Scriptures say that the enemy is going to get more and more powerful, though the Lord shall be with His own people. God's people will be hated and some will even be betrayed by fellow believers. Some in God's remnant church may even be put to death. Some of us will be called to suffer and go through terrible persecution, having been betrayed by our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Such shall be the signs of the last days! These are happening in some measure in the midst of God's people.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

And this is love, that we walk after his commandments.

2John 1:6



Today's Reading Song of Solomon 5:1-8:14

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Psalms 51:1-19

Proverbs 22:24-25



It is our right to ask for the rain. We see this in Zechariah 10:1 “Ask of the Lord rain in the time of the latter or spring rain. It is the Lord who makes lightning’s which usher in the rain and give men showers of it, to everyone grass in the field.” It is your birth-right to ask for the latter rain in your life. People ask for good wives, for visas, for titles, for husbands and houses and all carnal things. But the Word of God says we are to ask for more rain. It is time to fall upon our faces and ask the Lord for the latter rain. Let it be the desire of our hearts to pray and ask for the latter rain that the seed may grow into maturity and fullness. The seed sown in our hearts has been sown by the Lord. This is a crucial time. Let us awaken out of our sleep and put on the whole armour of light. Let us discard that which is of the flesh and of darkness. Let us recognize God’s authority, receive God’s authority, release God’s authority and rest on God’s authority.

The seed of God’s Word has been sown deep down in your heart. What you need is the rain. Pray for the rain. Let us pray to the Lord for a rain of abundance.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]... as ye see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

Today's Reading : Isaiah 1:1-2:22
 2 Corinthians 10:1-18
 Psalm 52:1-9
 Proverbs 22:26-27

8
SEPTEMBER

The word mansion is used only twice in the Bible in John 14:2 and in John 14:23. The Greek word for 'mansion' is 'mane' which talks about a fixed abode and not a mansion. While translating the word 'mane' into English the people mistranslated it into 'mansion' instead of an abode or dwelling place. Vine's Expository Dictionary says that there is nothing in the word to indicate separate compartments in heaven, neither does it suggest a temporary resting place on the road. The Amplified Bible also makes it clear that Jesus says, "We will come and make our abode". John, the apostle, saw the new heavens and the new earth. He saw the new Jerusalem and he said, "Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and they shall be His people and He shall be their God". (Revelation 21:3). Is man going to heaven or is God coming down to man to dwell in and amongst him? Jesus said, "We will come". Who is the Father's House? The Bible says, "Ye are the temple of the living God. And the Spirit of God dwelleth in you" Let us not doubt that we are the house of God and we are the Father's house.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself
rather unto godliness. 1 Timothy 4:7*



Today's Reading :

Isaiah 3:1-5:30

2 Corinthians 11:1-15

Psalms 53:1-6

Proverbs 22:28-29



What happened in the days of Noah? The people were very busy eating and drinking, giving in marriage and taking in marriage. We know this is true because Jesus Himself said so. The people of Noah's time were caught up with the issues of life. Eating, drinking, and marrying are common issues of life. The people gave themselves to these common, everyday things, with no thought for the will of God, until the flood came and took them all away. So shall also the coming of the Son of Man be! How prophetic!

“And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;” (2 Peter 2:5). The Scripture says that Noah was a preacher of righteousness. Noah was a witness and the testimony of the Lord in his time. Noah was a witness both to and against his generation. He bore a testimony in righteousness before the people and the nations for 120 years! But the Scripture tells us that no one listened to him. Can you believe this? For 120 years he bore a testimony before the people! No one listened to him – no one repented, no one heard what Noah had to say! They just continued to live as they normally did.

Today's Command

Enter through the narrow gate. – Matthew 7:13

Today's Reading : Isaiah 6:1-7:25
 2 Corinthians 11:16-33
 Psalm 54:1-7
 Proverbs 23:1-3

10
SEPTEMBER

It seems that Noah had an unsuccessful ministry for 120 years! No one was saved through his ministry. He seems to have been defeated at every point! In the eyes of today's evangelists, therefore, Noah was a most unsuccessful man, for none but his family was saved through his ministry. Noah's obedient and righteous life did not result in anyone being saved apart from his immediate family! Today however, success and achievements are the main issues, the key points, and the crux for many leaders. They try to achieve success at any cost because they stand blinded to the reality by the adversary. The present trend in the church world is that anything that is successful is the Lord and anything that works and brings good results is the Holy Spirit. They choose not to be guided by the Holy Spirit and instead turn to philosophy and reason as their guiding star. They forsake the Spirit and depend on their own soul to do God's work and bring good results. And all the while they believe that they are being led of the Spirit of God! Thus they compromise the Word of God in many ways. What a terrible deception? We can know what is true and what is false only when our minds are enlightened and renewed! Here was a faithful witness, a man of righteousness, who preached day and night for 120 years, but no one other than his own household listened to him!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let man not separate. (What God has brought together in marriage) – Matthew 19:6

11
SEPTEMBER

Today's Reading : Isaiah 8:1-9:21
 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
 Psalm 55:1-23
 Proverbs 23:4-5



Men will appreciate you one day and throw you out the next day. Men will change, their opinions will change, and their evaluations will change, but the God in whom you put your trust will never change. So it is very important, wherever you may be and whatever may be your responsibility, to remain true to the One who has called you and placed you in His kingdom. As spiritual people we ought to be concerned with only one thing—what the Lord has to say about our life. Today many believers are living their spiritual lives before other people! That sort of life will never reach beyond the temporal. It will never re-appear in eternity. It is futile to live before men. The most important challenge today is to live before the Lord. The church in Sardis had a name. it was alive but the people were dead! The Lord's opinion of them was just opposite to that of the saints in the church at Sardis. Most people evaluate a preacher according to the display of spiritual gifts and an ability to articulate the word of God. The opinion of the majority of believers could be a hundred percent wrong! In the same way, a church could be alive unto the Lord and to His testimony, but in the opinion of the majority of Christendom that church could be considered no better than dead! But the Lord is not impressed by any of these things.

Today's Command

For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 1 Peter 3:10

Today's Reading : Isaiah 10:1-11:16
 2 Corinthians 12:11-21
 Psalm 56:1-13
 Proverbs 23:6-8

12
SEPTEMBER

A child of God who takes life seriously will invariably be found seeking God for something that will explain the spiritual experiences he faces. He will look to God for that which will explain his experience. This is the mark of the true child of God who is progressing on in the things of God. There are many believers in whose lives situations come and go without affecting or touching them in any way. When they are faced with situations, they go through experiences of one kind to another, but the situations end without bringing about any real spiritual progress in their lives. But true children of God's heart will always look for an explanation for everything in life. They continue to look unto God and none other for every explanation and answer. That is how they get to know the Lord and His ways. However, the reality is that there are very few believers who walk this way. Only those who are serious about this calling in their lives really seek to know the meaning of every situation they face. Today, many believers are crisis-managing people. Somehow they manage to move from one crisis to another in their lives. But the true child of God seeks the face of the Lord to know the correct explanation of things that are happening in his life.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. Jam 4:15

13
SEPTEMBER

Today's Reading : Isaiah 12:1-14:32
2 Corinthians 13:1-14
Psalm 57:1-11
Proverbs 23:9-11



In Romans 8:22, we read of another groaning. “We know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” Paul talks about a groaning creation. If you put your ear to the groaning creation you will probably hear them say, “What it is all about?” They do not know all the details but they are groaning. And then the Apostle Paul goes on to say in verse 23: “And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.” We have deep questions in our hearts. We are facing such difficulties, trials and sufferings both within and without. They say, “Lord, what does it lead to? Lord, I have your promises, yet there are these difficulties, trials and sufferings”. The Apostle Paul went through similar things in his life; he set himself to seek the Lord and the explanation came from the Lord. “For this thing I besought the Lord thrice that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” (II Corinthians 12:8-9). We face many types of situations in our lives. The Lord will help us to seek Him in these days if we are those who are ‘groaning within ourselves’ for the answers. He will help us to change our ideas, our thoughts, and our ways.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: Luke 22:17

Today's Reading :

Isaiah 15:1-18:7

Galatians 1:1-24

Psalm 58:1-11

Proverbs 23:12

14

SEPTEMBER

A bond servant is is at liberty to leave in the 7th year (Deut 15:12-17). But if he chooses to be a bond servant of his master, by his own free volition, he would say, "I don't want to be free and go away with all your blessings because I love you and your house, my master. Though all things are lawful and I can leave this house, yet I know that all things do not edify. I would rather serve you, my master, than be on my own." On hearing such a willing submission, the master would then proceed to bring him to the judges. The master would tell the judges that this servant man willingly chose to stay and serve him. Then the master would take him to the nearest doorpost and pierce his ear. Thus the servant would serve the master for all the days of his life. It is clear that a bond servant is one who by his own free volition chooses to be a perpetual slave unto his master. This is very precious, saints. What makes all the difference between a normal servant and a bond servant is the choice that the servant makes before his master. A servant works for wages, but a bond servant serves the master for love and surrenders his personal rights unto the master. He is free to leave carrying all the master's blessings with him, but chooses instead to stay with the master and work as his bond-slave. Thereafter, the master's home becomes his home for he has no where else to go!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Watch out for false prophets. – Matthew 7:15

15
SEPTEMBER

Today's Reading :

Isaiah 19:1-21:17

Galatians 2:1-16

Psalms 59:1-17

Proverbs 23:13-14



“Let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.” (Joel 2:16). It is time for feeding-mothers and children to be found in the gathering of God’s people! Gathering with the saints is not a matter of our convenience. Though we may be living in cities where the life is fast, leaving one no spare time, we need to change and be delivered of our mentalities. If and when we are delivered of our natural mindsets and our attitudes, our feet will move, our pockets will not hold us back, and we will find the time to spend at His feet with saints who gather with this burden! There are so many churches today that consider they are the end-time church and they call themselves end-time people, but the people have no time to spend at His feet. They are only able to meet during the week-end! They only do whatever is convenient; as people of convenience they do not really have a true burden of the Lord. All that matters to them is the doctrine. They are ‘week-enders’! They are, therefore, a weakened people! May such ones come out of their deceptions in this hour! To be delivered of our mentalities, our eyes need to be opened to the things that the Lord is speaking. Otherwise, nothing will happen in our lives, and we shall remain a people blinded by the false glimmer of this world. This is the calling of God that is resting upon us.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. 1Corinthians 10:10

Today's Reading : Isaiah 22:1-24:23
 Galatians 2:17-3:9
 Psalm 60:1-12
 Proverbs 23:15-16

16
SEPTEMBER

In Gen 11:3-9 of the Scriptures we read about a city that men began to build 'unto God'. Beloved, we are living in times not very different from those ancient times. Many cities and towers are being built in the power and strength of man. "Let us make," is what people are declaring all around us in these days. Even in the spiritual world, there are many towers coming up today; many cities are being constructed where men are boldly going all out to exalt their own name and make a name for themselves. In Babel, God brought confusion among men for He said, "Let us go down and confound them". The Word shows us that when sinful man built a city to make a name for himself, the Lord intervened and scattered them.

In Genesis 12, the chapter following the Babel Chapter, we see how God called out one man out of the Ur of the Chaldees, a man who never knew the true God in his life. God's hand came upon a man; and God's mind was revealed to a family. There are many precious things in these chapters of Genesis, but through them what we see is that Abraham had a heart for God. He had a seeking heart, for he looked for a city whose maker and builder is God.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.

- Matthew 8:22

17
SEPTEMBER

Today's Reading :
Isaiah 25:1-28:13
Galatians 3:10-22
Psalm 61:1-8
Proverbs 23:17-18



“For he (Abraham) looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” (Hebrews 11:10). In his quest for this city of God, Abraham went up and down the land of promise. As he moved from place to place he saw many cities. And when he saw a great city called Sodom he said to himself, “This is not the city that has been built by the hand of God.” He moved on and saw another city called Gomorrah and said, “No this city can never be the one that has been built by God”. So we see Abraham sojourning from city to city, but he saw that none of the cities could ever have been built by God. He was able to discern that in those cities everything was contrary to what God was showing him. So Abraham continued to sojourn in the land of promise with the concept that eventually he will find that city whose maker and builder is God. Though he moved from place to place, his divine conception never materialized. All the remaining years of his life he continued to seek for that particular city but he never found it. Over hundred years passed before he died, but Abraham never realized the fruit of his search! “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. (Heb 11: 13,14)

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord, 1 Corinthians 15:58*

Today's Reading : Isaiah 28:14-30:11
 Galatians 3:23-4:31
 Psalm 62:1-12
 Proverbs 23:19-21

18
SEPTEMBER

You have your liberty, your freedom, your opinions, your judgments on all matters, however, where will it take you? Are you willing to say, "Lord, I have the liberty but I surrender my liberty to You". Are you willing to walk to the doorpost and say, "Lord I am willing? Leave a mark upon my ear that all can see for I am Your servant forever. I am sold out to you Lord. I am a servant for ever and not just for a few days but for all the days of my life."

Beloved, that is the challenge before us! Are you willing to undertake it? At a time when there is visible deterioration in the church at large, when the church has become a kind of 'laughing stock' before the world, and a platform for every kind of social activity, are you willing to go His way? That is a serious matter. The Lord is looking for an answer. The church is not called to start schools and orphanages for the social uplift of society. That is not the calling of the church. Today the church has become other than what she is called to be in God's eternal plan. At what cost is the church indulging in all the social activities and sacrifices today? It is at the cost of her 'High calling'! The Scriptures tell us clearly what the calling of the church is in the economy of God. So much is done at the cost of her primary call. God will surely judge His house ever so stringently!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. 2 Peter 3:18*

19
SEPTEMBER

Today's Reading :

Isaiah 30:12-33:9

Galatians 5:1-12

Psalms 63:1-11

Proverbs 23:22



I am convinced in my spirit that the last witness of this age is the testimony of the Lord and the coming wrath of God. It is not a world wide revival! The testimony and witness of the Lord shall be borne by a holy remnant that has been purged and purified in the fires of God's disciplinary hand. We need to be a part of this precious, holy, remnant – a remnant that has beheld the Lord – a remnant that knows what is upon the heart of God – a remnant that has gone through the fires of His discipline. They will be those who know of His sorrow and experience His longings and desires. They will become partakers of His travail. They will be ones who have been worked upon by the hand of the Lord so that they may bear His testimony and be His witnesses. And as in Noah's life, the Lord will bring forth a company that is purified in the fires of His workings, the nations and the church at large will reject them. They will totally reject their testimony and witness. They will not look for spiritual success and achievements in the manner of the world but accept the ways of the Lord in all the afflictions that may come their way. Be a part of this holy remnant by yielding yourselves to the workings of God. He will take you to the ultimate purpose He has for His people. What a tremendous calling rests upon each you!

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

Romans 14:7

Today's Reading :

Isaiah 33:10-36:22

Galatians 5:13-26

Psalms 64:1-10

Proverbs 23:23

20

SEPTEMBER



“If any man desires to do His will (God’s pleasure), he will know (have the needed illumination to recognize, and can tell for himself) whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking from Myself {and} of My own accord {and} on My own authority.” If any one desires to do God’s will and God’s good pleasure, then the Lord is willing to give the illumination or understanding needed to recognize what is of the Lord and what is of man. How precious this word is! Obedience will help us to know the truth. This is very important. Several people ask me, “Brother, how do I know this word is from the Lord?” This is a very common question. May be this question has also been upon your mind. The key lies in having a heart to obey what the Lord will speak or reveal from His word. Then when the Word of the Lord is read or heard, the Lord will give you the illumination to recognize His voice and know the will of God. I can humbly testify to this truth. Many are not able to accept the truth today because they do not have a heart to obey it. Are you living a life of obedience to His word and His voice or are you holding on to your own opinions, your own carnal thoughts, and your criticism of the ways of the Lord? If so, you will continue to miss the truth of the word. It is only when you are obedient to God’s word that you will know the truth.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Let us hold fast the profession of [our] faith without wavering;
(for he [is] faithful that promised;) Hebrews 10:23*

21
SEPTEMBER

Today's Reading :

Isaiah 37:1-38:22

Galatians 6:1-18

Psalms 65:1-13

Proverbs 23:24



We know that we have a lot of rough corners and edges in our lives. But the Spirit tells us not to worry about it. He will knock off those sharp corners and edges. All He asks is to give Him place in our lives. Our spiritual experiences in these days must be one of knocking off those spiritual edges and corners in our lives. God wants to do this work in us. Remember this city is a present reality. We have come to the city whose builder and maker is God. This is a work of God inside us. We have many rough edges and corners. If we are open to the Lord to admit this, our spiritual experience would consist of the removal of our irregular, sharp edges and corners by the Spirit of God. You know what these 'corners' are! You know what the 'rough edges' are! Some may think they do not have any corners; some may say that they do not have any rough edges! Often we do not see our rough edges, but we experience the rough edges that others have. God wants to work upon our lives. In the economy of God there is a present working and a preparation. Though we are bits of humanity in the hands of the Maker, nothing but poor pieces of raw material, yet the One who has picked us up says, "I will make you. My intention is to shape you, to mould you and make you a partaker of My nature. I have something upon My heart and I will perform it in your life. That is why I have brought you here."

