JUNE 2022 IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

A DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR A CLOSER WALK WITH GOD.

KINGDOM SUPPORT INITIATIVES(KSI) PUBLICATION. In His Footstep A Daily Devotional by Kingdom Support Initiatives (KSi) June 2022

A Kingdom Support Initiatives Publication

A Loving Father I

The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore, with loving-kindness have I drawn thee. Jeremiah 31:3 Bible Reading: Luke 15:11-18

God is a loving Father. His love for us is immeasurable and incomprehensible. Love compelled Him to send His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to die for our sins. Ephesians 3:19a describes God's love as "too great to understand fully" (NLT). His love is wide, long, deep and high (Ephesians 3:18). That is, it covers every aspect of our lives. While on earth, Jesus used parables to teach, for instance, the parable the ten virgins, the lost coin, the wicked servant, the lost sheep, and the four soils. In the text above, we read Luke's account of the parable of the prodigal son. The father had two sons, the younger son approached his father and demanded for his share of his father's wealth which is not customary. The father succumbed to his request and gave him that which he asked but this son, being unwise and arrogant, he travelled far away from home and squandered all that he was given. After suffering great affliction due to his wasteful living, he was humbled and decided to go to his father. It is when God is your shepherd that you will not lack, when a man separates himself from God's covering, he makes himself a prey to be trampled upon by the enemies. A life without Christ is a life of untold hardships and full of famine, but when repentance comes, there is a restoration back to God, our Father, our Source, and our All in all.

Action Point: God is a loving Father; He will never reject a genuinely repentant sinner. All you need do is to arise and come to Him.

Self-Reflection: Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for individuals in the prison to experience God's love.

Song: Find rest my soul, in Christ alone Know His power in quietness and trust When the oceans rise and thunders roar I will soar with you above the storm...

June 2nd

A Loving Father II

This is real love-not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. I John 4:10 (NLT)

Bible Reading: Luke 15:19-32

Yesterday, we said God's love is wide, long, deep, and high Eph. 3:18, it reaches every part of our lives. In the parable above, despite the graveness of the young man's offence, his father accepted him and even threw a party to celebrate his son's arrival back home. So also, is there joy in heaven over a repentant sinner. Jesus speaking clearly in John 6:37 said; "He that comes to me, I will in no wise cast out". God does not love sins, but He loves a sincere and a repentant sinner. He does not condemn anyone but those who refuse His love John 3:17-18. He came to save, to heal, to restore man to fellowship with God and to give us abundant life. Receive His love today and all will be well with you. He will re-write the story of your life and make you an envy to your world like the three Hebrew boys in the book of Daniel. He did it for Joseph, God took him from the prison to the palace. Jabez name was changed, and he became mighty, Jacob had an encounter with this God and his name was changed from a deceiver to a ruler. This is what happens when a man encounters God. One common trend with these people is their genuine love for God and their obedience to His statues. Give your life to Jesus today.

Daily Confession: Ask that Jesus be enthroned in your life, tell him to make all things new for you again.

Action Point: But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. John 1:12

Intercessory prayer: Pray that God's kingdom and His will be done in your city.

Hymn: Wonderful story of love; Tell it to me again. Wonderful story of love. Wake the immortal strain!

June 3rd

Allow God to Lead You

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. Jeremiah 9:23

Bible Reading: | Kings 17:1-6

God is always ready to lead and guide us as long as we are ready to follow His leading. He said in Psalm 32:8 that He will instruct us and teach us in the way which we shall go: He will guide us with His eyes. That is the God we serve, the one who knows the way and shows the way. Do you know that God wants to show you the way? In your career, your academics, finances, marital life, He wants to show you the way out of shame and regrets. He wants to show you the way out of frustration, failure, bad luck and ill health into great fortune and true satisfaction. Do you know Jesus? He is the way, the truth and the life John 14:6. If you have known Him, call upon Him today and ask Him to lead you by His Holy spirit. But if you are yet to know Him, ask Jesus to come into your life and cleanse you, tell Him to take over your life from now onward.

As you go in the remaining days of the year 2022, allow God to lead you. Do not depend on your own understanding or ability but on God. Study and obey His word, pray often and you will surely hear him speak to you like Elijah did in today's reading. I see God bringing you into a wealthy place!

Action Point: Read anointed materials on hearing from God.

Daily Confession: I am of God, I can never be confused or put to shame because my steps are ordered by God.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for God's guidance for your leaders.

Hymn: Lead us, heavenly Father lead us O'er the world's tempestuous sea Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us For we have no help but Thee

Sing unto the Lord

O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Psalm 96:1 **Bible Reading:** 2Chronicles 5:12-14

Reference to music in the Bible started in Genesis 4:21 where the Bible spoke about Jubal who was a descendant of Cain and the father all who play the harp and organ. Also, in the time of Moses after the Israelites successfully crossed the Red Sea, the people sang and danced unto God Exodus 15:20-21. God loves music and he rejoices when we praise and worship Him in spirit and in truth. In today's reading, the Bible records that as the people were singing and praising God, He came down in their midst and great things happened. The book of Psalms also attests to the importance of singing unto God.

One benefit of singing unto God as seen in our text is that it brings down God's presence into one's life. We should praise God for who He is and for what He has done for us. When we sing, we express our heartfelt love and gratitude to God. Another benefit of singing is that it makes God happy with us and we are also filled with joy when we sing Zephaniah 3:17, Psalm126:2. Our singing should not be limited to church alone, but we are to praise Him everywhere and in all situations.

Action Point: As long as you live, always sing unto the Lord and you will see Him show up for you in all areas of your life.

