

The background of the entire page is a long-exposure photograph of a starry night sky. The stars have formed into numerous curved, concentric trails of light, creating a sense of rotation. The colors of the sky range from a deep, dark blue at the top to a lighter, hazy blue and orange near the horizon. At the very bottom of the image, there is a dark silhouette of a landscape, possibly a mountain range or a forest, against the lighter sky.

JULY 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)
July 2022

A Kingdom Support Initiatives Publication
2022

July 1st

God of All Grace

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast (1 Peter 5:10) NIV.

Bible Reading: Judges 15

Beloved, there is a provision in God's kingdom for every believer to step into what may seem impossible through the Grace of God. Grace is an uncommon favour and unmerited access that you do not deserve. Results gotten through grace are beyond your ability, your prayer and fasting life and even beyond your knowledge of the word of God. The Indescribable Father releases His grace unto His children for His glory. Grace is in different levels.

Meanwhile the grace of God is not meant to produce a lazy person or an unfruitful church. It is also not a license to sin, to disobey or to be irresponsible (Romans 6:1-2). Don't take God for a fool. You will only be harming yourself if you disobey God. God will quietly disengage himself from the race of whoever continues in sin under the umbrella of grace, learn from Achan (read Joshua 7)

Are you a chorister, usher, prayer champion, or even a pastor? Always remember the role God's grace plays in the ministry He has given you. Continue to acknowledge Him as Your source and ascribe all glory to Him. Grace and peace multiply as we seek God more and faithfully steward His grace over us (2 Peter 1:2). Let's earnestly pursue God, cultivate the presence of God because where God dwells, God's grace abides. Dear friends, I encourage you to hunger and thirst for God's ever-abiding Presence (Psalm 42:1-2). Here's my prayer for you: "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast" (1 Peter 5:10).

Action Point: Study to grow in the knowledge of God

Daily Confession: I access God's grace and I live in the realm of grace and rest.

Intercessory prayer: Appreciate God for His faithfulness over your family and your household.

Hymn: Saved by grace alone! This is all my plea
Jesus died for all mankind,
And Jesus died for me

July 2nd

A Good Fight

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7 KJV

Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

The final words of a dying soul are important for many reasons: it is serious, important and perhaps could be a solution to a future problem. I remember talking to someone on the plane and he was flying home to hear the words of his dying parent. Apostle Paul's final words to Timothy reveal a truth that has the potential to help us remain alive, active, relevant and continually fire-branded for God. Paul's personal memoir and summary of his life, "I have fought a good fight" gives us an unending insight, understanding and wisdom as Christians today.

First, it reminds us that the Christian journey is a battle; a battle that is not fought by physical weapon (2 Corinthians 10:3-5) but our weapons are mighty through God to pull down strongholds. This insight should inform our attitude toward the Christian race. We have been given divine resources such as the word of God, the name of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, to excel in this fight. Christians are soldiers on the battlefield and it is important that we use the arsenal given to us to our advantage.

Also, for Apostle Paul to say a "good fight", there must be a "bad fight". An example of a bad fight may be the church of Laodicea which were neither cold nor hot (Revelation 3:14-22). Many Christians are only marking time without relevance for the kingdom—no evangelism, no soul won into God's kingdom etc. There are many Christians who have inconsistent walk with God, irregular prayer life, and Bible study life. We have to learn how Paul fought diligently—he was always pressing towards the mark that was set before him. Finally, Paul presented himself as a trustworthy leader who could be trusted because he practiced what he taught. Indeed, Apostle Paul fought a good fight and heaven approved of his life and labour.

Self-Reflection: How good is the fight of faith that you are engaged in?

Action Point: Study the life of Apostle Paul.

Daily Confession: Lord teach my hands to fight so that I can win this race for you.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for encouragement for Christians across the world to fight a good fight of faith.

Hymn: Christian, seek not yet repose,
Hear thy gracious Savior say;
Thou art in the midst of foes:
Watch and pray

July 3rd

I Have Finished My Course

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7 KJV

Bible Reading: John 19:28-30

Paul's second statement has a tone of certainty, assurance and finality. He was definite because he knew the purpose of his calling and he fulfilled it. It is when you come to the conclusion or the end that you can boldly use the word *finished*. In fact, it takes discipline, determination, and sacrifice to start a course and finish it. Christ Jesus' last three words before he died, "it is finished", meant among others that he achieved all his earthly purpose. Jesus knew he was sent to ultimately die for our redemption (John 10:14, 17-18). In the same vein, Apostle Paul understood he was called to the Gentiles (Galatians 1:15–16; 2:7–8; Romans 11:13–14) In fact, Apostle Paul knew his purpose, and he pursued it till the very end regardless of the opposition he faced. As Christians, we are called to a race that has a definite ending even though we don't know when it will be. But just like Jesus Christ (our perfect example) and Apostle Paul, we have to identify God's purpose for our lives, agree with God and align our lives to fulfil God's intention. Dear friends, regardless of the cost, hold on till the end by the help of the Holy Spirit and at the end of the day, you will testify like Apostle Paul, "I have truly finished my course".