Today's Command

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: 1Corinthians 6:9

Today's Reading :

Isaiah 39:1-41:16

Ephesians 1:1-23

Psalms 66:1-20

Proverbs 23:25-28

22

SEPTEMBER

“Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:” (Ps 122:3). The city of God is compacted together. Peter said that you are God’s glory – lively stones put together as spiritual stones. God is building His city today. All awkward corners are being knocked off, compressed, compacted, and brought together in the Body. They are not loose stones but compacted stones brought together. They are fitting into God’s divine plan. As rough stones, (far removed from the polished, smooth stones that will be used to build the House), the Holy Spirit will subject us to separations and situations to deal with us. Most of the time, we want to have an easy and painless experience. We don’t like to be smoothened, yet we want to have a smooth time! What a tragedy that is! How can the love of God permit us to go our way when there is such a call upon our lives? If we would let Him have His way, it will be so different. God uses his divine ways to smoothen us. We will never have a smooth time until we have gone through the smoothening work of the Holy Spirit subjecting us to situations! He uses human sand paper to smoothen us out! What makes us smooth lively stones? It is the grace of God in sufferings and difficulties. That alone can smoothen us. We will never have a smooth time until we are made smooth!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

1Thessalonians 5:21

23
SEPTEMBER

Today's Reading :

Isaiah 41:17-43:13

Ephesians 2:1-22

Psalm 67:1-7

Proverbs 23:29-35



“Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8) This question would sober His disciples even today. This question would challenge each of us. There are depths to this question that surface as we meditate on it. Thousands of years have passed since the Lord came and died for us and yet the matter of faith is still in question. Shall He find faith on the earth today is a serious and solemn question? Will there be some people who will have true faith when He comes again?

The question implies that true faith will be rare in our days. Beloved, this is not a loose statement of some itinerant preacher, but the word of the Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples. Shall He find faith on the earth when He returns? It is good to pause and think about His question in all seriousness. One can say in all sincerity that in no age has the teaching on faith been more than it is today. The largest gatherings today are the ones where faith is the main focus of attention. On the face of it there appears to be a great dependence on faith, but at the root of the lives of believers there is little evidence of true faith. In the midst of such an amount of faith preaching in these last days the Lord asks, “Will there be faith?” Was he wrong? Or was He true in what He said?

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth
righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 1John 3:7*

Today's Reading : Isaiah 43:14-45:10
 Ephesians 3:1-21
 Psalm 68:1-18
 Proverbs 24:1-2

24
SEPTEMBER

“And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Rev 19:10). This is an oft misunderstood passage of the Scripture. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophesy. True prophesy will always point to the Lord, not to some futuristic events. In some churches, the prophesies that are heard mostly concern up and coming events; but few of them point to Christ. These could be prophesies of coming events, events that God would like His people to know about, but in essence prophesy must point to the Lord and to His plan and purpose. A true understanding of prophesy will humble us before the Lord; it will never make us proud of our imagined knowledge of coming events. A true understanding of prophesy will really humble us more than bring excitement. True knowledge of prophesy will never make us proud. If God in His mercy allows us to have some understanding of what is going to happen or take place in these last days, to see how wrong things are today and how they ought to be, then we must be humble. The testimony of Jesus Christ is the Spirit of prophesy. The testimony of Jesus Christ is the spirit behind every ministration.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let us put on the armor of light. Romans 13:12

25
SEPTEMBER

Today's Reading :

Isaiah 45:11-48:11

Ephesians 4:1-16

Psalms 68:19-35

Proverbs 24:3-4



What is the glory of God? The writings of the apostle John tell us that the glory of God was His Son. That is what we read as we go through the writings of John and the gospel of John. John says, "We beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of Grace and Truth". The glory of God was in His Son. May this be a foundation for our inward lives. In all that we heard there are certain precious truths that need to be laid as a foundation in our lives. In the forthcoming days the Scriptures will open unto us in fresh ways if we closely hold on to this truth. Paul says in Eph 3:21, "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Paul says the church has to be a vessel for the glory of Jesus Christ. Though there are many statements from God's Word that tell us about the glory of God, they do not really define and explain what the glory of God is. However, we do find one verse in the Bible that actually defines the glory of God. John 1:14 tells us, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." Beloved, the glory of God is the absolute satisfaction of His Divine nature. When God is able to see something that identifies with His own nature and all that is His then that something has the glory of God.

Today's Command

Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

1Corinthians 7:23

Today's Reading : Isaiah 48:12-50:11
 Ephesians 4:17-32
 Psalm 69:1-18
 Proverbs 24:5-6

26
SEPTEMBER

We may not know the correct sequence of end time events because the Lord has not revealed all things to us, but if we are not mistaken in our knowledge of the Lord, His purpose and His will, then we would not be wrong and would have done well. Many preachers and teachers are totally caught up with the sequence of events that are to come about in the end times but they neglect practical, day to day realities. What is most important is to have a correct knowledge of the Lord, His purpose and His will for our present lives. This would enable us to stand before Him on better ground. This is what the majority of Christians are missing today! Saints, never be troubled about the events and how they are to unfold. We need to hold on to Him and His testimony in our lives. When we are caught up with His testimony on the earth then other things will be taken care of. Let us remain focused on Him, for the spirit of prophesy is the testimony of Jesus Christ. There are events that would come to pass and the Lord unfolds them to us. But that unveiling is not to give us a detailed knowledge of some future events. The revelation and knowledge of those events are given to us to show that the Lord Jesus is the centre of those future events.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Do ye look on things after the outward appearance?

2Corinthians 10:7

27
SEPTEMBER

Today's Reading :

Isaiah 51:1-53:12

Ephesians 5:1-33

Psalms 69:19-36

Proverbs 24:7



Ezekiel's name means, 'to whom God will strengthen'. He was born the son of a priest and without doubt he was a priest himself (*Ezekiel* 1:3). But he was in captivity and there was no priestly duty there. So the Lord brought a change in him and in his ministry! Beloved, God is more interested in men than in doctrines. It is because of this that Jesus poured out His life for men - for you and me, and not for a doctrine. The Lord therefore, changed and commissioned Ezekiel into a prophet. Many do not like such changes today. Often people prefer to do what they have been doing for ages. They are not willing for a change. In Christian circles one can see sons succeeding their fathers in the ministry and taking up the same message, style and organization. But it was not so with Ezekiel. He did not say, "My father was a priest and I shall be a priest and die as a priest"! He was changed by the Lord. We have an example of this in the life of John the Baptist. He too was the son of a priest named Zechariah; he too could have found a good career in the same order. But while his father was ministering as a priest in the temple at Jerusalem, he was ministering in the wilderness as God's prophet! God is surely looking today for men that He could use, to stand before people on behalf of God.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power
of his might. Ephesians 6:10*

Today's Reading :

Isaiah 54:1-57:14

Ephesians 6:1-24

Psalms 70:1-5

Proverbs 24:8

28

SEPTEMBER



Men can do wonders to impress another soul. They can make their faces and their words appealing to others people. In contemporary Christianity, many leaders do that. They publish their pictures airbrushed with the help of computers and graphics to appeal to the natural desires of other people. Saints, this glory of God lies far beyond any kind of human manipulation. The glory that God looks to relates to God's own nature. God will not delight and be satisfied by anything of man. His satisfaction rests in that which bears the mark of His Son and His Spirit. Many people deceive themselves as well as others in these last days by doing things only meet the satisfaction and delight of other men. But God cannot be fooled by any man. So let us come to the grips with this word. Let us be concerned with Divine satisfaction. Let that be the place of our dwelling and walk. Let us say, "Lord, You have brought me to a new ground, You have released my spirit, and I want to hold on to that 'glory' and move in the pathway of Your glory all my life. I do not want a clouding of this glory in my life. I don't want anything to come between me and my God. I only want a Divine satisfaction." Sometimes it becomes so visible that others ask, "what happened to him?" Let that glory of divine satisfaction be a foundation.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are
above, Colossians 3:1*

29
SEPTEMBER

Today's Reading : Isaiah 57:15-59:21
 Philippians 1:1-26
 Psalm 71:1-24
 Proverbs 24:9-10



We live in a world that teaches us to boast about ourselves and promote ourselves. People are taught to inflate and exaggerate their bio-data and resumes to show how good and capable they are. It has become common to lie about themselves, their achievements and their accomplishments when seeking for a job! I know of cases where young brethren working in the field of information technology were told to embroider and overstate things in order to get lucrative job assignments. However, it is to their credit that they denied to do so and chose to wait for the Lord's will to be done. Nevertheless it is true that the competitive nature of the secular world compels people to boast about themselves. People even have to brag of things they cannot do! That is where the world is! It is vicious out there! The world teaches us to be self-confident and superior. That is the way of life of the world. We have to live in the same world and cannot run away. We are not called to isolate ourselves as a hermit and remain far from living realities. The Lord says we are to be in the world but not of the world. Our life is governed by a greater purpose and that is what should govern our daily life. Though we have a world system around us, we must be mindful of who and what we are in the Lord, for this world shall be judged by One Man in righteousness.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers 1Timothy 4:12

Today's Reading : Isaiah 60:1-62:5
 Philippians 1:27-2:18
 Psalm 72:1-20
 Proverbs 24:11-12

30
SEPTEMBER

One of the characteristics of the New Testament Word is that it is 'new'. In Christ Jesus there is a 'new' creation. We read about the 'new' man in Christ Jesus. We read about a 'new' life, a 'new' way and life, a 'new' man etc. Finally as we come to the book of Revelation, we come to the 'new' heaven and the 'new' earth and New Jerusalem. In the New Covenant all is new – a new life, a new creation, a new man, a new way of life and so on and so forth. Remember, that the word 'new' implies that there is or was something old. It is a word that conveys a comparison and a contrast. So there was an old Jerusalem, there was an old creation, and there was an old man. But the old has gone and the new has come. The old Jerusalem has been brought under God's judgment. And when the old was put away the new was brought in. May God help us to see that! If we have to see what is new in God we have to be under the government of the Holy Spirit. We have yet to see the meaning of this City more clearly, but for the moment we take a look at this word 'new' again. If something is new, it means that it is completely fresh. It is new and fresh. When we consider Old Testament history what a tragic story we read concerning the 'old' Jerusalem. It is a story of tragedy because of the sin of God's people. But the New Jerusalem — the new people that God is bringing forth — is just opposite to that which is old.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil;
cleave to that which is good. Romans 12:9*

1
OCTOBER

Today's Reading : Isaiah 62:6-65:25
 Philippians 2:19-3:3
 Psalm 73:1-28
 Proverbs 24:13-14



God gave Ezekiel a burden concerning the glory of God. He gave him a vision about a temple of God that was in some ways representative of the ultimate place of man in the purposes of God. Ezekiel was able to see, albeit in a symbolic and allegorical manner, that the temple of God would finally be a corporate body of men wherein would dwell the fullness of God. The whole concept of the glory of God dwelling in a temple not made by human hands was far beyond the understanding of any man in the Old Testament. But there was one whom God called 'son of man' whom He chose, commissioned, clothed and enlarged to even receive visions of the corporate new man in all his glory. When the prophet says the throne of God he also says 'the likeness of the appearance of man above upon it' (Ezekiel 1:26). Apostle John, Ezekiel's New Testament counterpart, also saw a similar vision; "... in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man..." (Revelation 1:13)

There is little mentioned about him as a person in the Bible. There is nothing strange in this. God's purpose is that we see not the 'self' of the prophet but rather that our attention be drawn to Him who possesses the prophet. Ezekiel was a true 'vessel of honor'.

Today's Command

knock and the door will be opened to you. – Matthew 7:7

Today's Reading :

Isaiah 66:1-24
Philippians 3:4-21
Psalm 74:1-23
Proverbs 24:15-16

2

OCTOBER

Beloved, the Lord wants us to know that there is another generation, beside the generation of the first Adam, that is existing upon this earth in this hour! This is the generation of the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ. This generation is coexisting with the generation of the natural Adam, but it is in no way going the same way. There is a vast difference in the two generations. One manifests the nature of the natural Adam in whom the law of sin and death is reigning and ruling; the other exhibits the nature of the last Adam, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. And we all need to know that just as there has been an increase in the manifestation of the first Adam, so also there is going to be an increase in the manifestation of the generation of the last Adam. Just as the law of sin and death is ascending to a climax in these last days, so also is the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus proceeding to its own climax, in these last days. Yes, there is a growing, a developing and an enlarging of this generation of the spiritual minded man, the generation of the last Adam. They are going to experience fullness of the manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees. – Matthew 16:5

3
OCTOBER

Today's Reading :

Jeremiah 1:1-2:30
Philippians 4:1-23
Psalm 75:1-10
Proverbs 24:17-20



“And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God. And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzza: wherefore that place is called Perezuzza to this day. And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me?” (1 Chron13:10-12). David was greatly displeased. David was angered and offended because of what God had done to Uzza for he died on the spot. Most of us are well aware that when God deals with us in our situations, we often get offended with God. God’s dealings with us often bring about a controversy between us and the Lord. And until we deal with that blockage, that attitude in us in that situation, nothing further happens – any onward move is difficult and gets held up. That is what happened here. The whole move of God was suspended until the controversy between David and the Lord had not been settled. As a result, David could not bring the Ark back to Jerusalem. Instead, he had it kept in the house of Obededum, the Gittite. How often God’s people are found to be careless in this area! Most of the time we are insensitive to God’s need!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 2:31-4:18
Colossians 1:1-17
Psalm 76:1-12
Proverbs 24:21-22

4
OCTOBER

John was “carried away in the Spirit” to a great and high mountain. Spiritually all this means is that he was alive in the Spirit. I would like to underline that phrase – alive in the Spirit. When the Holy Spirit took him to a great and high mountain, he was alive in the Spirit. In spiritual terms it simply means that at that time John was fully alive to the Spirit. Physically, John was on the island of Patmos, but in the spirit he was on a high mountain. He was not physically lifted to a high mountain, nor did he escape his captivity in Patmos. Had it been so, the Roman Empire would have spared no effort to search him out. John did not go anywhere physically. No never. To be alive in the Spirit is a spiritual expression that talks of an experience that John had in the spirit. It might be that John had a vision, but this much is certain that it was not something natural or physical. John had a true, genuine spiritual experience! In the natural this is akin to having a dream. Physically one does not go anywhere in a dream, yet one has a feeling of going somewhere. This is truer in the spiritual realm where one may not go anywhere physically, and yet the Spirit can take one into divine realms to show heavenly things which are absolutely real, true and eternal!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. Ephesians 5:14

5
OCTOBER

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 4:19-6:15
Colossians 1:18-2:7
Psalm 77:1-20
Proverbs 24:23-25



“And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.” (Ezekiel 9: 4). This is the picture of the One who stands amidst His churches and marks the faithful upon their foreheads (Revelation 20:4). In one hand he carries a marking device or an implement (writer’s inkhorn). And he identifies the remnant, the godly fragments, who sigh and cry when they see the great wickedness that persists amongst God’s people. God always has a faithful remnant unto Himself. He spares them and protects them amidst all the unrighteousness. And to them He grants honor to eventually fulfill the purposes upon His heart. There were a few faithful Jews, even in those days, who washed their robes, and made them white in the ‘blood of the Lamb’ (Revelation 7:14). The Spirit of God is brooding and roaming through the churches of today for there are still godly men and women who lament, weep and sigh over the abominations amongst God’s people. God is separating such ones who deplore and mourn with sorrow over the sinfulness of half-hearted Christians; those who have become immune to the workings and promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Today's Command