Daily Confession: Lord, I thank you for your faithfulness and your goodness over my life and family this year. Pray for divine intervention in countries that are experiencing famine, diseases and wars.

Intercessory prayer: Thank God for answering our prayers whenever we call on Him.

Song: Thou art worthy O Lord, To receive glory, honour, and power For Thou has created all things and for Thy pleasure They are and were created

June 5th

Avoid Time Wasters

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

Bible Reading: Ephesians 5:14-17

Time is the passing of life. It is a valuable resource yet it is perishable that is, it can be easily lost. Life is tied to time and time is tied to life, hence the phrase lifetime. The way you handle your time reflects how you handle your life because time spent can never be recovered. So, if you waste time, you are actually wasting life. Time does not discriminate, everyone both great and small have 24 hours, your outcome in life therefore depends on how you use your time.

Generally, a child of God who seeks to make the most of his life should avoid the following time wasters. First of all; procrastination- putting until later what ought to be done now. In the words of Dawson Trotman, the greatest time wasted is the time spent getting started. Another robber of time to be avoided is lack of priorities and planning. Learn to order your activities from the most important to the least important and attend to the most important one first. Also avoid unnecessary interruptions especially as regards the use of mobile phones. Stay offline when you should, visibility means availability. Be wise!

Self-Reflection: What are those activities that rob you from being productive as you should? Desist from them today.

Daily Confession: Father, please help me to prepare adequately so that your coming will not meet me unprepared.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for those facing accessibility needs for grace, help and healing where necessary.

Hymn: Ho, my Comrades! See the signal Waving in the sky! Reinforcements are now appearing Victory is nigh!

June 6th

Goalsetting

Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterward build thine house. Proverbs 24:27

Bible Reading: Proverbs 3:5-7

God continuously looks out for men and women who will seek out His divine plan for their lives, work towards fulfilling it and overcome every obstacle on their way. This is what good success is all about according to Joshua 1:8. Every successful leader usually has a clear sense of direction and must set specific, measurable, achievable and timebased goals that guide his daily life.

Goal setting helps to give one's life a sense of direction, helps to make the right decisions and at the end there is satisfaction and fulfilment. For Jesus, He understood the purpose of His existence and He declared in Luke 19:10 "For the son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost". He thereafter set goals to help accomplish this mission according to Luke 13:32, Matt. 16:21. It is important to note that goal setting requires God's wisdom as stated in Proverbs 3:19 "The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens". Also write down key requirements that you will need to fulfil your mission, then organize and prioritize them. Goal setting requires discipline and critical thinking.

Action Plan: With specific goals there is a sense of direction.

Daily Confession: Lord, give me divine wisdom and understanding.

Intercessory prayer: Pray specifically for someone you know.

Song: I have confidence in You, Jesus I have confidence in You, anytime, any day I have confidence in You, Jehovah.

June 7th

The Power of Unity

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. (Psalm 133:1, NIV) **Bible Reading:** Psalm 133

We have been called to build together, live in harmony and advance God's kingdom. We have not been called to build mansions and empires for ourselves. Christians need to understand that we lose so much when we are divided. We are scattered as sheep without shepherd when we are selfish and we refuse to understand the unified relevance of that God given vision to the entire kingdom.

Aaron in today's reading stands as the church (remember he was a priest) and God is emphasizing that until we unite, we cannot make huge impacts across the nations; until we understand that God is a respecter of no denomination only true worshipers who will worship in spirit and in truth, only then we can live the life that God wants us to live.

Dear friends and ministers of the gospel, what is your effort in bringing unity into the fold? Let us come to that place of repentance and gather the lost sheep for the Lord because He has given us that responsibility and that is why He has called us!

Self-Reflection: What is my effort in bringing unity into the body of Christ?

Action Point: Take this burden to God in prayer and ask Him to help you contribute your own quota in uniting God's people.

Daily Confession: Lord, unite your church in this nation and across the world again!

Intercessory prayer: Pray for unity in the church of God.

Hymn: We praise Thee, O God! For the Son of Thy love, For Jesus who died, and now is gone above Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Hallelujah! Amen...

June 8th

United in Prayer

Again, I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. Matthew 18:19 **Bible Reading:** Acts 4:23-31

Prayer is a way of communicating with God. Prayer is a vital tool for unlocking the doors of heaven and getting our desired blessings. To get answers to prayer, you must decide on what exactly you want from God Mark 10:51. Prayer of unity is when two or more people agree on a particular issue and put it before God in prayer. In the text above, a certain lame man was healed by Peter and John as they went to pray in the temple, the people marvelled at what was done and some surrendered their lives to Jesus. But the elders and Sadducees were wroth with Peter and John, and they arrested them, commanding them not to preach any longer in the name of Jesus. The apostles were grieved about this and reported the case to their local assembly. The people gathered and prayed fervently concerning the matter and God intervened, leading to a great harvest of souls by the church. This pattern prayer exemplified by the early church still works today if God's people can be united in prayer. However, for this kind of prayer to work there must be unity of purpose and it must be made in one accord.

Action Point: Prayer of unity must be among believers for it to work. Amos 3:3

Daily Confession: Lord, grant us boldness that we may declare Your word to all.

Intercessory prayer: Lord encounter your church afresh (in our mid-week and Sunday services) and encounter our community through our service to our community in Jesus name.