Self-Reflection: God has a unique purpose for everyone, and a peculiar course He wants His children to fulfil.

Action Point: Read at least a book on this topic

Daily Confession: I receive God's grace to finish my course in Jesus' name.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for clarity of purpose and vision for those seeking clarity in life purpose, career etc.

Hymn: Stand up, stand up for Jesus! ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss:
From victory unto victory, His army shall He lead,
Till every foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.

July 4th

I Have Kept the Faith

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7 KJV

Bible Reading: Luke 18:1-8

Apostle Paul's final statement reveals the ways the faith of an individual Christian can help other Christians in their pursuit of God. Apostle Paul's words help us think about the legacy and the future of faith, particularly, the quality of instructions and pureness of God's ordained instructions that we want to pass down to the forthcoming generation. Among other things, the question of legacy needs to propel us to become more serious, persistent, cautious and sensitive in our Christian journey.

Jesus Christ spoke in a parable about a persistent woman who demanded justice from a judge that do not fear God. Due to her consistency, the judge granted her request. Although the parable was said with respect to prayer and the need for persistency, we can apply the wisdom to our Christian faith. There are many parents who have refused to pass down the culture of consistent fasting and prayer life, and Bible study to their children. Through negligence and carefree attitude, many homes have lost their children to the world. Keeping our faith is a conscious effort that demands lots of sacrifice, persistency, intentionality and discipline. We have to constantly rely on the Holy Spirit to help us because we can do nothing of our own, we have to learn to obey and cultivate deeper relationship with God.

Apostle Paul articulates the need for us to keep the faith despite trials, trouble, tribulations and temptations; hold fast to the truth even if the world says otherwise and as we run this Christian race.

Self-Reflection: What Christian heritage would you pass down to the forthcoming generation?

Intercessory prayer: Pray for Christians across the nations of the world today that God will help us to hold fast to God's truth.

Daily Confession: Lord help Your church so that when You return, You can still find faith in Your church. May trials, temptations and tribulations not overshadow us and at the end of the race help us that we can have the boldness to confess that we finish strong in Jesus name.

Hymn: Christian, seek not yet repose,
Hear thy gracious Savior say;
Thou art in the midst of foes:
Watch and pray

July 5th

Deal with your Adversaries (I)

*For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries. 1Cor
16:9*

Bible Reading: Acts 19:8-10

An adversary is an opponent or a rival, a person that competes with another in a battle. Life is a battlefield, and our number one enemy is the devil. In fact, 'he walks to and fro the earth seeking for whom he may devour' (1 Peter 5:8). In life, there are several battles to fight and, in these contests, one can either emerge as a victor or a victim. Hence, Paul admonishes us to 'fight the good fight of faith' (1Tim. 6:12). This means we must rely on the Holy Spirit and strive with our best efforts to overcome any adversity that comes our way. We have to remind ourselves that our strength comes from God and not relent or give in to any discouragements or disappointment. "If you faint in the day of adversity your strength is small" (Proverb 24:10).

Another arch enemy every child of God must deal with is self: the flesh. This is because if one can successfully deal with the enemy within, there will be a little avenue for the enemy to penetrate. When a door of opportunity is opened for anyone but refuses to walk into it because of laziness, procrastination, lack of commitment and prayerlessness such provision is paralyzed and eventually lost.

May God help us successfully deal with our adversaries so we can access our inheritances in Christ Jesus.

Self-Reflection: Through Christ we have victory over every adversary.

Intercessory prayer: Father, help my life, release your power upon me, and deliver me from all my adversaries.

Hymn: Conquerors and overcomers now are we,
Thro' the precious blood of Christ we've victory,
If the Lord be for us, we can never fail;
Nothing 'gainst his mighty pow'r can e'er prevail.

July 6th

Deal with your Adversaries (II)

*For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries. 1Cor
16:9*

Bible Reading: 2Tim. 4:14-18

Adversaries can serve as limitations, barriers and roadblocks on the highway of success. At times, when one is close to victory, opposition may begin to surface. Oppositions can be in form of discouragements, depression, pressures of life or even the devil himself trying to steal one's joy. How then can the children of God overcome each of these oppositions? First of all, you must know that your victory has been secured already in Christ Jesus, "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:57) and as a child of God, you have access to this victory in Christ Jesus. Secondly, you must crucify the flesh and not allow it to control you. The flesh manifests through the various works of the flesh highlighted in Gal 5:19-21 so you need to check yourself and ask God to help you take away anyone of them in operation in your life. Those who live by the dictates of the flesh are not of God but of the devil and will end up in hell with him.