We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2 Corinthians 6:1

Today's Reading :

Jeremiah 6:16-8:7

Colossians 2:8-23

Psalms 78:1-31

Proverbs 24:26

6

OCTOBER

“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; (Hebrews 5:7). The Lord had a reverential fear of the Father for the fulfillment of the purposes of God. That is how the Son of Man lived upon the earth. In His heart He feared any kind of separation from the Father. The Spirit of the fear of the Lord was upon Him, restraining Him from doing anything that would lead to defilement and separation from the Father. He walked every day in total submission to the Father's will. He humbled Himself, suffered, and obeyed the Father because He had a reverential fear in His heart in the love of the Father. Jesus had the Spirit of the fear of the Lord in unlimited measure. In Romans 8: 35 to 37, Paul talks about the love of God. He says that no one can separate God's people from the love of God in Christ Jesus. He says that we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. It is in and through this love that we can become conquerors! Where there is such a love of God there will also be a true reverential fear of God. You will indeed be a conqueror!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Romans 11:21

7
OCTOBER

Today's Reading :

Jeremiah 8:8-9:26

Colossians 3:1-17

Psalms 78:32-55

Proverbs 24:27



Many people desire to know God's will, but they cannot know it because their spirit is not alive to the Spirit of God. If your spirit is alive to the Holy Spirit in your daily life, God will reveal His mind and His will to you. It is a great tragedy that the majority of believers are not alive in their spirit to the Holy Spirit when the Spirit wants to do something in their lives. May the Lord help us to lay this principle as a foundation in our lives so that as God's remnant we would be always actively alive in our spirit to the Holy Spirit! The lives of great men of God, who walked in step with God in their generation, seem great and wonderful to us today because they were people who lived in God's presence, aligned and tuned to the mind of the Spirit. Often we desire to be like them and even pray that our lives may follow the pattern of their lives, but we fail to align our lives to that which is of the Spirit as they did. Is there a spiritual principle that will help us to come into their level of a higher life with God? What should we do to enter into that higher realm and place in God? Remember that anything can turn out to be dead if your spirit is not aligned to the Spirit of God at that given time.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. 1Corinthians 10:9

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 10:1-11:23
Colossians 3:18-4:18
Psalm 78:56-72
Proverbs 24:28-29

8

OCTOBER

“And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain”. (Rev 21:10). There is a spiritual principle here that is very vital for us today. Many times we have a desire to reach out to the heights in God, but find that our sincere desires are not enough to meet our needs. What the Lord reveals to you depends on how high you have climbed the mountain. The higher you climb the more God is able to reveal to your heart. This is an important principle. What we are reckoning here is a spiritual mountain and not a literal one. What is this mountain that we are called to ascend to the maximum height? It just means getting away from the world. When you ascend the mount you leave the world behind. This talks of separating ourselves from the present world. The height we gain is related to the distance we would have moved away from this present world. We see this principle actively demonstrated in the life of the Lord. He totally separated Himself from this world and its pressures and demands (Matthew 5:1, 14:23, and 15:29). The Spirit called John to a great and high mountain, to a place separated from the world and its influences. Often we are not able to keep ourselves away from the present world and ascending the mountain remains a wishful desire. However, it is equally true that we can never see heavenly and the spiritual things until we have been separated from the world.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore,
and repent. Revelation 3:19*

9
OCTOBER

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 12:1-14:10
1 Thessalonians 1:1-2:8
Psalm 79:1-13
Proverbs 24:30-34



This world lies under a terrible curse. The Lord has pronounced a curse upon this world where Satan is the prince. What is the explanation of this curse? The law of frustration works or operates in this world which is cursed. Though man has done many things and made many attempts to break the sound barrier of frustration, yet they have not been able to do so. Man with all his knowledge of science, development, technology, and psychological research, has not been able to make a breakthrough; man has not been able to cross the sound barrier of frustration. Nor will man ever be able to do so. The wisdom of man will fail. The law of frustration will continue to work in this world and every effort to have peace will continue to fail for there can be no peace in the world without the Prince of Peace. This is God's word to us. As this world is under a curse and the law of frustration is at work, immorality will increase and eventually mature. This is what we see all around us. What should God's children do in this hour? Every child of God who is sensitive to the Holy Spirit will know that something is wrong when they touch this world. If you touch something of this world, you will sense and know that you are touching an accursed thing. You will get the smell of death there.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. 1 Timothy 6:11

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 14:11-16:15
1 Thessalonians 2:9-3:13
Psalm 80:1-19
Proverbs 25:1-5

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OCTOBER

One of the most important statements in the entire Bible concerning the anti-Christ states, "It prospered in everything it did." (Daniel 8:12). God allowed the evil one to prosper in all he did. The little horn, the anti-Christ will prosper in everything in the last days. The implications of this unpleasant reality are sobering. Daniel declares that the anti-Christ will succeed in whatever it does in these days! There is ample evidence to suggest that the anti-Christ is setting himself against the Lord in the very life of His people. He seems to be succeeding in his attempt to overcome the host of saints. He will succeed in setting himself up as the Prince of God's people, he will succeed in attempting to remove the daily sacrifice, he will succeed in casting down the place of the Prince's sanctuary, and he will succeed in his attempt to overcome the host of saints! And thus he will succeed in his attempt to cast the truth down to the ground. It grieves one to see that the Lord will allow the anti-Christ to succeed. Why does the Lord allow him to wreck, smash and destroy His people? Beloved, there are several reasons for this, but the main reason why the Lord allows the anti-Christ to do these things is because of the rebellion of the sanctuary (believers) and the priests who minister in it! There is a rebellion in the very sanctuary of God's people.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from
iniquity. 2 Timothy 2:19*

11
OCTOBER

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 16:16-18:23
1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:3
Psalm 81:1-16
Proverbs 25:6-8



“And they sang a new song before the throne (of God) and before the four living creatures and before the elders (of the heavenly Sanhedrin). No one could learn (to sing) that song except the 144,000 who had been ransomed (purchased, redeemed) from the earth.” (Rev 14:3). Those who are singing this ‘new song’ are not trying to catch up with the words or the tune, but they are allowing the Spirit to do a new work in their lives. This talks of a working of God in the lives of some people, so that now they may sing a new song unto the Lord. They are able to sing a new song because they are open to the Holy Spirit for a fresh work of the Spirit in their lives. It is a new song that is sung out of the life they possess, and it’s new because it comes out of a fresh working of the Spirit!

No man can learn this song. This song has to be learnt from the way God is working in our lives. We cannot catch up at the last minute. God is working in the midst of a people in these days, a people who are utterly sensitive and available to the Holy Spirit. May God find you and me to be a part of this remnant church that sings a new song because there are fresh workings of God in their lives.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Mark 13:13

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 19:1-21:14
1 Thessalonians 5:4-28
Psalm 82:1-8
Proverbs 25:9-10

12
OCTOBER

What is a spiritual digestive system? It is our life of obedience to the Lord. Our attitude and heart to obey the Lord is our spiritual digestive system. We may not know all the ways in which spiritual things work out in our lives, such as how we were born-again, but as long as we have a healthy digestive system, a heart of obedience, everything else is taken care of. Saints, if we have a heart of obedience unto the Lord, to walk in His ways and follow after Him, everything will be well with us. The most important thing in our lives, spiritually, is our obedience to God. If we have a heart that is fully obedient to the Lord, then we can say that we have a healthy digestive system. First the natural and then the spiritual! Knowledge without obedience is akin to undigested food. Let us accept this serious counsel wholeheartedly. If you do not have a heart to obey the Word which God has ministered to you then undigested food lies inactive in your inner spiritual recesses. If you fail to obey the Word you have been convicted of when you heard it or fail to change thereupon then you are like one who has failed to digest his food. As a result there will be a heap of undigested food in your system. When that happens, naturally speaking, a person is sure to get sick. Indigested food can result in grievous danger, even threatening one's life.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch. Mark 13:37

13
OCTOBER

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 22:1-23:20
2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
Psalm 83:1-18
Proverbs 25:11-14



The enemy in the form of the woman who had a spirit of divination did not hesitate to declare Apostle Paul to be the servant of the Most High God (Acts 16: 16--18). She advertised and praised Paul's ministry. In a subtle way the enemy was trying to snatch away Paul's anointing by exalting the man and his ministry. Somehow men are so prone to hear their own praise from the lips of others - and in nine cases out of ten, this is nothing but an attempt from the pit to sidetrack the once - sincere servant of God. Why? Paul was becoming a threat to the kingdom of darkness! A man is no threat to the kingdom of darkness merely because he heals or preaches or teaches about the kingdom of God. But Satan's kingdom is threatened when a company of people walk in the way of the cross, in union with the Lord. Today, we live in an hour when it seems right to exalt the self. People are looking for a man who can deliver the goods, a man who can bring revival, a man who can fill the churches. And such ones are 'worshipped'! But all such method and means used to exalt is an abomination before God. The majority is invariably at a tangent to God's purposes. So let us be those who are content to be a remnant and who cry out for righteousness among a wicked generation. The Lord promises to keep the remnant.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Philippians 2:4

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 23:21-25:38
2 Thessalonians 2:1-17
Psalm 84:1-12
Proverbs 25:15

14
OCTOBER

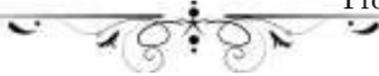
“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?” (Rom 8:35). Reflecting on the greatness of God’s love the Apostle says that the love of God is taller than the tallest of one’s tribulation or suffering. However, in the lives of many believers today, their local situations assume greater proportions and seem to be taller than God’s love! Such people need to come to know the true ground of God’s love in Christ. Beloved, our eyes need to be opened to see that our problems, that always appear to be so large to us, are smaller than the love of God. The Apostle Paul was able to see that nothing — no persecution nor trial, no distress nor difficulties, could ever measure to the immensity of God’s love. Christians today are easily separated from the love of Christ! Sometimes, it seems that anything and everything separates some believers from the love of Christ. The least amount of trouble, the slightest difficulty, and the smallest trial causes some believers to walk away from the love of Christ. This clearly shows that some believers do not really come into a true apprehension of the love of God. They talk glibly about the love of God and yet in the face of minuscule situations, the first thing they question is God’s love for them.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all [men], apt to teach, patient, 2Timothy 2:24

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OCTOBER

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 26:1-27:22
2 Thessalonians 3:1-18
Psalm 85:1-13
Proverbs 25:16



“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, ...shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8 :38,39). For many people, death is the end force, the largest, the greatest and the tallest thing, but the Bible says that even death cannot separate us from the love of God. Death has no power to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus! Can you truly believe this? Are you of the view that death is so powerful, so tall and high, and so immense that it overshadows Christ? The Apostle Paul says that this is not so; the love of God is more. Neither death nor life can separate us from His love. Many people love their lives; they love life; all they want to do is to live. Their whole life is spent living unto themselves, unto their own interests and unto the extension of their own life. But the Bible says that the love of God is far greater than our own lives. Many believers have been separated from the love of God and this great call of God in their lives, because they have loved their own self life more. They despise and reject anything and everything that comes in the way or that challenges the self life. Love of the self has separated them from this holy calling. Saints, we cannot be part of New Jerusalem, the Heavenly City, if we love our own lives, if we love the self life and if we want our present lives to continue, unchallenged and unquestioned!

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Hebrews 12:14

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 28:1-29:32
1 Timothy 1:1-20
Psalm 86:1-17
Proverbs 25:17

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OCTOBER

We read about Demas in verse 10 of 2 Tim 4, "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." To many believers the "things present" are more important and more significant than the love of God. They see the things of God as something of the distant future, but what appear to be taller and more pertinent to them are the things which are present, visible, tangible and sensual. They are drawn away from God and drawn towards "things present". Though the Apostle Paul found that the 'things present' could not separate him from the love of God, his co-laborer and friend Demas, who was a blessing to the ministry of Paul at one time, loved the present world, with all its attractions and temptations, rather than the love of God. The Living Bible says "...for Demas has left me. He loved the good things of this life and went to Thessalonica." He was a great help to Paul at one time (Col 4:14, Philemon 24). 'Things present' make many people to move away from God's call upon their lives. Saints, be open to the Holy Spirit to help you. Let us stay away from the present world of materialism to which many are bowing today. Let us be persuaded in our hearts that the love of God is higher than good living and the good things of this world.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

What I tell you in darkness, [that] speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, [that] preach ye upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27

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OCTOBER

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 30:1-31:26
1 Timothy 2:1-15
Psalm 87:1-7
Proverbs 25:18-19



True obedience is a hidden matter. It is before the Lord and not before men. When the Lord told Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice unto the Lord, no one heard what God had said to him. Abraham could have easily overlooked God's word to him; none would have known about it save the Lord. Abraham's obedience to the Lord's word was altogether a hidden matter; it was something between the Lord and himself. Our obedience to the Lord is essentially a hidden matter and no one really knows whether we have obeyed the specific word of the Lord to us or not.

Beloved, we hear the word of the Lord corporately as a Body when we gather in His House. Yet in all that we hear as a Body, there are specific ministrations that apply to our individual lives and situations. No one else knows what exactly the Lord is speaking to us in the depths of our heart. The preacher does not know what the Lord is calling you to obey and neither do you know what the Lord is speaking to anyone else. This is a hidden and personal matter but the Lord knows all things about us. What and where the Lord puts his finger upon our lives is not known to anyone but the Lord and us.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the
time. Colossians 4:5*

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 31:27-32:44
1 Timothy 3:1-16
Psalm 88:1-18
Proverbs 25:20-22

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OCTOBER

The Lord had warned me about three evils that are common among preachers and pastors today. One is name, fame and position; the other is wealth and riches; and the third is the sin of adultery. On these three accounts many men have lost their calling and anointing in Christ. And I am only grateful to God for preparing me from my early days. Though there were many occasions when the flesh was tempted, but God gave me grace to overcome. When God opened the doors of ministry to me, men were able to recognize His anointing upon the ministry without my having to use any kind of human ingenuity! I am aware that to turn away from these temptations that befall the best of men requires great grace from God. And therefore I would like to encourage all those who are called upon to serve the Lord in ministry to remain in their calling with gratefulness, trust and humility. Jesus made these things very clear to His disciples. A person who seeks some kind of reward and recognition in the church, who wants others to respect him for what he is not, harbours uncommitted ambitions within. This is lust of the flesh working in subtle ways in them. Let us remember that the lust of the flesh is not only in terms of moral degradation. It could be in terms of recognition and name. The love to have a name, a position or a title is also a symptom of the lust of the flesh.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

He that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. Luke 22:26

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OCTOBER

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 33:1-34:22
1 Timothy 4:1-16
Psalm 89:1-13
Proverbs 25:23-24



“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;” (1 Tim 4: 1-2). Think of a person who had a living relationship with God, a sincere love for Jesus, who had been baptized in water and also in the Holy Spirit, and who had experienced some of the precious spiritual gifts; a dedicated person who even had a ministry of some kind, being seduced by evil spirits resulting in the searing of his conscience towards the truth! Would it be easy to tell such a person that he or she is being seduced by evil spirits? The people of whom the apostle Paul talks of are not people who intentionally leave the faith as we understand it in the ordinary sense. They did not intentionally turn their backs on God. How and why do they leave the faith? How does this happen to believers? It begins by listening to the seducing spirits! It all begins with a listening. They give their ear to the voice of seducing spirits and the doctrine of devils! And then they are drawn away from true faith into a counterfeit faith, without ever realizing what is happening. How careful we need to be to hear the right voice!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Pray ...that the word of the Lord may have [free] course, and be glorified, 2Thessalonians 3:1

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 35:1-36:32
1 Timothy 5:1-25
Psalm 89:14-37
Proverbs 25:25-27

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OCTOBER

“Slay outright the elderly, the young man and the virgin, the infant and the women; but do not touch or go near anyone on whom is the mark. Begin at My sanctuary. So they began with the old men who were in the front of the temple (Who did not have the Lord’s mark on their foreheads). (Ezekiel 9:6 Amplified)” The Lord God commanded six executioners to slaughter all the people except the precious remnant, the ones who bore the mark of the Lord, the overcomers company who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. The executioners came with the destroying weapon in their hand and first laid hold of the priests and elders of the temple. It is an eternal principle of God that judgment begins in the house of God. In the house of God there the godly minority but the majority are those who have been exposed to the Word of God over a length of time but have not yet received what God has been wanting to impart. In the presence of God they do all the right things, they sing wholeheartedly, they actively participate in every new venture opened by the Spirit, they share and testify that the Lord has touched them on different occasions but in reality their lives are just the same! Why? Because they have a semblance of outward acceptance, submission and obedience but inwardly they have closed and locked up their conscience. Is there a hardness that has set into our lives?