Hymn: When the pow'r of God descended On the Pentecost All the days of waiting ended They received Holy Ghost,

June 9th

The Only Wise God

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion, and power, both now and forever. Amen. Jude 25

Bible Reading: James 3:17-18

Wisdom is defined as the discretionary use of knowledge for the greatest good. It is also the ability to apply relevant knowledge in an insightful way to different situations. Wisdom is a good quality which everyone who desires an impactful life requires. Without it, success in life is a mirage! A mere thinking that will never come true. Many people, both great and small have fallen due to failure to apply wisdom in appropriate situations. For instance, when God spoke to Samuel concerning His judgment upon the house of Eli, Eli's response was 'it is the Lord: let him do what seem him good (1 Samuel 3:18). Eli forgot that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hand of the living God (Hebrew 10:31). However, in the case of David, when Nathan the Priest brought him God's verdict regarding his execution of Uriah and taking his wife, he acknowledged his sin unto God and he repented (2 Samuel 13:11-16).

The opposite of wisdom is foolishness, the Bible speaks of these two attributes in Matthew 17:24-27. The good news is this, God is the originator if wisdom according to today's memory verse and in Colossians 2:3 the Bible says in Christ is hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Hence, to gain more wisdom, all we need to do is simply ask God for it.

Daily Confession: Father, I declare that me and my household will never fall under Your judgment, but we shall continually please You and find favour with You.

Action Point: If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask God. Ask for divine wisdom today. God bless you!

Intercessory prayer: pray for God's wisdom over your children and your household

Hymn: Immortal, Invisible, Wise only God In light, inaccessible, hid from our eyes Most blessed, most glorious, The Ancient of days Almighty, Victorious, thy great name we praise.

June 10th

Be Grateful

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine... to him be glory... forever and ever! Amen. Eph. 3:20-21 (NIV)

Bible Reading: Psalm 136

Grateful people are great because they achieve great things in life. The attitude of gratitude is a display of humility and acknowledgement. For instance, such people can acknowledge God in all things for they know that all things are from Him, through Him and for Him (Romans 9:33-34). However, ungrateful people complain and grumble through life. Instead of showing gratitude to God for life, they are occupied with the thought of not having one what they want overlooking what God has given them.

Showing gratitude means you are thoughtful and appreciative. Whether in good times or bad times, grateful people have every cause to thank God. God becomes their all in all; and remember God inhabits the praises of His people. Therefore, such people dwell in God's presence and God in turn lives with them. Regardless of that situation, choose to use the weapon of genuine worship and reverence unto God. Think of the great and mighty things He has done for you in time past, trust Him that He holds your future and that He is able to do more than you can think or request of Him.

In that corner of your heart, on your bed, parlour, room or whether you are driving or walking on the highway, or you are in a plane or seated in your office or there in the market place or you are in a class... whatever you are doing and wherever you are, acknowledge God for everything, see God beyond your problem for He who has began this great thing in you will definitely bring it to a perfect ending (Phil 1:6). Give Him praise and be a grateful being!

Self-Reflection: Think and thank God for His faithfulness.

Daily Confession: God I choose to be grateful; I thank you for all things and in all things.

Intercessory prayer: Teach my family to be grateful

Hymn: All hail the power of Jesus Name Let angels prostrate fall Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of lords Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of lords

June 11th

Meet the man named Nehemiah

The words of Nehemiah son of Hachaliah. Nehemiah 1:1a Bible Reading: Nehemiah 1

By God's grace, we will examine the life of Nehemiah for the next few weeks. Nehemiah was a visionary, prayerful, humble, and determined man. He was committed to God and His people. The love for God and his people consumed him that he wholehearted chose to serve God. He upheld righteousness and godly values. Nehemiah feared God and his sympathy and love for Israel, the country of his birth, made him dedicate his life to rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and eventually leading God's people.

The book of Nehemiah has thirteen chapters and describes the life of Nehemiah. Nehemiah was king Artaxerxes' cupbearer and he was later appointed the governor of Judah. The life of Nehemiah challenges us to first find God, love Him, serve Him, and be fully committed unto Him. How committed are you to God and that which concerns Him? Are you patriotic to the kingdom of God as an ambassador of Christ whose home is in heaven?

Also, the book teaches us to rely on God's help for change and recovery from the damage and ruins of the past. Repentance is important to revival and God looks for individuals who will surrender themselves to become His instrument to wrought mighty things in our generation. He also teaches us that we are missionaries on a journey regardless of the country or society we find ourselves, we must allow the Holy Spirit to work in us for the world to see Jesus in us and glorify our heavenly Father.

Dear friends, I encourage you to study along as we examine the life of Nehemiah in relationship to our walk with God, life and destiny because we have been called unto commitment and service.

Self-Reflection: How committed are you to God and that which concerns Him? In what ways are you patriotic to the kingdom of God as an ambassador of Christ whose home is in heaven?

Action Point: Study the book of Nehemiah.

Daily Confession: Lord, open my eyes to know the truth of Your word.

Intercessory prayer: Pray that God will raise self-less leaders like Nehemiah in your city.

Hymn: I am Thine O Lord, I have heard Thy voice And it told Thy love to me But I long to rise in the arms of faith And be closer drawn to Thee.

Pray At All Time

As soon as I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven" Nehemiah 1:4 (ESV) Bible Reading: Nehemiah 1

It is that "attitude determines altitude in life". I want us to start with Nehemiah's life and attitude. Nehemiah displayed an attitude I strongly believe we should desire every day. As soon as he heard about the fall of Jerusalem, the sad news grieved and saddened him to the extent that he interceded for his people. His passionate, and consistent prayer was answered. Nehemiah understood Jerusalem as the city of God, an important place for the Jews to worship God.