Again, the place of prayer cannot be overemphasized; "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" James 5:16, through prayer, seek God's help. Finally, God's word is a weapon for your victory – read it, meditate on it and live by it (Joshua 1:8).

Daily Confession: My heavenly Father, according to your word, take away every barrier to effective soul winning in our churches today and let your word have free course in the hearts of men.

Intercessory prayer: I pray for healing for the sick and encouragement for the broken-hearted.

Hymn: Conquerors and overcomers now are we,
Thro' the precious blood of Christ we've victory,
If the Lord be for us, we can never fail;
Nothing 'gainst his mighty pow'r can e'er prevail.

July 7th

Peace with God

Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted His raiments and cast lots. Luke 23:34

Bible Reading: John 8:1-11

Peace is a state of tranquility and calmness, harmony with others. It is the absence of war between man and God and among men on earth. When there is peace, there is serenity and orderliness, things will go on smoothly as they should and everyone will rejoice. Lack of peace brings disorder and chaos and is also evidenced by disunity, bitterness and strife. In the above scripture, we see Jesus plead for God's forgiveness of His persecutors in order to bring them into harmony with God. The reason for Christ's coming to the earth according to (Matthew 1:21) was to "save his people from their sins". Through his death and resurrection, we were redeemed from sin and we are no longer slaves to sin (Romans 6:6). Indeed, we are reconciled back to fellowship with God.

Dear friends, besides having peace with God by receiving Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour and forsaking the lifestyle of sin, you must also strive to be at peace with fellow men (Hebrews. 12:14). At KSi, we encourage you to bring to an end all age-long quarrels and hurts for a deeper walk with God. Lack of peace with God and fellow men is a stumbling block to forging ahead in life.

Self-Reflection: Settle all disputes today. Allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you more on this.

Daily Confession: Lord, breathe on me again, let my inner man receive strength to do your blessed will.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for the peace of God across our nations.

Song: Jesus, the way, the truth and the life
Whosoever cometh to Him shall never die

July 8th

The Faithful and Truthful God

The Lord your God is giving you rest and has granted you this land. Joshua 1:13b

Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 3:12-20

In the midst of preparing for and planning to cross over and take possession of the land of Jordan, Joshua reminded the people about God's faithfulness and truthfulness to His word. I imagine the children of Israel getting ready for the journey to the promised land, in fear and doubt especially due to the death of Moses. There was a need to encourage the people of through God's word. Joshua's statement is a testimony that reveals that whatever God says He will do. Surely, He will do it for He is neither a man that should lie nor a son of man that He should repent (Numbers 23:19).

God is encouraging a user of this devotional today – whether you are trusting God for breakthrough in the area of your finance, marriage, and employment — that God will bring His words to pass because He is a faithful God. Prior to this time, Moses divided the land among the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh but also commanded them to work together with the other tribes so that they can take possession of their own land too. Joshua reminded the people of the past victory to strengthen their faith and also for the people to obey Moses' command as they prepared to take possession of the land. Testimony can be a powerful tool to stir the faith of others especially when used with the right intention and under the right atmosphere. Dear friends, be encouraged – God is faithful and truthful and He will not leave you nor forsake you.

Action Point: Take few minutes to appreciate God for His faithfulness in your life.

Daily Confession: Lord, I thank you for Your faithfulness and truthfulness. I will trust and obey You till the end.

Intercessory prayer: I pray for those trusting you for specific needs in their lives that you show them your faithfulness in Jesus name.

Hymn: When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

July 9th

Jesus Came for a Reason

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)

Bible Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

The state of the people described in today's Bible passage reveals darkness, sorrow, evil, and sadness among others. Without light, there's darkness, chaos, confusion, suffering, and uncertainty. However, at the dawn of light, there's orderliness, most importantly, the light of Jesus Christ brings peace, love, solutions, and unending joy to the life of a man.

The first point of call for God at the beginning was to create light and when Adam fell in the Garden of Eden, God sent His only begotten son, Jesus Christ as Light into this darkened world. Amidst the disasters, chaos, killings and wanton destructions, Jesus Christ shines His light into our hearts. By extension, when we accept Him as our personal Lord and Saviour, we become light bearers, drawing men unto God (Matthew 5:14).

Furthermore, we are empowered by God through His word and the Holy Spirit because God is Light and in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). Where are you yoked? Are you suffering from and burdened with cares of life? Or is the world of darkness tormenting you in your home, marriage, work, and city? Arise today and call on the name of Jesus Christ because the Almighty God saves and the Jesus has come to destroy the works of the devil.

Action Point: Arise and call unto God today concerning your life.

Daily Confession: I declare the light of Christ Jesus to dispel every darkness in my life in Jesus name.

Intercessory prayer: Let the light of Jesus Christ shine across my city, province/state and my country in Jesus name.