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

*One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in
subjection with all gravity. 1 Timothy 3:4*

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OCTOBER

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 37:1-38:28
1 Timothy 6:1-21
Psalm 89:38-52
Proverbs 25:28



Preachers today talk glibly about an any moment rapture of the church. They say that Jesus will come suddenly like a thief and rapture His church before the great tribulation would arise. In ecclesiastical circles this is called 'the imminent return of Christ' and this is what the majority of Christians believe. But till the middle of the nineteenth century, around 1830 AD, this was not the teaching in the church. At that time Christians were living in prosperity and comfort in most Christian countries. They were not facing any tribulation, conflict, resistance or opposition for their faith. The prevailing sense of ease and comfort brought about a feeling that Christ would 'rapture' His people and preserve them from the tribulation and suffering caused by the Antichrist. It was at such a time the preachers began saying that Christ is coming to rapture the church before the tribulation will come upon the earth. That doctrine was taken up by many people and began to be preached in the majority of denominations. This wrong teaching has corrupted the church more than any other teaching. It has eroded the very foundation of the church and weakened it. This has inculcated and encouraged believers to live an easy-going life, attempting to escape from every kind of suffering and adversity.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; 1 Timothy 5:1

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 39:1-41:18
2 Timothy 1:1-18
Psalm 90:1-91:16
Proverbs 26:1-2

22
OCTOBER

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33).

Jesus did not say that we would not have any tribulation and that all will be well. He said very positively that we shall have tribulation. This is God's word. He said very clearly, that in the world we would have trials, tribulations and frustration but we are to be of good cheer **FOR HE HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD**. He could not be more explicit and direct!

Jesus has conquered the world for us. He has overcome the world. This is the cause of our confidence and assurance. He never promised us that He would help us to escape from suffering and tribulation, whether they be small or big. He said we will overcome even as He has overcome. So let us not look for the door! Let us not try to find some escape route from the suffering that comes our way. He said it so clearly. Our peace is in Him and not in our situations. He is our peace! That is a great secret.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: 1 Peter 4:11

23
OCTOBER

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 42:1-44:23
2 Timothy 2:1-21
Psalm 92:1-93:5
Proverbs 26:3-5



The Bible unmistakably says that the whole creation is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. So if all things are to be released from curse and bondage, then it will be done through His people—a people in whom God has worked—in His ends! It has to be a people called the ‘sons of God’, a people who are conformed to the image of His Son. Therefore, we must come to grips with the end toward which God is working through His Holy Spirit in this hour. God is not doing two things in the earth; He is doing only one thing. Evangelism only brings people to the Lord and adds them to the church. This is undoubtedly necessary, but what the Holy Spirit yearns to do in these new ones in the church is to work in them after the counsel of His own will so that they may be transformed and conformed to the image and likeness of the Son. Bringing people to the Lord and adding them to the church is only a part of the overall work of the Holy Spirit. People are saved by the grace of God, but thereafter, there is a tremendously significant work that has to be done by the Spirit of God—namely, conforming believers to the Son. Unfortunately, the majority of Christendom is involved only in bringing people to a saving faith. But, God is not limited. He is moving ahead to fulfill His end in a people.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Jude 1:21

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 44:24-47:7
2 Timothy 2:22-3:17
Psalm 94:1-23
Proverbs 26:6-8

24
OCTOBER

The throne talks of the judgment of God. The Bible tells us that the world and everything else will be judged. He will judge all things by Divine government. He is going to judge everything in the light of the jasper stone. This talks of the Divine nature of the One who sits upon the throne. The One who sits upon the throne is pure and clear as Jasper. His throne is also clear as Jasper. The seven churches were judged in the light of the One who is upon the throne and who is as clear as Jasper. And the world will also be judged in the same light. The judgments will be absolutely true. He that sits upon the throne is like the precious stone of Jasper that is as clear and transparent. The One upon the throne is absolutely transparent. There is no darkness found in Him and there is no shadow in Him. He is perfectly transparent. You can see through! To be transparent signifies that there is nothing false, hidden or shadowy within. God is totally transparent. He is the absolute Truth. In Him there is nothing that is not real! Some believers harbor doubts about God, they have misgivings and misunderstandings about the Lord. And they also doubt and do not believe His Word. But, on that Day, when they see Him who is like Jasper, their doubts will flee away. There is no mixture of two contrary things in the Divine nature of God.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth,..they that buy, as though they possessed not; 1 Corinthians 7:29,30

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OCTOBER

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 48:1-49:22
2 Timothy 4:1-22
Psalm 95:1-96:13
Proverbs 26:9-12



How did the lie enter into the world? Lies have a very long and terrible history that can be traced to the Garden of Eden. The Lord Jesus said, "When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44). The Lord was relating to what happened right back at the beginning when Satan told a lie about God that Adam readily accepted. The story of the terrible tragedy of this world began with a lie—it came from that lie. There is a lie right at the heart of this universe; there is no truth in this universe outside of God. The history of this fallen creation is the history of a lie. Jesus said of Satan, "..... and abode not in the truth" (John 8:44). There is a hint of a suggestion here that Satan must have been in the truth at some point of time. But he departed from the truth and the terrible judgment of God fell upon him and those who shared the lie with him. Then Satan came to man, God's creation to impart to it his own lie. John, the Apostle says, "The whole world lieth in the evil one" (1 John 5:19). The 'lie' has a very long and terrible history, but it is coming to its climax now. The 'lie' is one of the most powerful influences in the world; a liar is one who does not believe there is truth! Beloved, we live in a deceived world; the world is steeped in deception; and this is increasingly having a direct impact and an adverse effect upon God's people.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

*Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself;
and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband. Ephesians 5:33*

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 49:23-50:46
Titus 1:1-16
Psalm 97:1-98:9
Proverbs 26:13-16

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OCTOBER

The heathen and ungodly philosophize that if we suffer in life it is either because we are bad people or because God has forsaken us. Let me draw upon an illustration from the life of Paul. He was caught in a terrible storm, the ship was wrecked and the crew, as well as all others in the ship, was thrown on the shore (Acts 28). We read about what happened to him on that Island. As Paul sat by the fire, a snake fastened itself upon his hand. The people around condemned him, but he faced the situation calmly; he shook off the snake and continued with what he was called to do. The world will condemn us for that is the way of the world. It is not surprising! The way of the world is to ignominiously judge even the greatest saint who walked in their midst. Let us not be perturbed by people who condemn us when we face trials and difficulties and tell us that we are going through difficulties because of God's judgment upon our actions and reactions. The word of God for us, in the midst of trials and situations, is to be of good courage, and of good cheer; to be confident, undaunted, and strong. If your life is free from problems and difficulties, if your life is without any trial and suffering, then all I can say is that it will not be long before you will find yourself walking away from this calling to be His remnant in these perilous days.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

James 1:9

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OCTOBER

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 51:1-53
Titus 2:1-15
Psalm 99:1-9
Proverbs 26:17



“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” (Isa 1:18). Is there anything whiter than snow? Only the handiwork of God can produce something that is whiter than snow. Only God can remove our weaknesses and produce godliness in our lives. This message comes to us by the one who says, “Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy” (Rev 3:4). What the Lord is emphasizing is that this work of transformation of our nature and character is something that only God can do. Have our lives been influenced by the lies of the world! May we be open and honest before the Spirit of Truth! The spirit-of-the-world is a deceiving spirit, actively working throughout the world today. Therefore, it is difficult to believe that we shall become pure gold like a transparent glass. But the Spirit of Truth will do this. Let us believe the Word. The unbelief of many will not make any difference. “To this end have I come” says the Spirit of Truth. This is the reason that Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit. And when He is come He is going to lead us into the truth and every lie will be exposed.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;

Colossians 3:16

Today's Reading : Jeremiah 51:54-52:34
Titus 3:1-15
Psalm 100:1-5
Proverbs 26:18-19

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OCTOBER

We read in history that all the early apostles died a cruel and violent death. Later the Emperor of Rome hunted down Christians and burned them at the stake. In the third century, Christians were thrown to the lions; they were forced to fight one another to the death as gladiators in amphitheatres to entertain the public. Have you wondered why the Lord did not save them from suffering, humiliation and death? The God who could shut the mouths of the lions in the days of Daniel, the same God let the lions tear the disciples of Jesus to pieces. The same God who saved the young men from the fiery furnace in the days of Daniel did not perform such miracles when His holy servants were being burnt at the stakes in the Roman Empire. Sometimes one wonders why the Lord stayed His hand. It is very difficult for the natural man to understand this, but the Spirit of God would reveal the wisdom of God to the spiritual man. In the light of Jesus' prayer to His Father it is possible to understand why the Lord did not save His disciples from dying as martyrs. Jesus in His high priestly prayer to the Father (John 17) prayed that the Father would not take the disciples out of the world, but that He would keep them from evil. The Lord never wanted them to be taken or 'raptured' out of the world at that time just because of the suffering they would experience, but He wanted them to be kept from every kind of evil.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:5

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OCTOBER

Today's Reading : Lamentations 1:1-2:22
Philemon 1:1-25
Psalm 101:1-8
Proverbs 26:20



“If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.” (2 Corinthians 11:30) How readily the Apostle Paul admits his weaknesses and infirmities! Apostle Paul said that he could boast of one thing alone — his dependence upon the Lord. He accepted his weaknesses and depended upon the Lord to strengthen him. It is as if he would say, in words of utter humility, “Lord, I am permanently, incurably, intensely and desperately God-challenged! I acknowledge that I am weak, I cannot live, I cannot function, and I cannot do anything, apart from Your help! I am humanly handicapped; my soul is crippled!” Saints, this is the place where God would like us to come to – a place of absolute dependence upon the Lord. The Lord desires His Church to be absolutely dependent upon Him in these days. I thank God that some people are being drawn to the God who dwells in the midst of His people. They will experience a greater dependency upon the Lord and not upon any person or any thing. Some saints in our midst and in other places are experiencing this reality in some measure. Their heart-cry is the same as that of the Apostle. They cry out, “Lord, I am hopelessly weak without You. I cannot live without You any more; I cannot function apart from You in my life; I need You above all else. Lord, help me!”

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Fathers, provoke not your children [to anger], lest they be discouraged. Colossians 3:21

Today's Reading : Lamentations 3:1-66
Hebrews 1:1-14
Psalm 102:1-28
Proverbs 26:21-22

30
OCTOBER

“After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.(Acts 15:16,17). The Lord chose to rebuild the Tabernacle of David but not the Temple of Solomon! Glory to God! And by this, He chose to confound the wise and confuse the religious. He will restore again the tent of David. His words make it very clear that His chief interest lay in the hunger, passion and desperation of His people for His person. The Tabernacle of David eulogizes, exemplifies and represents the hunger, passion, and desperation of David and the people of his time, for the Living God. Seeing David's longing and yearning for the living God, He did not allow King David to rebuild the Tabernacle of Moses, but He gave him grace to place the Ark of His Presence in a small tent where he and others could worship Him round the clock. Here, in the Tabernacle of David, there was no veil to separate God from the worshippers. The Lord was close at hand at all times. God met David's passion and hunger for His presence by appearing between the Cherubim at all times. God's desire to restore the Tabernacle of David in this day.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer 1 Pet. 4:7



People say that the most important thing is to love Jesus. Beware of the love-trap that we see in Christendom today where people proclaim that the love of Jesus overrides everything else. They say, "We love Jesus. We love the Lord. Let us not talk about doctrines when we gather together. We have one common ground and that is the love of Jesus." Saints beware of this love-trap where the love of Jesus is made the common ground of fellowship. Be careful, is all I say. They think that we do not display any love because we talk more concerning the truth and the life. When we talk of the truth, the cross, the way, and obedience, they are quick to walk away and disregard our opinions. The Lord said, "If you love me, you will obey my commandments." They set this dictum aside and say, "Let us love one another, brother", as if loving one another is more important than obedience unto the Lord! We cannot walk together if we do not agree with one another. Amos 3:3 says, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" So it is not a matter of loving one another but of a love that will bring us to obey the truth wholeheartedly. John the Apostle says in his epistle "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

Today's Command

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. James 4:10

Today's Reading :

Ezekiel 1:1-3:15

Hebrews 3:1-19

Psalms 104:1-23

Proverbs 26:24-26

1

NOVEMBER

Samuel was very young when he began to seek the Lord, wait upon Him and minister to Him. Though he lived in the vicinity of the Ark of God, he failed to find the Lord. But one day the Lord whispered his name "Samuel" in his ears. Samuel replied God in the affirmative and then ran to Eli. Evidently, Samuel had been close to where God was hiding, but He ran in the wrong direction. Though Samuel heard the Lord and answered Him, he ran in the wrong direction! Doesn't this happen to us very often? We seek the Lord, we also hear Him, but sometimes we get up and run in the wrong direction. In our immaturity, we often take the things of the Lord to man. We take heed to the voice of man, thinking that it is the voice of our God! That is what happened to Samuel. He ran to Eli thinking that it was Eli's voice that he had heard! But the Lord did not give up on Samuel. He called him again and yet again. It is imperative that we make ourselves available to the Lord when He nudges us. Beloved, be careful not to run in the opposite direction, do not run, here and there, or to this and that, but wait before God and hear what He has to say to you. Many times we hear God whispering into our ears but, alas, we run in the wrong direction and fail to hear the Lord's word or message to us. This is how we may have missed what God had for us in the past.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, John 6:27

2
NOVEMBER

Today's Reading :

Ezekiel 3:16-6:14

Hebrews 4:1-16

Psalms 104:24-35

Proverbs 26:27



Haste and hurry are the weapons of the insensitive. Those who desire to share closeness and intimacy with the Maker, will invariably choose to approach His presence adroitly and cautiously. Haste always mars the advance of the right kind of atmosphere to meet the Lord. Lingering and waiting in His presence, on the other hand, promotes a feeling of oneness that is essential to enter into His august and awesome presence. Tragically, in this hurried and hassled age, there is very little that promotes such intimacy! God's people look more like a herd of cattle in a stampede than a flock of God beside green pastures and still waters! Our forefathers knew, it seems, to commune with the Almighty, but do we? We must learn anew to think deeply, to linger on, to meditate unhurriedly and to worship meaningfully! A man of God named Richard Foster said, "Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people or gifted people but for a deep people!" Saints, do you want to be profoundly aware of His presence, to be in touch with Him at the deepest possible level, to be thinking His thoughts, gleaning His wisdom and living as close to His heart as is humanly possible, positioning your life in the nucleus of His will?

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

Today's Reading :

Ezekiel 7:1-9:11

Hebrews 5:1-14

Psalm 105:1-15

Proverbs 26:28

3

NOVEMBER

When Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees, his nephew Lot accompanied him. Seeing Lot's ways, a time came when Abraham felt that they could not move on together in God's purposes and plans. He believed that a separation was inevitable and that it was not possible to disregard or overlook it any longer. Lot had neither seen nor heard God; nor did he have a desire to know the God of Abraham. Their hearts were divided because Lot's desires were to always stay in the plains, while Abraham looked for a city whose maker and builder was God. Lot chose to stay in the plains of Jordan, where the land was fertile and productive. His heart was not for the higher places. He always looked for things that were pleasing to the natural man. Lot chose to live in the lowly plains of the carnal man and not in heights of spirituality. Even later, in Genesis 19, when the Lord judged Sodom and Gomorrah and saved Lot and his family, the Lord told them to flee to the mountains. But Lot tried to go another way; he tried to negotiate with God. Lot asked, "Lord, can't I go another way?" Lot said, "You have saved me, you have preserved me, but I cannot go to the mountain You have shown me!" There are many believers like that. They want to negotiate their ways with God. Some do not want to learn how to climb the mountain

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16



Today's Reading : Ezekiel 10:1-11:25
Hebrews 6:1-20
Psalm 105:16-36
Proverbs 27:1-2



The restless remnant can be easily distinguished from the multitude of believers that throng the church. In this hour, we can see the restless remnant expressing the life of Christ in some clearly distinguishable ways. The symptoms are un-mistakable!