As Christians, it is important to understand the present times and intercede for others. For instance, we have to pray for those lost to the pleasures of this world. Our hearts should be burdened for the yet to be saved. We have to pray for God to give us fresh burden for the lost. Like Nehemiah we have to seriously devote time to pray for the unsaved until they are saved. As we forge ahead in this year and proceed with the mission of reconciling men to God, we really need such grace like Nehemiah had to pray until something happens. We have to pray for our families, friends, colleagues, and nations that currently do not believe in Christ. Let love and compassion move us to intercede and take active steps to love like Jesus and share the gospel of Christ Jesus through hour lives. Like God answered Nehemiah's prayers, I am confident that God will answer our prayers as we persevere and remain committed to God's purpose.

Action Point: Pray for at least one person that you desire the salvation of their souls.

Daily Confession/Prayer: Lord, cause me to be full of love and compassion for the lost and draw them to Yourself in Jesus name (John 6:44)

Intercessory prayer: Thy kingdom come on earth and Thy will be done in my city.

Hymn: Pass me not O gentle Saviour, Hear my humble cry While on others Thou art calling Do not pass me by

June 13th

A Sorrowful Heart

In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of king Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before; so the king asked me, 'Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart'. Nehemiah. 2:1-2

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 2

Nehemiah's grief was real that it became evident in his countenance. The king even observed this sporadic change. His outward countenance reflected his inward state; a genuine and honest countenance I must say. Here's his response: "why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" (Nehemiah 2:3b) Similarly, our outward appearance must resonate with our inner belief (Psalm 24:4). This is because you cannot confess to be a Christian and still embrace unrighteousness.

For the king to have noticed Nehemiah's unhappy countenance, Nehemiah must be a man full of joy, happiness and strength at all time (or at least in the presence of the king). No wonder he told us that "the joy of the Lord is my strength" (Neh. 8:10). Nehemiah's response shows us that our response to life experience is important. We have to learn to pray, engage God's word, joyfully take faith-inspired actions and joyfully wait for God's timing.

Finally, Nehemiah's sorrowful countenance as against his joyful countenance made the king notice that something was wrong with him. Can people see you and know that you are in relationship with God? We should learn from Nehemiah the importance of being joyful, confessing and professing Christ and living right for Him.

Self-Reflection: Is there any difference between when you were in the world and now that you are in Christ?

Action Point: Be joyful in the Lord and let your countenance and appearance reflect that you belong to Christ.

Daily Confession: Lord help me to live for You.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for those passing through challenging situation for God's grace and intervention.

Hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus All our sins and friends to bear What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer

June 14th

The Wisdom in Asking

If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favour in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it. Nehemiah 2:5 Bible Reading: Nehemiah 2

After Nehemiah prayed, he had the wisdom to tender his request before the king. Previously, we understood Nehemiah as a man of compassion, prayer and purpose. His passion and zeal for God is combined with right knowledge. He knew the right way to access God and man. Nehemiah asked! He needed help and he asked for it both from God and from man.

In today's reading, we see Nehemiah filled the open cheque given to him by king Artaxerxes with the necessary needs. Obviously, he has been praying for days and God answered him by laying it upon the heart of the king to ask Nehemiah the desire of his heart. Nehemiah's prayer request was clear "give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man" (Neh. 1:11b)

Nehemiah knew what was needed to get the rebuilding done and that was what he asked for. We have to constantly differentiate between our wants and our needs. Nehemiah shows us that we have to seek God to know the task He has for us and ask ourselves, 'what do we need to carry out the task'? Dear friends, wisdom is profitable to direct and Nehemiah displayed that wisdom here when the king attended to him. It is important we understand God's mind and plan accordingly so that we can ask aright. The question is this: if God gives you attention today, what will you ask Him?

Self-Reflection: If God asks you today, "what do you want?" what will be your request?

Action Point: Ask according to God's promises today!

Daily Confession: Lord I desire Your wisdom; help me to know Your plan and purpose for my life so that I can ask aright.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for the youths in your life for clarity of purpose in life.

Hymn: Pray, always pray; The Holy Spirit pleads Within all thy daily, hourly needs

June 15th

Obedience After Praying

But when Samballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel... Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. Nehemiah 2:10-12 (ESV)

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 2

Like Nehemiah, there is a wall to rebuild. Ours may not be physical walls but the wall of people's hearts in our generation that have been disconnected from God. We have to trust God to help us to reconcile His creation back to Him through Christ Jesus. We must desire that our generation turns to and lead by the ideals of God. While the education, super-speed technology, committed government, and secured future the world strives for are great, without accepting the governance of God through Christ Jesus, and a desperate heart to know and seek God, our generation will fall short. I strongly believe our generation will produce likes of Moses, Joshua, Nehemiah, Deborah, Paul etc that will capture the world for God, humbly surrender ourselves to His will and prepare the way for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The road will be steep like it was for Nehemiah. But we can respond strategically like Nehemiah did. Nehemiah rose up in the night to inspect. As we will see later, this strategic step led to the successful completion of rebuilding the wall. From time to time, I am confident that the Lord will be revealing to us strategies to help in this ministry of reconciliation. Our job is not to worry if it will work or not. Let's simply obey and see God work.

Self-Reflection: Strategic positioning is important in the ministry of reconciliation and God's Spirit gives inspiration to access these strategies.

Action Point: Please be obedient to the Holy Spirit today as He leads you (John 15:5)

Daily Confession: Obedience is the ultimate proof of love, I am obedient because I love the Lord.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for missionaries in various spaces and places for God's wisdom and grace as we remain truthful to our calling.