- ◆ The restless remnant display a compulsive addiction for God. Man-made programmes make them nauseous. They are sick of the manipulations of man.

- ◆ They abhor all religious calisthenics; they shun activities that do not exhibit a true hunger for the Lord.

- ◆ They are weary and tired of passionless worship. They are wary of every kind of emotional hype that is designed to excite and stir the soul and the flesh of man.

- ◆ They are allergic to human agendas and programmes.

- ◆ Their hearts are hopelessly desperate for the manifest presence of God.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another,
that ye may be healed. Jam 5:16*

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 12:1-14:11
Hebrews 7:1-17
Psalm 105:37-45
Proverbs 27:3

5

NOVEMBER

Recalling a servant of God in the Old Testament, we are reminded that Caleb went to Joshua and said, "Give me this mount." He did not ask Joshua to give him his portion in the wonderful plains of Jordan, where there was plenty of water for his cattle, and where he could become rich in a short time. He said, "Give me that mountain." In other words Caleb said, 'Do not remove this mountain, do not get it out of the way; give it to me, give me a chance to master it, to bring it under, to gain ascendancy!' He asked for that which challenged him. He asked for that which was difficult to overcome. He said that he wanted to conquer the mountain and overcome every difficulty that came in his way. How often we say, "Lord I suffered for you, I paid the cost, I went all the way for the gospel, so give me an easy time now." We need to be strengthened in our inner man as regards this calling. Don't indulge in self-pity or look for the tears of other people. Avoid the sympathy of the ones who love you and the temptation of ease at the end of a hard day of work. Be strong in the Lord. We are called to suffer for the word and the testimony of the Lord. This calls for the strengthening of our inner man. Caleb was a man given to ascendancy. He was a true overcomer. He was willing to work hard, though he was 85 years old.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. Hebrews 13:13



Today's Reading : Ezekiel 14:12-16:41
Hebrews 7:18-28
Psalm 106:1-12
Proverbs 27:4-6



Often God's people look to God to perform a painless work in or upon them! Can a dentist do a painless work? If you have a cavity in your tooth, your dentist will have to first use a high speed electric drill to remove every deposit deposited there. The drill must go deep into the tooth to remove anything that will hamper its restoration. If you request the dentist to repair the tooth painlessly and quickly, he may not agree to your request because the problem could recur if he used the drill sparingly and you would be compelled to visit him again and again. A good dentist will not agree to fill the cavity without drilling the tooth; he would not risk losing the tooth to save you the pain. He knows that any kind of patch work, though it may be painless, will not help you in the long run. Many believers want the Lord to do a painless work upon their lives. They want to be part of God's workings today, but they are not willing to go through a painful structuring work of God upon their inner man! They seek a painless cross. Many believers do not want a painful word. So they flock around preachers who give them a painless word! They prefer a short-term painless work to a deep work of the cross upon their lives. But God wants to do a lasting, deep work upon each one of us by His Spirit even though it is painful. Are you looking for a painless word or work?

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him. Hebrews 12:5

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 16:42-17:24
Hebrews 8:1-13
Psalm 106:13-31
Proverbs 27:7-9

7
NOVEMBER

“In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.” (Isaiah 6:1.) One significant feature we see in this verse is that Isaiah experienced two things – death and dependence. On one side there was a death and on the other side there was a dependence upon the living God. One king had died and another King took his place. God cannot be king in our lives until all other kings are done away in our lives. Many times, we depend upon our natural abilities, strengths, mental understandings and available talents. This shows that we remain dependent on the king of the fleshly realm rather than upon the spiritual King. If we depend upon the king of the fleshly realm, then the patterns of God’s presence will never be something realistic and we will not be able to experience His manifest presence in our lives. Isaiah was a close relative of King Uzziah and in many ways he was intimate with the king. Uzziah was a popular king, but he sinned against the Lord. We read of Uzziah’s life in the book of Chronicles. In the beginning of his reign King Uzziah sought the Lord and God made him to prosper (2 Chronicles 26:5), but subsequently he fell from grace because of his sins.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1John 2:15



Today's Reading : Ezekiel 18:1-19:14
Hebrews 9:1-10
Psalm 106:32-48
Proverbs 27:10



“But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense” (2 Chronicles 26:16). Uzziah’s main sin and the subsequent cause of his unclean flesh, was that he mishandled the glory of God in presumption. He transgressed in his presumptuous approach to God. He insisted to do things his own way, instead of doing them in God’s way. In his pride, he chose to do things in his own way thinking that he well knew how to do those things. Beloved we have to be very careful that we do not handle the things of God in presumption. A presumptuous approach to God will cause us to transgress His holy ways. Presumptuousness was the cause of Uzziah’s unclean flesh. We must never try to do things in our own way when it comes to the handling of God’s things. We need to be very careful. It is incumbent upon all of us to ever be sensitive and know that we cannot bring our unclean flesh into the things of God. The priests confronted Uzziah with the provisions of the law of God but he was not willing to receive their corrections. Many times we continue to do things in presumption and proud disobedience, contrary to what the Lord has made clear to us.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant
in prayer; Romans 12:12*

Today's Reading :

Ezekiel 20:1-49

Hebrews 9:11-28

Psalms 107:1-43

Proverbs 27:11

9

NOVEMBER

“And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.” (Matthew 2:13-15). There is room for only one king in the economy of God! When Herod came to know that a King had been born, he was sorely troubled. Herod not only rejected the baby Jesus, the King of kings, the Lord Jesus, but he passed an order to put Him to death. The Bible tells us that an angel told Jesus' father, Joseph, to evacuate baby Jesus to Egypt. What we need to note is that after going to Egypt, the King of kings never came back to Jerusalem while King Herod lived and reigned. It was only after the earthly king had died that the Heavenly One, the King of kings, the Lord Jesus, returned, once again to Jerusalem. Jesus did not return until Herod was dead! If you are to insist on retaining the ruler-ship over your life, God will just evacuate Himself and wait until something dies in you and despondency is recreated within you!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. Luke 22:46

10
NOVEMBER

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 21:1-22:31
 Hebrews 10:1-17
 Psalm 108:1-13
 Proverbs 27:12



At one time, I desired that everyone I met should be saved. I was prepared to even use force, if necessary! Such was my zeal. However, one day my eyes were opened to realize that Jesus Christ never forced His way upon others. I can only tell others not to walk in their own wisdom and in their own ways any more, as indeed the Bible says, for what would they do in the end? The consequences of our choices remain upon each one of us. This is what the Lord said in the book of Jeremiah, "What will you do in the end?" What one reaps in the flesh is what was sown in the flesh. That principle is unchangeable. We are God's people and God will forgive us but God's principle is that you reap what you have sown. This is an everlasting principle. God can forgive us for the seeds we sow through our deeds, but we have to face the harvest. This is very serious for none are exempted. We may continue to do whatever we want to do and no one will stop us, but there is a loss that is incurred if we sow in the flesh and that is irreversible. When the consequences of our actions and the effects of our decisions are upon us, what can be done? Nothing, for it is too late; all we can do is to seek the infinite grace of God. Little else can be done. So why should we go our own ways and sow in the flesh today?

Today's Command

*Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide
with God. 1Corinthians 7:24*

Today's Reading :

Ezekiel 23:1-49

Hebrews 10:18-39

Psalms 109:1-31

Proverbs 27:13

11

NOVEMBER

In Zephaniah 3, the Lord says that He will gather them who are sorrowful for the 'solemn assembly', which refers to the true people or the Church of God. Zephaniah talks about those who are sorrowful for the reproach that is being fostered upon the Church of Jesus Christ. The burden is for the Church that was born at Pentecost, that was nurtured in the teachings of the apostles and that lives by the doctrine of the Godhead alone. This alone constitutes the Church of Jesus Christ. This is the Church (universal and local) that is under terrible attack from the powers of darkness in these last days. It is this Church of Jesus Christ which is facing the assault of the adversary and his cronies or associates today. This is the church which is under reproach. Let our spiritual eyes be opened to see this reality. In this hour of shame, disgrace and reproach, God is raising a remnant that is going to weep and groan over the defilement that is entering the Church of Jesus Christ. The Lord says, "I will gather those to whom the reproach upon the Church has become a burden. I will gather the solemn assembly of those who are sorrowful". So the gathering of a solemn assembly is not a matter of fulfilling a theological need, nor does it pertain to any matter of theology, but it is a matter of beholding what really is the Church of Jesus Christ.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. 1John 3:13

12
NOVEMBER

Today's Reading :

Ezekiel 24:1-26:21

Hebrews 11:1-16

Psalms 110:1-7

Proverbs 27:14



There is a clear principle of economics in operation in the spiritual word today. Permit me to go beyond and call it a spiritual industry or evangelical industry! It is so sad that many are involved in this evangelical industry that has come up to meet the need of God's people. You do not know saints, perhaps, of the amount of money that has gone into this industry in many forms. Today's, evangelical industry is all set to roll out men and women to meet the need. God's people have such a choice in their spiritual life which never existed in any century! They cannot tolerate the demands of God any longer. Beloved, if you start trying to follow God according to your desire and you are kind and have sympathy towards such things in your life you are surely entering into the devil's trap. Many would counter by saying that they do not take part in all that has a stench of commercialism or is marred by the pretentiousness of the evangelical industry. But the question is, are you a proponent or a well wisher or a customer? Let me remind you that in the Temple at Jerusalem the Lord Jesus not only cast out those who sold goods but also those who bought them. If there are no buyers there shall be no sellers! This is the present abomination. Beloved saints, you and I need to examine our attitudes very carefully. These are days when the devil is excelling in his work of deception.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. 2John 1:6

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 27:1-28:26
Hebrews 11:17-31
Psalm 111:1-10
Proverbs 27:15-16

13

NOVEMBER

“And said, You master in every form of deception {and} recklessness, unscrupulousness, {and} wickedness, you son of the devil, you enemy of everything that is upright {and} good, will you never stop perverting {and} making crooked the straight paths of the Lord {and} plotting against His saving purposes?” (Acts 13:10) The Holy Spirit speaking through Paul, a great contender of the faith in his generation, says that the enemy of all righteousness, Satan himself, is always at work perverting the righteous ways of the Lord. The Greek word for ‘pervert’ is *DIASTEPHO*, which means “to turn away from and to twist thought out”. The same word is used in Acts 13:8, but it is translated ‘to turn away’. Hence the Holy Spirit connects the enemy’s efforts to turn some one away from the faith with perverting of the right-ways of the Lord. Satan’s way has always been to turn and to twist the heart of man to a way other than God’s way. Remember only God’s way can reach God’s end! In the phrase “the right ways of the Lord”, the word ‘ways’ signifies ‘manner of action, method of proceeding, and the way of progression’. God’s way is the right way, the straight way, and true way, which is the way of the cross. It is not easy to discern the ways of evil for we read that he is “full of all subtilty and all mischief...thou enemy of all righteousness” (Acts 13:10).

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:

2Corinthians 6:14

14
NOVEMBER

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 29:1-30:26
Hebrews 11:32-12:13
Psalm 112:1-10
Proverbs 27:17



Parents have a responsibility to provide for every child that they bring into the world, regardless of the marriage situation when they were conceived. We are told in I Timothy 5:8 “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” Not only are they responsible to provide for their physical needs, they are also responsible to train all their children in the ways of the Lord. A parent can not teach their children to keep all of God’s commands, if the parent has willfully chosen to continue to live in sin in an adulterous remarriage relationship. More is caught than taught, and the children will not learn to keep all of God’s commands as they should.

The children receive a greater spiritual training if they see their parents willing to make whatever sacrifices and hard, hard decisions that are necessary to be in a right relationship with Jesus Christ. Remaining in a remarriage situation for the sake of the children, and living in sin, will not in the long run be a benefit for their children. The children will grow up with the perception that one can do what is right in their own eyes.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Ephesians 5:21

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 31:1-32:32
Hebrews 12:14-29
Psalm 113:1-114:8
Proverbs 27:18-20

15
NOVEMBER

Abraham did his own thing rather than following the Lord, and took Hagar and had a son by her. After Isaac was weaned, because of Ishmael's scoffing, Sarah asked Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away. Sarah did not feel that Ishmael deserved to receive an inheritance with Isaac. Abraham was very displeased by Sarah's request because Ishmael was his son. However, God told him to not let it be displeasing to him and to send Hagar and Ishmael away. Abraham arose early the next morning and obeyed God's command promptly and sent them away. Gen. 21:8-21. These are painful experiences people have to go through as consequences of wrong decisions and actions, despite the forgiveness they have received over such actions in their lives.

Another account is in Ezra 9:1-15 and 10:1-44, where many of the Israelites were involved in wrong marriages. They had married foreign wives and many had children by those wives. They recognized that they had sinned against God (10:2). The solution to the situation of the wrong marriages was that they needed to put away the wives and the children that they had by those wives. It was a difficult situation and one that was very difficult to have the courage to deal with. It was so difficult that the Godly Ezra had to be prodded to take his responsibility as spiritual leader and deal with the situation.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. 1Thessalonians 5:11

16
NOVEMBER

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 33:1-34:31
Hebrews 13:1-25
Psalm 115:1-18
Proverbs 27:21-22



Jesus' sole desire was to always remain in a realm of intimacy, union and close fellowship with the Father. In other words, He always wanted to live by way of a close union and fellowship with the Father. And this place and position became the very ground for all the conflict that He had to face in His life! May the Holy Spirit open your heart to understand this! It was this union, intimacy and relationship with the Father that became the reason and occasion for all the battles and conflict in the life of the Son. It is the same for us in our lives. Beloved, my personal prayer is that the occasion of all the conflicts in my life may be because my intimacy and union with the Father! May that be your prayer too! The enemy will surely not take this lying down, when we come into a closer fellowship with the Father. Just as the relationship and fellowship of the Son with His Father became the focal point of the enemy's attack and assault upon the Son all through His life, so also it will be with us. The demonic forces always focused their whole attention upon the Son on account of the union, the intimacy, the relationship and the fellowship He had with the Father. The evil one and all his evil powers will concentrate their might against God's remnant as they come into a closer oneness and intimacy with the Father.

✧ *Today's Command* ✧

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. 2 Corinthians 13:5

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 35:1-36:38
James 1:1-18
Psalm 116:1-19
Proverbs 27:23-27

17
NOVEMBER

“And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he fell sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.” (Acts 20:9). We see in him a man who chose to sit at the extreme edge of the window sill, so that he may hear the Word of God. He is a picture of a man who wants to enjoy everything that is happening in the world outside. At the same time, he also does not want to miss what is happening within the walls. Such people want to have double benefits - that of the natural world, as well as that of the spiritual realm. People like Eutychus desire to hear the Word of God, but they are not able to benefit from the Word. Like Eutychus who fell from the window, and almost died, they lose the essence of the life they receive from the Spirit of God. Let us not be people who prefer to sit on the fence, between the earthly and the heavenly realms!

The Lord Jesus was born from above, and we know that He lived unto heaven. Every day, His heart's desire and longing was to be found in line with the heavenly purpose. This is the desire of God for our lives as well. The way things are in heaven, must also be upon the earth. Let us pursue this heavenly path with vigour.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust.

1 Timothy 6:20

18
NOVEMBER

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 37:1-38:23
James 1:19-2:17
Psalm 117:1-2
Proverbs 28:1



Beloved, faithful praying will not keep you from crisis, or from struggles and difficulties. On the contrary, in all likelihood, you will end up in a fired-up furnace or a lion's den, as it happened to Daniel and His compatriots who were strong men of prayer! Their desire to remain pure and uncorrupted at a time of great apostasy, their faithful prayer and commitment, and their seeking the Lord's face took them to greater crises and challenges! However, they had prepared themselves. Prayer will prepare us to face the challenges ahead, trusting the Lord. This is how we can become a living sacrifice for Jesus' sake. Remember, seeking the face of your Lord will prepare you to face your furnace. Opening your windows towards spiritual Jerusalem, so that you can pray for God's glorious church without spot and wrinkle, may cause you to face the lions in the world's amphitheaters, but praise the Lord, your commitment to seek the Lord will prepare and strengthen you to stand in your time of trial and crisis. That is God's assurance to us. Daniel's prayer and his commitments led him to the lion's den! This trial came upon Daniel many years after three of his friends had gone through the fire in a trial of faith. Do you know Daniel was about eighty years of age when he was thrown to the lions? This may intimidate some of us!

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

*And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink,
neither be ye of doubtful mind. Luke 12:29*

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 39:1-40:27
James 2:18-3:18
Psalm 118:1-18
Proverbs 28:2

19
NOVEMBER

As young David brought some food to his brothers in the battlefield he could see there was a backslidden king who was afraid and petrified. Even today there is a backslidden, weak, feeble, insipid, irresolute church system not able to stand up to the Goliaths of this day despite all the seminars conferences, satellite communication systems, advanced printing technology and management techniques. Goliath, the evil, corrupted, selfish, pleasure-seeking world system is still stand-ing up to say, "Is there none among you who can come and fight me". The spiritual system with its computer aids, multinational support, management vices, and greed and self-seeking methods is crippled, unable to face the might of Goliath. But there was a young lad, anointed of God, whose heart was towards the things of God. David was not going forth to fight his own battle but he was venturing into a battle for his God. Many of us are tired fighting our own battles. It is time to arise to the Lord and be occupied with the Lords battles. There was a man after God's heart who rose up beyond human abilities. Something rose up within him to defy that giant who challenged the very existence of Israel. He forgot his food, his family, his household and his father's sheep and he responded to the voice of God. Beloved, God is looking for a people who will respond to God's order.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Hebrews 13:16

20
NOVEMBER

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 40:28-41:26

James 4:1-17

Psalms 118:19-29

Proverbs 28:3-5



What are you caught up with? What are you doing? These are very important questions concerning your spiritual life. God's people will have to be open to the Spirit of God and be responsible. It is not a matter of having some mental knowledge of things and doing some activities in His name. It is time to be concerned about your spiritual health, your maturity, your walk with the Lord so that the man of God may be made complete. Every bit of undigested food in your spiritual system will work adversely and cause inward decay. Do you know that the Word you have disobeyed in your life can work negatively and have negative results? Yes, it will make you sick and weaken you spiritually. Saints, let us therefore turn to the Lord and ask the Lord to heal us. A life of obedience, a heart to submit, a heart that is open for reprove (2 Tim 3:16), a heart that is open for correction, a heart that is ready to yield to the Lord speak of a healthy digestive system. We are all called to obey God. Instead of that, if you go to any man for deliverance you can be certain that your true spiritual need will not be met. Only God can deliver us from the spiritual sickness that stems from our disobedience. If we fail to obey Him, our lives will be adversely affected.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Romans 12:15

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 42:1-43:27
James 5:1-20
Psalm 119:1-16
Proverbs 28:6-7

21
NOVEMBER

Led by the Spirit of God, Simeon entered into the Temple (Luke 2:25-30). It is necessary for us to understand that Simeon lived at a time when the spiritual state of things was altogether terrible. The Old Testament had come to a close with the Book of Malachi revealing the terrible condition of the people at that time. People did not have the fear and the love of God. The sacrifices to God were polluted. How did Simeon, who sat expectantly in the temple all day, know about a holy Child who had been born in their midst? How could he know who that Baby was? The answer is that Simeon came to the temple led of the Spirit and alive in the Spirit. He was a man who maintained a spiritual height despite the surrounding religious decline. He maintained a spiritual walk despite the discouraging religiosity. He was led of the Holy Ghost and the Holy Ghost was upon him. When Simeon entered the temple he was actively alive to the Holy Spirit.

Simeon means 'hearing' in Hebrews. That is what is so significant! Simeon heard. He was one who heard! True hearing involves hearing, believing, obeying and walking. That is what the name Simeon signifies.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing. 2 Corinthians 6:17

22
NOVEMBER

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 44:1-45:12
1 Peter 1:1-12
Psalm 119:17-32
Proverbs 28:8-10



You may read Isaiah chapters 1 to 5 and you may notice their contents and context. But after Isaiah experienced the glory of the Lord, he began to prophesy quite differently from the way he had been doing. After chapter six of the book of Isaiah, we encounter sixty more chapters of incredible prophecies, prophetic declarations and prophetic visions. Isaiah's life after chapter six when he saw the Lord high and lifted up, was drastically different. The coal of the altar touched his lips and brought about a radical change in his life. The way he began to see things thereafter were totally different. Amazingly, Isaiah began to prophesy about the Messiah in words that astound us chapter after chapter: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counseller, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" and so goes on his declarations of God. Beloved, an encounter with the Lord and a beholding of the Lord is going to bring such tremendous changes in our lives that we will be ever amazed. If we ever see Him we are going to be totally changed. Beholding will change us. Suddenly, the person and the presence of the Lord is all that will be reflected in our lives.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering. Colossians 3:12

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 45:13-46:24
1 Peter 1:13-2:10
Psalm 119:33-48
Proverbs 28:11

23
NOVEMBER

“I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Revelation 1:9). We can see here four important qualities about this corporate 'man'. Through fellowship they are brothers; through tribulations, they are companions; through the kingdom, they are submitted to His lordship; and through patience, they are being tested and tried and purged, that their faith might come forth as gold. The many-membered new man, which is the true Church, the Body of Christ, is a company of brothers, along with John, the apostle. But they are not like ordinary brothers who come to blows when their father goes out! The true Christian fellowship is unique in every way: For one, only those who walk in the light of His word and His life (1 John 1:7) have true fellowship. We can only be brethren through fellowship with one another. The true body of Christ comprises those who have an intimate fellowship with the Head and with one another. God is calling us into a genuine, perfect fellowship.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love John 15:9

24
NOVEMBER

Today's Reading : Ezekiel 47:1-48:35
1 Peter 2:11-3:7
Psalm 119:49-64
Proverbs 28:12-13



The woman, who had a disease of the blood for twelve years, sought a healing touch from the Lord (Mark 5:25-34). However, so many people crowded around Him. Somehow, she stretched forth her hand, and touched the hem of His garment by faith. Although many people surrounded Jesus and left no place for the woman to meet Him, yet she was able to reach out and touch His robe. That was something tremendous! She reached out for His Presence in spite of every difficulty.

When Jesus walked upon the earth, there were many who followed the Lord, but they never really knew the nearness of His Presence. There were many who thought that they were close to the Lord, but they never knew the true Presence of God in their lives. Several people walked in close proximity to the Lord, but they were not able to experience His Presence in an intimate way. It is the same today. Many people follow Christ, His teachings and His precepts, but few are able to know Him in an intimate manner. In the midst of today's general clamour for the Lord's Presence, some are reaching out to touch and behold the Lord Jesus in this hour.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren. 1Peter 1:22

Today's Reading :

Daniel 1:1-2:23

1 Peter 3:8-4:6

Psalm 119:65-80

Proverbs 28:14

25
NOVEMBER



“They are doomed and their fate (is) eternal misery (perdition); their god is their stomach (their appetites, their sensuality) and they glory in their shame, siding with earthly things and being of their party.” (Phil 3:19 Amplified Bible). It is very clear that for some “God is their belly” and “their god is their stomach”. The Apostle Paul here talks about false teachers, for the whole chapter deals with this matter. He says that their god is their belly, their appetite and their sensuality. They are serving or worshiping their appetite and their sensuality. They are mainly concerned about the satisfaction of their sensual desires. To worship one’s belly means to be ruled by our own way, our own will and our own desire! There are people whose own way is their god. They are only concerned with their sensuality, their desires of their senses. Their own wills, their ways, and their desires, are all that matters to them. They worship their own selves for to them their own interests are their gods. This can happen to any one of us for we know how strong our own will is; we know how our wants and desires grip us. God wants to break that kind of mentality in us. God wants to do a new work in our bellies, He wants to dig into our innermost being, but He is waiting to see if a price has been paid by us. We must understand the realities that exist in our lives.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: 1 Peter 4:1



Today's Reading :

Daniel 2:24-3:30

1 Peter 4:7-5:14

Psalms 119:81-96

Proverbs 28:15-16



It is not our perfection but our passion that will cause the Lord to descend from His infinite, heavenly realm to our finite, earthly realm. Amen !

God takes our imperfect praise and perfects it in His own ears. O how we praise God for this! Our Heavenly Father does it in the same way as that of a natural mother does with her baby. Though a baby cannot utter even two words, the mother understands all that the baby expresses. Those imperfect syllables are perfected! Oh my God, every imperfect syllable from a child of God is perfected in the Father's ears. This is how our God knows every one of our unspoken & broken and imperfect expressions. God is not looking for perfect beings on the earth; He is looking for passionate, broken and contrite hearts. I thank God that He will perfect their imperfect praise in His ears. Jesus said, "Out of the mouth of babes and suckling thou hast perfected praise?" (Matt 21:16). The Father perfects the incomplete, juvenile expressions of His children. Even our broken, incomplete syllables, our imperfect expressions, and our inadequate love will be perfected by God in His ears in these days. His heart is moved when He hears the cries of redeemed children.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Hebrews 12:3

Today's Reading :

Daniel 4:1-37
2 Peter 1:1-21
Psalm 119:97-112
Proverbs 28:17-18

27
NOVEMBER

“Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD. The LORD that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion.” (Ps 134:1-3). From his room in the palace, David was able to see the priestly Levites and the servants of the Lord, standing around the mercy seat in the Tabernacle all night. It would be dark all around, but the house of the Lord would be lit up with the light of burning torches. The priests would bless, worship and seek the Presence of the Lord. This is the background to the hymn, “Come bless the Lord” that we so often sing in the house of God, even today. Yes, we lift up our hands in the sanctuary today, but do we really have the kind of heart that the singers had in the days of old? Day and night worshippers stood before the Presence of the Lord. They kept the heavens above them open with their praises and worship. It was as if they were holding open, heaven, with their upraised hands! In the quietness of his palatial abode, David rejoiced in his heart and longed to be in the midst of all that was happening in the Tabernacle at midnight. He longed to be in the courts of the Lord and in the Presence of the Lord, even in the middle of the night.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. James 1:4



Today's Reading :

Daniel 5:1-31
2 Peter 2:1-22
Psalm 119:113-128
Proverbs 28:19-20



“And when Moses saw that the people were unruly and unrestrained (for Aaron had let them get out of control, so that they were a derision and object of shame among their enemies),” (Ex 32:25TLB) The Spirit shows us that when the people were naked, *“they were a derision and shame before their enemies.”* In other words, in this condition, God’s chosen people were made a mockery and ridicule in front of the enemy. There is one thing that the enemy and all the hosts of enemies in the heavenlies are set upon to do—that is to make the church of Jesus Christ derision, a mockery and ridicule in the universe. This is the strategy of the enemy. The enemy desires to do this so that the world may look upon the church and say that it has become a part of the world. All that the enemy wants to do is to make God’s chosen nation a laughing stock in the eyes of the world. Then people would say, “Is this the church of Jesus Christ? Is this the best that their God can do? The situation is exactly as it was in the days of Moses. It is my prayer that God may open your eyes to see, as Moses saw, that the Aarons of today have let the people live unruly and unrestrained lives. They have allowed the people of God to go out of control, so that the church has become an object of shame among their enemies!

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Colossians 3:15

Today's Reading :

Daniel 6:1-28

2 Peter 3:1-18

Psalm 119:129-152

Proverbs 28:21-22

29
NOVEMBER

David's life was a delight to the Lord. He arose in the middle of the night; he heard the Levites chanting, singing and worshipping; he heard the clanging sound of cymbals and his heart yearned for the courts of the Lord. His heart longed to meet the Lord. "Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD remaineth under curtains." (1 Chronicles 17:1) Look at David's heart! Even in his meditations at night, his thoughts did not stray away from God and His Presence! "LORD, remember David, and all his afflictions: How he swore unto the LORD, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob; Surely I will not come into the Tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, Until I find out a place for the LORD, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob." (Ps 132:1-5). Maybe, God responded to the cries of David with words such as these. "My son, I see the deep longing of your heart for My Presence. As you seek to please me, know that My desire is not to have some kind of Tabernacle or traditional abode. My son, a simple tent will meet My need. All I am looking for is a simple tent! But keep your heart hot and aflame for Me and for My Presence in your life."

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

1 Timothy 4:13

30
NOVEMBER

Today's Reading :

Daniel 7:1-28
1 John 1:1-10
Psalm 119:153-176
Proverbs 28:23-24



In the Book of the Acts we find that the early disciples went forth for the sake of the Name. That is, they went out into the world for the sake of His Name. They went out in life and service for the Name of the Lord Jesus. We read in Acts 5:40, "and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go." They counted it joy to suffer for the sake of His Name for we read, "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name." They counted it an honour to be found worthy to suffer for the sake of the Name. When Paul was converted, and led by hand into Damascus, the Lord said to Ananias, "Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." (Acts 9:15-16). We must have some measure of character and manner of life to suffer for the sake of the Name. The Word says, "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus." (Col 3:17) This implies that our character, conduct, behaviour, temperament and disposition must be correct for the sake of the Name. What we are in ourselves, and how we behave in this world, touches the Name of Jesus. The Apostle Paul truly suffered for His Name by relinquishing all his previous ways and his rights.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

If any man desire to be first, [the same] shall be last of all, and servant of all. Mark 9:35

Today's Reading :

Daniel 8:1-27

1 John 2:1-17

Psalm 120:1-7

Proverbs 28:25-26

1

DECEMBER

Fellowship emanates from a relationship with one another through the working of the cross. As we walk in the light, there is an unwritten covenant that exists and shackles the consciences; there is a fusing that becomes deeper and deeper as believers grows together in the Lord. Many think that we are called to have friendship in the Body of Christ; but in the true Body, we know no man after the flesh. Fellowship calls for a determination on our part to walk by His word in truth, in the narrow way and in the discipline of His calling. As we daily take decisions to walk in the reality of His light, there will be a strengthening of our ties and we shall truly be 'brethren' as the word of God says. Often there is no progression in our spiritual lives because our relationships in the Body of Christ are based on an outward and worldly type of friendship. Invariably, we find that those who do not have a fellowship based on the pattern of God's word soon part. Ultimately, a wrong way of fellowship leads to separation and dismemberment from the Body. Another aspect of fellowship is one's ability to receive corrections from another brother without in any way feeling offended in the spirit. It calls for humility and a determination to die to the flesh, to maintain the bonds of fellowship.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Speak not evil one of another. James 4:11

2
DECEMBER

Today's Reading :

Daniel 9:1-11:1
1 John 2:18-3:6
Psalm 121:1-8
Proverbs 28:27-28



“Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. And he said, My Presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. And he said unto him, If thy Presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.”(Exodus 33:13-16) The children of Israel had become content and satisfied with the blessings that they received from the hand of the Lord. They did not want anything more. They were not prepared to exert themselves for the things of the Lord. However, Moses was a different kind of a person. Only one thing would satisfy his strong hunger for the Lord – to experience the very Presence of the Lord. Today many believers seek for ‘presents’ from the Lord, rather than the ‘Presence’ of the Lord. While the children of Israel were satisfied with His ‘presents’ Moses was only satisfied with His Presence. What is your desire? Do you desire His presents or His Presence?

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

2 Corinthians 10:17

Today's Reading :

Daniel 11:2-35

1 John 3:7-24

Psalms 122:1-9

Proverbs 29:1

3

DECEMBER

The Lord warned Moses that no man could see Him and live. Even in the New Covenant, this statement stands as the truth. Only a dead man can see the face of God. There is a close connection between His glory and our death. In the past, we had received some light concerning the manifestation of His glory, the reality of the glorious Church, and the Glory of God that shall fill His temple etc. However, now the Lord is showing us that we need to be further prepared in our inner man to experience and practically realize the glory of God in our lives. God is preparing His people for His glory in these days. The Spirit wants us to set our face towards God, as Moses did. God would say even to His remnant in these days, "Let your face be set to see My glory. But always remember that only the dead shall see My face". God had chosen Moses to, not only receive the architectural details of the pre-Calvary model of salvation, but also to receive some knowledge of the ultimate restoration of His Presence to humanity. Moses had received many details concerning the Tabernacle, the priesthood and several other spiritual things from the Lord, but Moses wanted to press forward towards the throne or the dwelling place of God. He was not content with the understanding of these things! His cry before God was to behold the glory of God, to the exclusion of everything else.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. Romans 13:5



Today's Reading : Daniel 11:36-12:13

1 John 4:1-21

Psalms 123:1-4

Proverbs 29:2-4



Establishing and strengthening the souls and the hearts of the disciples, urging and warning and encouraging them to stand firm in the faith, and [telling them] that it is through many hardships and tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22-23 AMP). At every place that the apostles halted, they shared with others the great necessity of going through much tribulation so that they could enter into the kingdom of God. It is only through hardship and tribulation that we must enter the kingdom of God. It is remarkable that not a single member from the churches they visited ever asked them, "Is it not enough to have already suffered so much for His name?" The apostles knew the extent of the difficulties that they had gone through, but they did not sympathize with them. They did not say, "Beloved brethren, you have already suffered more than your share of suffering and now you need to take it easy." On the contrary, they urged them, warned them, and encouraged them to stand firm in the faith. They emphasized that it would only be through hardships that they would be able to enter into the full measure of the kingdom of God. In other words they said, "Beloved brethren, there are many more hardships that you must yet suffer. There are tribulations that are yet to come upon all of you and it is in going through these trials and afflictions that the kingdom of God will become a reality to you."