Hymn: Trust and obey, For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus But to trust and obey

June 16th

Teamwork in Rebuilding the Wall

So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with their heart. Nehemiah 4:6

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 3

Many organizations strive to recruit workers who appreciate teamwork because they understand that team work can bring better productivity and less friction. In rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem, citizens worked as a team in love, unity and readiness to pay the price collectively. Although Nehemiah was the leader, the visionary God gave the idea and plan of rebuilding the temple, yet he called others to himself to join in achieving the vision. God used the whole team to bring his purpose to fulfilment.

Also, Nehemiah encouraged the people; he clearly instructed them of the plan, and devised strategies of collective building and inspecting the city. The responsibilities were shared as some people built while others served as watchmen. The entire team worked towards a common purpose; and each person was responsible for building his own wall.

Team work requires submission, dedication, sacrifice and diligence for a course. So how effective are you as a leader in building a formidable team? Do you lord it over your followers? Whether as a leader or a follower, how humble are you in working with your other team members? May God help us to learn this truth as children God as we pursue the work that God has committed unto us.

Self-Reflection: Every team member is important a team, only learn to cooperate with others to make things work.

Daily Confession: May the eyes of our hearts be opened to the truth about unity so that the church may harness the power of love and unity to advance the kingdom of God.

Intercessory prayer: Help our church to dwell in unity.

Hymn: O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast And our eternal home.

June 17th

Who Does God Use? (I)

So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with their heart. Neh. 4:6

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 4

The life of Nehemiah and his team continually teaches us ingredients essential for God's purpose to be fulfilled in any life. The people were prepared and positioned for God's use and obviously, God used them for His glory. They also presented themselves holy unto the Lord, no wonder they prayed and God answered. Anyone who hopes in God must embrace righteousness and shun all forms of filthiness because God's standard remains unchanged. (2 Timothy 2:19)

Also, the workers were ardent God seekers and believers in unity (V. 6); the power of unity was in action (Psalm 133). They strived for the same goal and achieved it. If we want to successfully complete the mission God has set before us, we have to continually pursue unity in God's kingdom. Unity of spirit, purpose, of the church and ultimately, unity with the King of kings on the last day. With unity in action, no amount of attack can withstand us because we stand together just like Nehemiah and his brethren (Ephesians 4:1-6).

Self-Reflection: How can you continually be a unity seeker in the body of Christ?

Daily Confession: Lord help Your church to seek oneness in You; that love may reign among us and we can stand with you for You alone is our heavenly Father. Unite Your church oh Lord, amen.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for unity in our communities and nations across the world for the war to stop.

Hymn: Take my life and let it be Consecrated Lord to Thee Take my moments and my days Let them flow in ceaseless praise

June 18th

Who Does God Uses? (II)

So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with their heart. Neh. 4:6

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 4

Yesterday, we identified that God is interested in unity (Ephesians 4:3-6). In fact, we are instructed to endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3). Believers are to embrace unity and oneness. This means we must have the understanding of unity in God's kingdom.

Furthermore, persevering vessels who are hardworking like the apostles are useful for the kingdom. Watchmen that can tarry for long, forebear and endure in the face of adversity. In the case of Nehemiah, it got to a point that the people held sword with one hand and built with the other hand. I imagined how extremely difficult and exhausting the process must have been. The work would have been extraneous both physically and psychologically but they never stopped. They kept on doing what the Lord had called them to do.

Despite Sanballat and Tobias' opposition, Nehemiah and his people trusted the Almighty God. They understood the purpose of what they were doing. They knew it was for God. In that case, God would surely help them. Really, they couldn't have done that without total reliance on God. They even boldly claimed it: "Our God will fight for us" (V.20).

Eventually, God's grace empowered them to fulfil purpose. God saw their willingness and obedience and released the grace needed for the task unto His people. In the mission God has called us to, By God's grace, I hope we can continually be holy unto God, unity seekers with other brethren, persevere in hard work and place all our trust in God, knowing that He who called us is always faithful to bring to pass His words.

Daily Confession: Lord I receive strength to do what you want me to do in Jesus name.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for fellow brothers and sisters in Christ today

Hymn: Take my life and let it be Consecrated Lord to Thee Take my moments and my days Let them flow in ceaseless praise

June 19th

Confidence to Speak the Truth

And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words. Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them. Nehemiah 5:6-7 **Bible Reading:** Nehemiah 5

Nehemiah's life presents us with many lessons such as confidence in speaking the truth. After the people complained to Nehemiah about the inhumane experiences being melted against them from their brethren, Nehemiah confidently rebuked the nobles and the rulers. As Christians, how often do we confidently speak the truth we know? Nehemiah spoke the truth in wisdom; he presented his case to reveal God's mind and injunctions. There is a need to boldly and gracefully speak the truth in love according to God's leading. We have to rely on God's wisdom because the Holy Spirit empowers us to confidently speak God's mind just like the disciples on and after the Pentecost.

Also, Nehemiah's confidence was a based on the kind of life he lived. He didn't live contrary to his message. It is often said that "one cannot give what one does not have". For Nehemiah, he could speak to the people because his live was in accordance to God's word. Dear friends, I encourage you to check your life because you have to first cast out the beam out of think own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote of thy brother's eye (Matthew 7:5).

Self-Reflection: Does your life resonate with God's word and the message you have?

Daily Confession: Lord help me to represent You well so that as You instruct me to speak and spread the gospel of Christ Jesus, I can speak in confidence, without guilt but with power that comes from the Spirit of God in Jesus name. Amen

Intercessory prayer: I pray for genuine preachers, parents, teachers and those who are in the position to train and mentor next generation for the grace for godly living in Jesus name.