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. Mark 12:31

Today's Reading :

Hosea 1:1-3:5

1 John 5:1-21

Psalms 124:1-8

Proverbs 29:5-8

5

DECEMBER

During our meetings, while mothers are carefully listening to the sermons, their hungry babies often cry out loudly for milk. The babies could not care less who is preaching! Do you think that baby would stop to think, "Oh, that is the pastor speaking, so I better be quiet!" If that baby is hungry, things are going to get noisy. All that the baby is interested in is to satisfy its desire for food. Hungry babies make an open display of their hunger and refuse to stop crying. The babies do not think of the need to be quiet in the worship hall. When babies get hungry, they will cry. There will be a lot of noise until the babies get what they want. They are not bothered who watches them. They do not care who hears them. They do not care who sits next to their mother. They proclaim their hunger with loud cries. They put their hunger on display, wherever they are. The baby says, "I do not care. I will continue to cry as long as my hunger is not satisfied." The babies do not care for our spiritual condition, our clothing, our religious belief, or our fervour. These things make no difference to the hungry ones. All that the baby knows is, "If I do not get some immediate nourishment or help, I shall die." God's people need to display a strong cry in this hour for God's Presence.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded; nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God 1 Timothy 6:17



Today's Reading :

Hosea 4:1-5:15

2 John 1:1-13

Psalms 125:1-5

Proverbs 29:9-11



“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth”. (Revelation 11:3,4). The two witnesses here represent the corporate people of God, who like John the Baptist and Ezekiel have eaten the scroll (word of God) in their lives. The number two stands for 'more than one'. Number two signifies that there can be agreement and testimony. God's revelation is two-fold (the old and the new covenants), God's testimony of the truth to man. Two is often connected with faithful testimony. Caleb and Joshua were two faithful witnesses of God's truth (*Numbers* 13:30-31). Two out of six lakh possessed their inheritance. May this encourage us to stand firm in these days of backsliding and apostasy, with ears closed to the words of man but attentive to the words of God. "Let God be true but everyman a liar" (*Romans* 3:4). The word of God tells us that there were two olive trees and two candlesticks standing before God. Figuratively they represent God's purposes upon earth. The two witnesses, without a doubt represent the godly minority of overcomers. Their ministry is to provide power to the entire Church.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, 1 Corinthians 16:2

Today's Reading :

Hosea 6:1-9:17
3 John 1:1-14
Psalm 126:1-6
Proverbs 29:12-14

7
DECEMBER

It is a matter of great celebration that when the Lord commands us to do something, He doesn't tell us to do it by our own strength!! Often the task ahead seems impossible and hopeless, but He knows how to perform it. "For strength shall no man prevail" (I Samuel 2:9) "but the way of the Lord is strength" (Proverbs 10:29). The task of measuring the temple that of purifying and cleansing the church, seems a tall order!! How can the remnant believers ever accomplish such a task? How can the body-minority think of purging the entire church system? Praise God, they do not even have to try; for God will raise up a people, furnish the power and generate that which He intends. They will increasingly be aware of God's purposes and intentions and they will move in total harmony even as the Lord Jesus Christ moved in total harmony, with the Father while He was upon this earth. while it seems impossible to cleanse the Church of all the abominations that are occurring within, yet the Almighty has put a measuring rod in the hand of a people who are His faithful witnesses!! He shall provide them God-given Holy Spirit power to do that which appears impossible. The two witnesses shall perpetually pour oil into the candlesticks (Zech 4)! They are a corporate people having power and anointing from on high.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For [it is] a good thing that the heart be established with grace. Hebrews 13:9



Today's Reading :

Hosea 10:1-14:9

Jude 1:1-25

Psalms 127:1-5

Proverbs 29:15-17



In the book of First Samuel, we read about the woman Hannah, in the house of the Lord, who prayed and sought His Presence with a heavenly weeping. However, the priesthood of that time did not understand the kind of prayer she was making. The religious order of the day, failed to understand what this woman was doing in the house of the Lord. She was misunderstood and wrongly judged by them. "And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD." (1 Sam 1:12-15). God is drawing His people to a place where they come to Him, pouring out their souls to Him in brokenness before the Lord. We can draw strength from the lives of men of God who stood before the Lord, day after day, with wet eyes and broken spirits. We need not know the doctrines they followed, but we ought to see the manner in which they prepared themselves to meet God. Some of them stood in the puddle of their own tears, before the Lord seeking His Presence, and waiting for His response.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation,
in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12*

Today's Reading :

Joel 1:1-3:21
Revelation 1:1-20
Psalm 128:1-6
Proverbs 29:18



Through the minor tests and trials that we undergo from time to time, we are trained and prepared to undertake greater suffering and tribulation that will come our way. The little trials we face in office, in social circles, and in our homes for His name's sake groom us for what lies ahead. The difficulties we experience amongst our dear ones, relatives and acquaintances are nothing but a preparation for things that lie ahead. David had to be faithful when the sheep were committed to him for his care. He had to be faithful in every trial that he came across and experienced. He was faithful unto death when, first a bear and then a lion attacked the sheep that his father had entrusted to his care as a shepherd boy. It was while he tended and grazed the sheep daily in the pastures that God prepared David for his battle against the giant Goliath. We are not to crib and cry when trying situations come our way. Do not lose hope. Though we may feel that the trials we face are beyond our capacity to bear, we need to trust the Lord and turn to Him in faith. Remember, we must enter the things of God with many hardships and tribulations. Just hold on to the Word and be open. God is never unjust; He is ever faithful. Do not believe the whispers of the devil who is an inveterate, incurable, and chronic liar. Even when he speaks the 'truth', there is an inherent lie right there!

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

And of some have compassion... And others save with fear, pulling [them] out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Jude 1:22,23

10
DECEMBER

Today's Reading :

Amos 1:1-3:15

Revelation 2:1-17

Psalms 129:1-8

Proverbs 29:19-20



Bethany means 'the house of figs'. We need to know that the Lord Jesus Christ, the coming King, shall return to the spiritual Bethany (the Church), to His own people "who look steadfastly toward heaven." He shall return to those whom He has redeemed by His blood and to those who look unto Him for full salvation. The fig tree, unlike many other trees, has fruit that is green in color and of the same tone as its own leaves. At the time of ripening the fruit is concealed among leaves. When Jesus went to Bethany with His disciples, He saw a fig tree afar off and desired to eat its fruit, being hungry. However, when He came near He found no fruit upon the fig tree; and He cursed it (*Matthew 21:19-21; Mark 11:12-14*). From a distance the leaves showed forth the promise of fruit, but on drawing near there was none. As such the tree was a hypocrite. Such a one our Savior cursed. O how the Lord detests a hypocritical believer!! (outward show of good character without real fruit). The fig tree seemed to have fruit; but in reality it was barren. There is inherent in this incident a warning to such believers who pretend to know the Lord but are in reality false teachers. Their roots shall dry up; the Lord shall depart from their lives (*Mark 11:20*).

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Study to show thyself approved unto God, 2 Timothy 2:15

Today's Reading :

Amos 4:1-6:14
Revelation 2:18-3:6
Psalm 130:1-8
Proverbs 29:21-22

11
DECEMBER

In Matthew 24:32-34, the Lord speaks a parable concerning the times and seasons by giving the example of the fig tree. By looking at the Body of Christ (the true Church) and seeing their lives it will be possible to tell whether the “summer is nigh”, that is, whether the Day of Christ is at hand. It is the body of believers who will be the Lord’s ‘litmus paper’ indicating whether the solution is acid or alkaline, i.e. whether the day of the Lord has truly come. It is best not to confuse the hope of His coming with an approach which is too scholarly and theoretical as to what is going to occur when He comes. But rather let us take the advice of our Lord and just look at the condition of the Church. “Be patient therefore, brethren unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain...”(James 5:7). In another parable Jesus spoke to natural Israel about the consequences of not bearing fruit (Matthew 21:33-43); the kingdom of God shall belong to those who bring forth fruit-the true body of Christ (Matthew 21:43). The Husbandman is waiting for the precious fruit of our lives to come forth. He shall certainly come back to His vineyard, to His own, to those who are abiding in the Vine.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast
off the works of darkness, Romans 13:12*

12
DECEMBER

Today's Reading :

Amos 7:1-9:15

Revelation 3:7-22

Psalms 131:1-3

Proverbs 29:23



“And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.” (Luke 16:15). It must be acknowledged that there is a great lust in man for his own glory. It is common practise for men to have titles, credits and appendages, so that others may look upon them with approval and admiration. Such things have crept into the Church as well. Priest and laymen alike, use exalted titles and signs to signify their achievements and appointments. They make every effort to appease and please the heart of man. Satan once tried to bring about the downfall of Christ by offering Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. Here is sufficient proof that the devil is wise but not wise enough. He knew fallen human nature and just how to handle it. He knew the power of pomp and circumstances to charm the sinful heart and bring it into captivity. In presenting to the Man Jesus the glory of the world he was shrewdly taking advantage of a known weakness in the human race. The trick should have worked, and it would have worked but for one thing: This was no fallen man Satan was attempting to seduce; it was a sinless Man full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whose penetrating glance pierced the world's attractive exterior and saw what was inside. What He saw revolted Him. He would have no part of it.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. John 21:22

Today's Reading :

Obadiah 1:1-21

Revelation 4:1-11

Psalms 132:1-18

Proverbs 29:24-25

13

DECEMBER

“The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” (Luke 17:21). While addressing the Pharisees, Jesus said, “Behold, the Kingdom of God is within you.” We have to note here that He did not mean that the Kingdom of God is within the Pharisees who heard Him speak. One Pharisee called Nicodemus, who came to Him secretly at night, clearly did not possess the kingdom of God! This is clear from John 3:5 in the Amplified Bible wherein Jesus tells Nicodemus, “. . . I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person be born again (anew from above) he cannot ever see (know, be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God.” Jesus did not tell Nicodemus, who was a Pharisee that the Kingdom of God is within him! He told him that he had to be born from above to see the Kingdom of God! The Lord told those demanding Pharisees, those hostile Pharisees, those ever-watching-to-accuse-Him-Pharisees, that they were not to look for the kingdom of God in outward displays or in supernatural manifestations. No. The Kingdom of God is not localized nor is it an earthly display. The Kingdom of God is more than just observation of a law; it is something within. It is not the observation of this thing and that thing.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

If any [man] come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:26

14
DECEMBER

Today's Reading :

Jonah 1:1-4-11
Revelation 5:1-14
Psalm 133:1-3
Proverbs 29:26-27



In the Tabernacle of Moses, as the smell of the sacrifices rose up and filled the nostrils of God, His Presence descended amongst His people. It was as if the sacrifice was a signal that God could draw near! He drew near to His people, without striking them down, when He got the smell of death that arose from the sacrifice. This is true for us as well. God's Presence is manifested in our lives when the aroma of the death of our flesh rises up unto Him. If God were to descend in our midst and find that there is no sweet aroma of death or sacrifice, we would all be struck down by His awesome Presence. That is why it is so essential to come to Him with sacrifices of our own lives as a living sacrifice upon the altar. God will not come if He does not see a sacrifice on the altar! God's end goal has always been reunion and intimate communion with mankind. However, God cannot come close to living flesh; God will destroy it. He waits to receive the smell of burnt, dead flesh. The Lord looks for that smell of dead flesh and of burning hair so that He could come close to His people. The more death God smell in our lives, the closer He will come to us. Positive confessions, confessing the word of God, saying 'I am crucified with Christ', or saying 'it is no longer I but Christ who lives within', will not help us in our spiritual walk with Christ. There is something more we need in our lives.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Go! It will be done just as you believed it would. (To the centurion because of his faith)- Matthew 8:13

Today's Reading :

Micah 1:1-4:13

Revelation 6:1-17

Psalm 134:1-3

Proverbs 30:1-4

15

DECEMBER

One cannot dance around the burning bush! God is a consuming fire. He is a God of glory. His desire for His people is that they may come to His glory and live in the glory that He has. The Old Testament says that the dead shall see the glory of the Lord. The New Testament equivalent of this truth lies in repentance, brokenness, and humility before the Lord. Often we agree to this mentally and accept it, but we seldom remain in a condition of death to the self. If the Lord says that only a dead man can see His face, then the one who sees His face cannot live. If you desire to see God's glory, He will show it to you but then you will not be able to live any longer. If God were to show His glory to us in full measure we would all be dead! We need to realize that there is truth in what God says. His glory is not an ordinary matter. The Scripture says, "the mountains melt down before the Lord..." (Judges 5:5). Again prophet Nahum says, "The mountains quake at him and the hills melt and the earth is burned at his Presence...". If this is so, how much more must man's flesh experience a death when face to face with His glory. Beloved, we may have known something of His glory, but a greater glory remains hidden to us. We ought to be able to see His full glory, if we yield ourselves to His workings and experience a death.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

2 Thessalonians 3:13

16
DECEMBER

Today's Reading :

Micah 5:1-7:20

Revelation 7:1-17

Psalms 135:1-21

Proverbs 30:5-6



“For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.” (Is 8:11-13). The Lord is specifically calling His church to a place of separation and sanctification in this hour. That is something that the Lord has laid upon my heart for His church, which goes in line with verse 11 of Isaiah 8. One translation mentions that the Lord said in the strongest terms not to go along with the plans of Judah to surrender (to worldly influences), under any circumstances. Today, there are many believers who are surrendering themselves to the things around them, but we have to move and stay away from any kind of surrender. The Lord would like His people to sanctify Him, the Lord of Hosts; their fear is to be for Him and not for any other (verse 13). To sanctify the Lord of Hosts, Himself, talks of coming into a deeper separation unto Him. The Lord wants His people, His church, His remnant, to be fully separated unto the Lord in and through their lives. The Holy Spirit has shown us, from the example of the separation of Levites, that the Lord had always depended upon the Levites for the forward movement of God's people.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

Romans 12:11

Today's Reading :

Nahum 1:1-3:19

Revelation 8:1-13

Psalms 136:1-26

Proverbs 30:7-9

17

DECEMBER

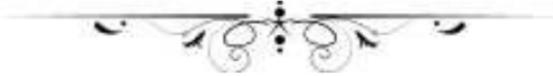
“Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Mal 3:1). The New Testament clearly shows that the purpose of John’s ministry was to prepare a people for the Lord. The prophecies of Malachi are echoed in the Gospels that tell of Elijah who would go before and prepare a people, securing a people for the Lord, so that God could move on to fulfill His purpose. The Lord Jesus spoke of the fulfillment of the prophecy of Malachi saying, “And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was to come” (Mat 11:14). John the Baptist lived before the face of the Lord, preparing a way for the Lord and for the preparation of a people for the Lord. He secured a people prepared for the Lord. The ground on which the Lord will work seems to be the ground of a separated people who are sanctified for the Lord. Seeing this principle, we need to give ourselves for God to have a separated people, a sanctified people, a people prepared of the Lord, for God’s purpose to be fulfilled in this generation. The Lord Jesus came into a prepared place at that point of time in the Father’s will, so that the Father could fulfill His purpose.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 2John 1:8

18
DECEMBER

Today's Reading : Habakkuk 1:1-3:19
 Revelation 9:1-21
 Psalm 137:1-9
 Proverbs 30:10



God does not conduct His work, solely, with men of education or of wealth or of business capacity. Neither can He carry on His work through men of large intellects or of great culture, nor yet through men of great social eminence and influence. All these can be made to count provided they are not regarded as being primary. These men, by the simple fact of these qualities and conditions, cannot lead in God's work nor control His cause. Men of prayer, before anything else, are indispensable to the furtherance of the kingdom of God on earth. No other sort will fit in the scheme or do the deed. Men, great and influential in other things, but small in prayer, cannot do the work Almighty God has set out for His Church to do in this, His world. Men who represent God and who stand here in His stead, men who are to build up His kingdom in this world, must be in an eminent sense men of prayer. whatever else they may have, whatever else they may lack, they must be men of prayer. Having everything else and lacking prayer, they must fall. Having prayer and lacking all else, they can succeed. Prayer must be the most conspicuous and the most potent factor in the character and conduct of men who undertake divine commission. God's business requires men who are versed in the business of praying.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James 1:22

Today's Reading : Zephaniah 1:1-3:20
Revelation 10:1-11
Psalm 138:1-8
Proverbs 30:11-14

19
DECEMBER

While Moses was on the Mount with the Lord, we know what a shameful thing the Lord's people did! The gold was for the sanctuary in which the Lord was to dwell; it was for the Lord alone. However, they used that very thing that was for the Lord, and made a golden calf and began to worship it. On the day that they made the golden calf, all the evil powers broke into their midst. Why did the evil powers make a golden calf? Their evil intention was that God should not have His people's worship, and that the very gold that was intended for God's sanctuary would be used for their own evil purpose. Thus, the evil powers sought to use the same gold as the basis and instrument for the worship of God's people to Satan! This is what the enemy did at that time. Is this not happening today as well? The things that God gives us is not for ourselves, but it is unto Him; it is for His purpose. Whatever God may have given you—health, material, a good voice, some ability—they must be brought into His service, into His sanctuary. They are for His purpose. But notice how diabolically the powers of hell and darkness break into the psyche of the natural man! The natural man easily gives in to the enemy's suggestions and that which is meant for the Lord is utilized by the enemy for his own purpose! The enemy has broken into the midst of God's people time and time again!