Hymn: Let others see Jesus in you Let others see Jesus in you Keep telling the story, be faithful and true Let others see Jesus in you

June 20th

The Joy of Fearing God (I)

Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of the Lord. Nehemiah 5:15b (ESV)

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 5

Nehemiah's reforms included correcting wrong systemic issues such as overtax, usury, slavery, and other inhumane actions melted against brethren. These actions contradict God's law. Nehemiah called the people to order including the king and the noble. He helped the poor, gave without tasking or lording it over the people. The reason for Nehemiah's different approach is captioned in today's memory verse: "because of the fear of the Lord".

It is interesting to see how the fear of God, love for God and obedience to God can help us lead a compassionate and righteous life. The fear of God enables us to reverence Him and do all things due to the honour, and love we have for God. Hence, we obey Him, walk in His ways, live for Him and in the process bless others.

If every nation can fear God; if leaders and followers can fear God, then, I believe the world will be a better place. Don't you think so? Nehemiah's decision to unburden the people ultimately contributed to the completion of the wall. The people cooperated, peace reigned and God provided for them. At KSi, we encourage you to take a decision to know God through Christ Jesus and live absolutely for Him.

Self-Reflection: And unto man he said, behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding. Job 2:28 (NKJV)

Daily Confession: Lord I choose to fear You with the whole of my heart, walk in Your way and trust You in and for all things in Jesus name.

Intercessory prayer: May our leaders fear God.

Hymn: Come, children, learn to fear the Lord And that your days be long, Let not a false or spiteful word Be found upon your tongue.

June 21st

The Joy of Fearing God (II)

How great is Your goodness, Which You have stored up for those who fear You, Which You have wrought for those who take refuge in You, Before the sons of men! Psalm 31:19

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 6

It is indeed beneficial to fear the Lord; to obey Him above our desires, and to delight in His law. In the preceding chapter, Nehemiah explicitly stated that he set himself apart from doing evil because he feared the Lord. Nehemiah was full of wisdom, no wonder he was able to discreetly overcome the continuous deceptiveness and opposition of Samballat and Gershem. In fact, he defeated all his enemies. Although Nehemiah enemies employed a priest to lure him, God's wisdom and the gift of discernment were at work in him. Nehemiah was favoured and finally made the governor of the land.

Anyone that fears the Lord is blessed (Deut. 6:24; Psalm 112:1; Psalm 115:13); has long life (Proverb 10:27); enjoys God's safety and protection (Proverb 19:23); and has joy and happiness (Psalm 148:1-4) and many others. By the end of this chapter, the wall was completed and God took absolute glory and honor because Nehemiah and his people chose to cooperate with God in total reverence.

Daily Confession: Lord, help me to fear You with the whole of my heart.

Intercessory prayer: God we ask that you give us leaders like Nehemiah – God fearing and selfless.

Hymn: Come, children, learn to fear the Lord And that your days be long, Let not a false or spiteful word Be found upon your tongue.

June 22nd

Deeper Relationship with God

Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles and the officials and the people to be enrolled by genealogy. And I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up first at the first, and I found written in it" Nehemiah 7:5

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 7

Even though the wall was completed, clearly, Nehemiah's relationship with God continued. He never abandoned God like many of his forefathers did. For instance, after Israel got to the land of Canaan (i.e., the land flowing with milk and honey), even though they experienced God's miracles, many of them still abandoned God. Just like Israelites, many people cultivate closer relationship with God during difficult times and immediately God answers them, they turn away from Him.

Nehemiah's honest desire for a deeper and closer relationship with God became a national quest. The people were registered, records were taken and there was a national revival. God used Ezra and Nehemiah to restore the children of Israel to Himself. As we will later see, the idea God placed in Nehemiah's heart eventually helped in drawing the people closer to God (Nehemiah 7:5). Indeed, the word of the Lord is true. Psalm 16:11: You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

As we move ahead in our lives, may we continually be in tune with God.

Self-Reflection: Let your relationship with God not be defined by good or difficult times; rather remain in Him at all time.

Action Point: Meditate on a verse from the Bible today

Daily Confession: As the deer pants for water, so my soul pants after You Lord, fill me oh Lord.

Intercessory prayer: Prayer for your neighbours as the Lord lead you.

Song: Take me deeper Deeper in love with You Jesus hold me close to Your embrace Take me deeper Deeper than I've ever been before I just want to love You more and more How I long to be deeper in love

June 22nd

God's Word for Revival

All the people assembled as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Era the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. Nehemiah 8:1

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 8

From our bible reading today, clearly the children of Israel had disobeyed and disregarded the law of the Lord. The need for revival arose. Immediately the wall was built, the people were assembled. They were inspired by Nehemiah's leadership and God's help. The people desired to obey the law of the Lord and their zeal for God was restored. They listened to the word of the Lord from "early morning to noonday"; heads of houses learnt the law of the Lord from Ezra, and they celebrated the feast of booths as joyful as they did in the time of Joshua.

Importantly, our zeal and passion for the Lord can only continually be on fire when we dwell in the word of the Lord. The moment we derail from this truth, we will miss it. This is because God's word brings revival. No wonder the Lord asked Joshua to meditate on the law of the Lord, day and night (Joshua 1:8). If Joshua did not, he would have been disconnected from His source (God). He would have been terrified and unable to complete the mission of leading the children of Israel to the Promised Land.

Action Point: start investing your time in daily study of God's word.

Daily Confession: Lord thank You for Thy word that is my source. I am revived by Your word and I remain steadfast in You in Jesus name.

Intercessory prayer: Lord I pray for revival and hunger for your word and Bible studies in my city. And that you send labourers for the harvest in Jesus name.

Hymn: O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky, We praise Thee for the radiance That from the hallowed page, A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.

June 23rd

God's Word for Genuine Repentance

Godly sorrow brings repentance leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV)

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 9

In Chapter 8, we realized that God's word is important to a steadfast walk with God. As the people started reading God's word, the zeal to serve God was revived. In Chapter 9, the people realized how far they had moved away from God. They saw themselves in their sins and God's love that continually sustained them. This understanding of God's faithfulness and abounding love humbled them and drew them closer to God. Like the time of the children of Israel, we need to continually dwell in the word of God because God's word is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrew 4:12). Indeed, no book is as powerful as the word of God. Praise be to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for giving us the word of God.

Action Point: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)

Intercessory prayer: I pray for fresh desire for God's word in my household and across the land in Jesus name.

Hymn: O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky, We praise Thee for the radiance That from the hallowed page, A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.

June 24th

Active Prayer for Our Leaders

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone for kings and all those in authority that we may live peaceful and quiet lives is all godliness and holiness. I Timothy 2:1-2

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 10

The children of Israel collectively appreciated and blessed those chosen to be their leaders. These leaders who would have lived in their hometowns willingly offered to live in Jerusalem to lead the people. I can imagine the selected leaders facing the challenge of relocating from one place to another. I believe that these leaders would have been so strengthened spiritually, physically and emotionally knowing that the people they offered to serve acknowledged them. The people's response perhaps might boost a leader's sense of responsibility and accountability among others.

In the same vein, let us learn to acknowledge, pray and encourage our God given leaders. We should also appreciate people sacrifices to ensure that we become who God wants us to be and those serving us in many ways. The list is not limited to but include our parents, guardians, spiritual leaders, political leaders, siblings, and friends among others. Always remembers that they are human beings too who need God's wisdom, grace, and strength to guide us on the right path.

Self-Reflection: Praying for God's leaders is God's will. Pursue it.

Action Point: Pray for your leaders today and bless them by giving.

Intercessory prayer: Lord send labourers into the harvest in (mention your city/town, state, country etc.,) in Jesus name.

Hymn: Oh, how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day. So, when life gets dark and dreary, Don't forget to pray.

June 25th

Rejoice and Be Thankful

And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away. Nehemiah 12:43 (ESV)

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 12

No matter the circumstance we are facing, we can be thankful that God's mercy endues forever and God's faithfulness prevails in every situation. For instance, apart from His provision, protection, direction, intervention, favor and mercy etc., God always positions right people to help rebuild even broken walls in our hearts. No wonder God satisfies us with good so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's. What a special privilege!

Let us sing of His praises because He is our deliverer. It is important we testify of God's faithfulness that endures forever. There is no one like Him in heaven and on earth. He who looks upon us with grace, mercy and love. Let's exalt His holy name. Let everything within us praise the Lord. Let's tell of His goodness as long as His breathe lives within us.

I am confident that by His grace, He who began this good work in our lives will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yes we will face trials and challenges in our walk with Him, but just like Nehemiah depended absolutely on God, let us depend on His grace to see us through. I am glad that He is our Father and He loves us. Let us love God and walk in His ways in total obedience. Again, I say rejoice in the Lord and praise the name of the Lord for His mercy endures forever.

Self-Reflection: Think of ways God has shown His faithfulness unto You.

Action Point: Thank God today!

Daily Confession: Lord Jesus we thank You for Your unending love, and amazing grace.

Intercessory prayer: Thank God for the leaders in your life.

Song: Bless the Lord o my soul O my soul x2 Worship His holy name Sing like never before O my soul I'll worship Your holy name

June 26th

The Lord My Strength

I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me. Philippians. 4:13 Bible Reading: Nehemiah 13

By God's grace, Nehemiah, Ezra, other leaders and the people completed all the reforms necessary for the land of Israel. Nehemiah's walk with God reveals among other things that God truly gives strength to those who choose to genuinely humble themselves before the Lord and walk in His ways. The life of Nehemiah symbolizes the fulfillment of the promise of God in 2Chronicles 16:9, "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give STRONG support to those whose heart is blameless toward him". Indeed, we are reminded that as long as we choose to walk in the ways of the Lord, God's presence strengthens and gives us confidence to live for him. And when the journey gets tough, remember the life of Nehemiah and be an encouragement. Imagine the difficulties and challenges he faced and the successes He recorded through God's strength. He was ultimately victorious.

Dear friend, wherever you live, know that you are on a mission to live for God and reconcile men to Christ. His strength will see you through just like in the life of Nehemiah and his people.

Self-Reflection: By the arm of flesh shall no man prevail.

Action Point: Summarize the main points you've learned so far from the book of Nehemiah.

Daily Confession: I thank You Lord for strength. I receive Your strength to prevail and fulfil Your purpose in all that I do in Jesus name.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for your children, children in foster homes and orphanages for God's strength and encouragement as they journey through life.

Hymn: O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.

June 27th

Lord Remember Me

Remember me for this also, O my God, and show mercy to me according to your great love. Nehemiah 13:22b

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 13:14, 22, 29-31

Nehemiah prayed a prayer of remembrance unto the Lord; a request for God to consider his wonderful deeds and have mercy upon him. The entire book holds testimonies, and gives accounts of Nehemiah's exploits. I think it is important we challenge ourselves on two things as we bring the study to an end.

First, what will you be remembered for? There are lots of people that they cannot be remembered for anything good when they leave a place or a position they once occupied. As a self-memoir, Nehemiah confidently recounted his deeds and his deeds proves Jesus' words that "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). Nehemiah led the people to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. He also established policies and addressed cultural issues such as ungodly marriages etc., for the restoration of the children of Israel unto God.