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

*Do to others what you would have them do to you, for this
sums up the Law and the Prophets – Matthew 7:12*

20
DECEMBER

Today's Reading :

Haggai 1:1-2:23

Revelation 11:1-19

Psalms 139:1-24

Proverbs 30:15-16



Concerning the practices of the high priests, a writer says, that the high priest never slept the night before he had to enter the most holy place. The children of Israel had to keep the high priest awake all night, to prevent the high priest from dreaming while asleep! They were afraid that the High Priest would defile himself, if he dreamt. All night long, the Levites sat with the high priest and kept him awake by reading the Law of Moses to him. After the high priest had made all preparations to enter the Tabernacle, according to the Mosaic Law, he would sorrowfully tell his family, "I do not know whether I will return after I have entered the most holy place, where I am going to seek the face of God on behalf of all Israel. According to the Law and the commandments of God, no one can see His face and live. I will enter the most holy place with the blood of the sacrifice and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat. I fear that if there be any iniquity amongst God's people, I will die. God will smite me down and I will not return alive. But if I die, I die for I am going to see the King!" Finally, before entering the most holy place of the Tabernacle, the high priest would have to tie a rope around his ankles, so that if he died there, other priests would be able to pull him out, without their having to enter the sacred place.

✻ *Today's Command* ✻

Keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: 1 Timothy 6:14

Today's Reading :

Zechariah 1:1-21

Revelation 12:1-17

Psalms 140:1-13

Proverbs 30:17

21

DECEMBER

“Behold, we will pass over unto these men, and we will discover ourselves unto them. If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them. But if they say thus, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the LORD hath delivered them into our hand: and this shall be a sign unto us.” (1 Samuel 14:8-10). If we were in Jonathan’s place we would have said, “If they come down to us, then it would be a sign unto us.” Our thoughts would be, “If God is with me then my way will be made easy. Climbing up to the enemy is difficult; it is more dangerous; it would be disadvantageous to climb up to the enemy rather than to bear down upon the enemy from above. I will know that God is with me if the way is made easy.” But Jonathan’s heart in this matter was very different for he thought that as climbing up involved suffering, danger and uncertainty, he would only know that God had delivered the enemy into his hands if he suffered as he climbed. A normal person would think that the absence of suffering would reveal the hand of God, but Jonathan realized that he must be prepared to suffer to do God’s will. That would bring him certain victory. Here in this account of Jonathan we find that the attitude of a true overcomer is to have a faith that is willing to stretch itself.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let all things be done unto edifying. 1 Corinthians 14:26

22
DECEMBER

Today's Reading : Zechariah 2:1-3:10
Revelation 13:1-18
Psalm 141:1-10
Proverbs 30:18-20



“And there was an enlarging, and a winding about still upward to the side chambers: for the winding about of the house went still upward round about the house: therefore the breadth of the house was still upward, and so increased from the lowest chamber to the highest by the midst.” (Ezekiel 41:7). In describing the temple that he saw in a vision, Ezekiel the prophet says that “the side chambers were three one over another” (41:6) and there was “winding still upward”, a phrase he uses three times in verse 7. Solomon’s Temple had winding stairs going upwards. “The door for the middle chamber was in the right side of the house; and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third” (1 Kings 6:8). Ezekiel’s temple (of his vision), however, had stairs winding upward again and again still upwards. As we have seen earlier, his temple represents the temple of our day, which is not built by human hands, in which there are higher spiritual realms still upward and yet higher up. God desires to reveal the truth concerning higher spiritual realms to His Body, which is the Church. Beloved, there are realms which we as a body have never ascended into. God is calling His people to meet with Him in higher realms.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful – Luke 6:36

Today's Reading : Zechariah 4:1-5:11
Revelation 14:1-20
Psalm 142:1-7
Proverbs 30:21-23

23

DECEMBER

In our lives we are called to be sojourners and not squatters; to be pilgrims and not lodgers. We are called to be a people of the promised land of Canaan and to be strangers and sojourners upon this earth, as was Abraham, looking unto a heavenly city for our citizenship (Hebrews 11:8-10). We are not to stop half way and build something in our own strength, but we are to continually move on in God, keeping our eyes upon the Lord Jesus Christ. His glorious church is called to be a glorious bride who will stand with the glorious Bridegroom before the Father, not in some wretched, tattered clothes but in garments woven of 'fine linen' which is the righteousness of Christ Jesus. At no stage of our pilgrimage can we proclaim that we have 'arrived', or that we have 'attained' any proficiency. Whether we be pastors, preachers or prophets, the Word of God says that we are 'to press forward', because we have still not achieved our spiritual goal. Beloved, let us, therefore move on, together with the saints of God, toward the goal set before us, leaving behind all the old things, past relationships, experience, ideas, habits and behaviour. Let us continually march forward with the Lord in the lead; and the Holy Spirit of God will show and teach us of the things we need to leave behind in these days. Let us reach out to the things that lie ahead of us.

✢ *Today's Command* ✢

*Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to
pigs. – Matthew 7:6*

24
DECEMBER

Today's Reading : Zechariah 6:1-7:14
Revelation 15:1-8
Psalm 143:1-12
Proverbs 30:24-28



Genesis 2:24 and Ephesians 5:31 emphasize that a man must leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife. This is also what the Lord Jesus says in Mark 13:7. In Ephesians 5:31 the word used is 'joined' (instead of 'cleaving'). The original Greek word is PROSKOLLAO which means to glue, to join firmly or to be cemented together. It is interesting to note what the apostle Paul says in the very next verse— "This is a great mystery but I speak concerning Christ and the church." (Ephesians 5:32). Apostle Paul dramatically links the leaving of father and mother and the joining unto the wife with Christ and the Church. What does he mean? We know that Genesis 2:24 and Ephesians 5:31 are often quoted at Christian marriages to show what married life is. So Paul, in effect, says that a believer's life with the Lord Jesus has to be like that between a husband and a wife. As believers we too are to leave, our fathers, household and cleave or be joined wholly to the Lord Jesus, so also the church. But Paul says this is a great mystery. It was difficult to explain how Christ and the Church were really of one flesh. The Lord and His Church are one entity. How this is so cannot be explained in words but one has to understand in the spirit. The principles of leaving and cleaving or joining are to be applied to our church life even as they are applied to our married life.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

*And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence;
make not my Father's house a house of merchandise. John 2:16*

Today's Reading : Zechariah 8:1-23
 Revelation 16:1-21
 Psalm 144:1-15
 Proverbs 30:29-31

25
DECEMBER

In the days of old, when God's people had broken loose, everything that was related to the onward move of God from Egypt to the land of Promise came to a standstill. It was a time of crisis in the plan and purpose of God. And at such a time God gave a word to Moses to proclaim, "Who is on the Lord's side." And we know, only the Levites responded positively to the Lord's call at that time of crisis. "For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day." (Ex 32:29). During the time of crisis in Israel, the Levites were the only ones who responded to God. And therefore, the doors to the onward move of God were only opened through the Levites. The prospect of an onward journey opened up only when the Levites consecrated themselves unto the Lord. There can be no forward move until there is a sanctification and a separation unto the Lord. Everything was held in suspense until the Levites came forward to take up the issue that caused their enemies to deride and ridicule them. They took responsibility to answer that challenge to deal with that issue and get it out of the way, so that the purpose of God should be fulfilled - the people of God should go on. They answered the derision by their submission to God's mind.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. Jam 5:9

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DECEMBER

Today's Reading : Zechariah 9:1-17
Revelation 17:1-18
Psalm 145:1-21
Proverbs 30:32



When the Lord commissioned Elijah to anoint Elisha in his place(1 Kings 19:19-23), Elijah, on finding Elisha, cast his mantle upon him. And Elisha said only one thing, “Let me go and kiss my father and my mother. Then,” he added, “I will follow thee.” Elisha merely wanted to say farewell to his parents but in reality it was an excuse to get away from the responsibilities that Elijah was led of God to give him. And Elijah knew that the time had come for Elisha to decide whether to leave his parents or not. And therefore Elijah, who was a true prophet of God, said in effect that Elisha could do whatever he wanted. “Go”, he said, “do whatever you want to do.” Whether it be a wedding or your wife’s birthday or your parents’ anniversary, do whatever you want to do assume I have not done anything. Imagine I have not even said anything”. The sarcastic Elijah was ruthless in his treatment of Elisha. But in truth he wanted to make it plain that if Elisha truly wanted to be a part of what God wanted to do then, he must relinquish everything joyfully, voluntarily and without any hesitation. Remember the Lord Jesus said to a certain disciple, “Follow me; and let the dead bury the dead.” (Matthew 8:22). Elisha had to pay a price for the calling he was called into. Our response to the direct call of the Lord demands an altar and a sacrifice that shall be costly.

✪ *Today's Command* ✪

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. – Matthew 9:38

Today's Reading : Zechariah 10:1-11:17
Revelation 18:1-24
Psalm 146:1-10
Proverbs 30:33

27
DECEMBER



Since God's work is primarily an internal work that is eternal in character, there is no way that Satan can thwart God's work by using some external means. It is very important for all of us to know and understand this. God is primarily doing an inner work in our hearts. Let us not add outward things to our lives and deceive ourselves imagining that we are becoming more spiritual. We could be greatly deceived. Surely, this is the greatest deception of the day! God is focusing upon an inward work. If we focus our attention on our inward spiritual growth, we will be kept from great deception. This will shield us from the imprudent efforts of many sincere, well-meaning, and earnest Christians, who fail to see what is happening in the invisible, spiritual, realm and are only able to focus their attention on the visible realm. If we concentrate upon what the Lord is attempting to do within us, we would prevent misguided Christians from influencing and even ruining our lives. If our concentration is upon His work in us, then we will be kept from many deceptions and their ill effects upon our lives. Many times we come under the influence of powerful men and women; we are blown by different kinds of wind; and sadly many of us drift away from God's purpose.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Ephesians 5:18

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DECEMBER

Today's Reading : Zechariah 12:1-13:9
Revelation 19:1-21
Psalm 147:1-20
Proverbs 31:1-7



Moses was brought up in the lap of luxury in his child-hood. Being a prince in the palace of Pharaoh, Moses was accustomed to have the very best. Moses grew up under the influence of the best Egyptian priests and tutors. The Bible says that Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptian princes (*Acts 7:22*). He learned of their wisdom and was instructed in all their culture. Moses was not only groomed in the art of warfare but he became well versed in the science of his time. It is with this background that we must see the character of Moses! He saw that the pomp, power and pleasures of his life were in sharp contrast to the poverty, slavery and pitiable plight of his people, the Hebrews. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;" (*Hebrews 11: 24,25*). The faith in Moses, when he had grown to maturity and become great, was aroused and so he refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, preferring to endure ill-treatment and suffer hardships with the people of God. He made a deliberate choice to identify himself with the afflictions and hopes of Israel. He preferred to leave the king's palace and be counted as a Hebrew despite the pain and disadvantages of such an alliance. With an eye of faith he saw the hand of God upon his life

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. - Matthew 7:4

Today's Reading : Zechariah 14:1-21
Revelation 20:1-15
Psalm 148:1-14
Proverbs 31:8-9

29
DECEMBER

Christians have often considered people like Nero, Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini as the antichrist. We often think that the antichrist is a person! But John the apostle makes it very clear that antichrist is a spirit more than a person. The antichrist is more an evil spirit that works against the purposes of Christ; the spirit of antichrist makes every attempt to usurp the place of the Spirit of Christ in a believer's life. And this spirit of the antichrist even works internally in our lives. Oh how careful we need to be in these last days before His coming again! Beloved, though the enemy cannot stop the eternal God from fulfilling what He has purposed in His eternal Son the Lord Jesus Christ, but the reality is that the enemy can stop us from being part of that purpose if we are not extremely diligent in our spiritual walk. The spirit of antichrist can deceive us, and even stop us from receiving God's full salvation in our lives. He may not be able to stop the work of God in His Son, but he can stop us from being a part of God's purposes in the earth. This highlights the necessity for arming ourselves with great diligence in our spiritual walk. Our lives stand in a great danger if we do not take this seriously.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven. – Matthew 9:2

30
DECEMBER

Today's Reading : Malachi 1:1-2:17
Revelation 21:1-27
Psalm 149:1-9
Proverbs 31:10-24



In Numbers 13 we read that when the Israelites arrived at Kadesh-Barnea, the Lord told Moses to send twelve Spies into the land of Canaan. Ten returned with their hearts full of unbelief and the Lord decreed that the whole generation (except for Joshua and Caleb) would perish in the wilderness. When God said 'Go' they refused but after His judgment was pronounced upon them, they said, 'We will go up'. Moses warned them not to go because the Lord would not lead them and be with them. Nevertheless they went and disaster fell upon them because the Ark of the Covenant 'departed not out of camp' (Exodus 14:44). During this period God expressly taught the children of Israel that it was (and still is) presumptuous and indeed foolish, to move about without His presence and His will. If God is not with us we are hopeless; we are bound to come against the enemy and be defeated. We are to follow the Lord and not try to go ahead of Him. Joshua, the successor of Moses, was quick to learn this valuable, everlasting principle; for when they were crossing the Jordan, he told the priests, 'Take up the ark of the Covenant and pass over before the people' (Joshua 3:6. 1).

Today's Command

It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4

Today's Reading :

Malachi 3:1-4:6
Revelation 22:1-21
Psalm 150:1-6
Proverbs 31:25-31

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DECEMBER

“For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” (Matt 24:38-39). They knew not! The majority of the people knew not. But, there was a man called Noah and his family who knew. While the majority knew not, there was a minority, a remnant who knew what was coming. The majority did not realize that God’s judgment was coming down upon them. The word ‘knew’ in Greek means knowing by experience. Those people did not realize or perceive that the judgment of God was coming because they had not learned by experience. But Noah knew by experience that the judgment of God was inching closer and closer. Noah knew because he had chosen the ways of God. When others chose not to know by experience, Noah chose to know God and His ways by experience. Others chose not to learn. Noah chose to perceive and understand but others chose not to do so. Let us examine ourselves in this light. This is what we see even today. The Lord is instructing His people. He said that it shall be as in the days of Noah. The majority were not prepared to learn the ways of God and the judgments of God by experience.

☞ *Today's Command* ☞

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven – Matthew 5:16