Finally, we should learn to make God the centre of our focus in what we say or do. Nehemiah recognized God at the centre of his accomplishment and he confidently presented his case to his heavenly Father in humility. For instance, Nehemiah acknowledged the source of his strength, God. God will never share His glory with any one. Do you ascribe glory to God or yourself?

Self-Reflection: What will you be remembered for? Do you ascribe glory to God or self?

Action Point: Summarize the main points you've learned so far from the book of Nehemiah

Daily Confession: Lord I thank You for Your word that is active, life and spirit. These words will profit me in Jesus name.

Intercessory prayer: May God reward our leaders accordingly for their labour of love over us in Jesus name.

Hymn: Only remembered by what we have done; Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling, Only remembered by what we have done

June 28th

Contents of the Heart

Your word have I treasured and stored in my heart, that I may not sin against you. Psalm 119:11 AMP

Bible Reading: Psalm 119:9-11

Today's reading gives us an essential recipe for a righteous living. It is simple: "Keep God's word in your heart"! The psalmist inquired to know how a young man can keep his way pure, holy and righteous before the Lord and his query was answered.

Faith is a fight and there are forces wrestling against our faith. For instance, there are many things we see, hear, and learn daily that are not designed to foster an intimate relationship with God through Christ Jesus. We are the products of what we allow into our hearts because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. The psalmist resolved that God's word would occupy his heart. This was a deliberate act, a lifestyle borne out of love for God and a desire to have a deeper relationship with Him. God's word is kept in our hearts when we continually study, meditate, speak, and live-on God's word.

A further study of Psalm 119 shows that this psalm is a song from a desperate heart that longed for God. A life resolved to know God's way and His mind through His word; and a life fully committed and devoted to working in the ways and purposes of God. Among others, the chapter draws on the benefits obtained from constant, diligent and thorough knowledge of God's word.

Dear beloved, don't you think you should resolve like Job about the content that you permit into your heart? We have to understand that the eyes perform an important role in our life because the heart sees through the eyes. Pay attention to what you see, and the thought that runs in your heart.

Self-Reflection: I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid? Job 31:1

Action Point: To what extent do you hide God's word into your heart?

Daily Confession: Lord help me to be committed to keeping Thy word in my heart; melt away every evil within me and help to fix my gaze on You in Jesus name.

Intercessory prayer: I pray for my friends/colleagues that they start attention to the music they hear and the content they watch and make change where needed in Jesus' name.

Hymn: Tis so sweet to walk with Jesus, Step by step and day by day; Stepping in His very footprints, Walking with Him all the way.

June 29th

Love for God's Law

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Psalm 119:9 **Bible Reading:** Psalm 119:97-104

What you might know: Love defies distance. For instance, lovers desire to speak with each the countless number of time daily because they want to constantly be in communication. Love enables the two lovers to form a habit of constant communication for active participation in each other's life. Psalm 119 speaks of God's law, command and precepts; it shows the psalmist's reaction, understanding, resolution, pursuit and ultimate desire. He boldly declares that he loved God's word because he love God. Hence, he daily meditates on God's law.

Our love for God should move us to devote our time in studying and meditating on His word daily. We are encouraged to make God's word our friend, breathe the word, live by the word and make decision based on the word. The question of the time we spend on God's word is important. When we meditate on God's word we receive spiritual insights, understanding, divine counsel, knowledge of God's mind, faith and empowerment for daily living etc., No wonder Apostle Paul admonishes thus: "Let the [spoken] word of Christ have its home within you [dwelling in your heart and mind, permeating every aspect of your being] as you teach [spiritual things] and admonish and train one another with all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16-17). Dear friends, as God instructed Joshua, we are passing this unto you, "this Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall read [and meditate on] it day and night, so that you may be careful to do [everything] in accordance with all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will be successful". Joshua 1:8 (AMP)

Action Point: Develop a lifestyle of daily study of the bible (at least a chapter daily)

Daily Confession: May my love for Thy never quench; revive our love for You that we may search deeper in Thy word to know you more and live according to Thy will and purpose.

Intercessory prayer: Fresh hunger for God's word in Jesus' name.

Hymn: I love the Bible, the Word of God, It is the Word God has given to man, Telling who God is, all that He's done, How much He loved me; He sent His Son

Parents' Role

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105 Bible Reading: Psalm 119

Today, our emphasis is on Christian parents and their role in facilitating their children's interest in God's word. As I reflect on these bold declarations of the psalmist, I remember the role my parents' role played in my life growing. My parents took God's word first during family devotion time (both in the morning and at night); family day of fasting; and we discussed sermons and readings from God's word. At some point, they were Sunday school teachers. Many time my parents prayed that we may know God, and they encouraged us to attend programs that fostered our growth in the knowledge of God. We attended bible quizzes, and bible games such as draw your sword etc., little did we know that these activities were building us and developing our knowledge of God's word.

Although the world is changing, but the need for God's word is on the increase daily. Different people seek answers and solutions to problems elsewhere even though God's word has the answers. There is a continuous influx of heresies, confusion and misleading because many Christians are not rooted in God's word. Whether you are a parent or would be, understand your role in ensuring that your children know the Lord. Just like Joshua, be determined that you and your house will serve the Lord.

Self-Reflection: Christian teachings and doctrines are vital in forming children as men and women of God, hence, instruct and train your children first and foremost at home.

Action: Take-on activities that will help your children grow in God's word.

Daily Confession: Lord help parents to understand their role in their children's knowledge of you. And help children not to misuse this opportunity.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for any parent you know.

Hymn: Our Parent, by whose name All parenthood is known, Who in your love proclaim Each family your own: Direct all parents, guarding well;