Song: Saviour you can move the mountains,
God You are mighty to save,
You are mighty to save.

July 10th

Strength from Within

May He grant you out of the riches of His glory, to be strengthened and spiritually energized with power through His Spirit in your inner self, [indwelling your innermost being and personality], so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through your faith.

Ephesians 3:16 (AMP)

Bible Reading: Ephesians 3:14-19

Today's reading is one of Apostle Paul's prayers about strength. Paul's prayer directs us to our source. It opens our eyes to the truth of who we are in Christ Jesus, what we need to be preserved us in Him, and ultimately what we have been freely given in Jesus Christ.

Strength is an essential ingredient needed for life and purpose. To a large extent, everything is measured in terms of strength; for instance, what someone can do, and the extent someone can get something done are mostly dependent on strength. Also, in our walk with God, the issue of strength is cardinal. when you have power, then you have strength to do something. From spiritual to physical, financial strength etc. Apostle Paul's prayer focused on spiritual strength (the mother of all strength). He prayed that we may be strengthened in our inner man; a spiritual energy that comes from the Spirit of God. This strength is impacted upon the spirit man. When God's strength and power come upon us, we are able to do extra ordinary things for God. For instance, we walk in grace and in love. We become the hands and the legs of Jesus going around doing good (Acts 10:38). In fact, when we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, we receive strength to stand against worldly lust. We receive confidence to evangelize, grace to live in righteousness, and empowerment to perform miracles as the Lord gives the grace. As you fellowship with God in prayer, in the study and meditation of His word, you are empowered for the task ahead.

Self-Reflection: Human's strength is limited but through the Holy Spirit we have access to divine empowerment (Acts 1:8).

Action Point: Take time to pray Paul's prayer into your life.

Daily Confession: I am empowered and helped by the Lord.

Intercessory prayer: I pray for God's strength to overcome temptation for Christians across the world in Jesus name.

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

July 11th

Come to Your Senses

When he finally came to his senses, he said, "At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger!" Luke 15:17 (NLT)

Bible Reading: Luke 15:11-32

During an art program in a correctional facility, one of the participants, an inmate, asked of my age and when I answered, he remarked that I came to my senses early in life. I questioned him further to know exactly what he meant and he responded that I figured out what I was going to do with my life early and I pursued it. I told him that's what Jesus Christ can do in the life of anyone who surrenders unto Him totally. After our long conversation, he concluded that although he wasted time, he has finally come to know the truth which has made him come to his senses.

In our Bible reading today, we see that immediately the prodigal son realized his situation, he craved for change and took the best decision of his life. He returned to his father. He couldn't have returned to his father if he had not come to his senses. While returning to one's sense could mean different things to different people, it could also mean surrendering one's life to Jesus. Dear friends, it is never too late to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour. A relationship with Jesus will only help you come to your senses on time and gives you the strength to remain wise in Him. Like the prodigal son, when we come back to our senses, we can access all that God has for us.

Action Point: List the areas in your life that you need to change.

Daily Confession: Lord, open the eyes of my heart to see who you want me to be and who I have become so that I can conform to Your image.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for the salvation of as many you know who are yet to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ.

Hymn: Redemption! Oh, wonderful story
Glad message for you and me:
That Jesus has purchased our pardon,
And paid all the debt on the tree.

July 12th

Greater Commitment (I)

For God so love the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believe in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Bible Reading: Romans 8:31-34

“Commitment” is perhaps one of the most serious and matured word many people are afraid to use. It involves taking on responsibility and sticking one’s head out no matter the cost (2 Timothy 4:6). When used, it shows that the person involved is ready, willing and determined to sacrifice whatever it will take to standby the subject or reason behind the commitment. One can be committed to somebody (as in marriage), a course (as in purpose); character or attribute, motive and even set of practice among others. Anyone who is intentional about their commitment and follows through whenever they are committed to anything is stable and mature. It could also mean that such a person understands to a great extent what purpose entails in life.

The Bible is a book of commitment, God’s commitment to love for humanity. It also reveals different individuals, generations, and nations within the story of God’s amazing commitment. When Adam fell in the Garden of Eden, God was committed to reconcile His creation to Himself. Through ages and generations, God ensured that the ultimate purpose, concern, and pursuit is fulfilled. In our Bible reading today, Apostle Paul reveals God’s commitment to humanity involved sacrificing His only son our salvation. I believe it is important we are reminded of God’s commitment to our redemption, a divine purpose, planned and executed because of love. God gave and Christ offered Himself; it took great sacrifice, determination, suffering and discomfort just for us. Have you given your life to Christ Jesus? As you reflect on God’s commitment unto you, the question is: what has God’s commitment motivated you to give unto God?

Self-Reflection: He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all.

Action Plan: Identify an area you want to be committed unto God in your service unto Him.

Daily Confession: Lord Jesus I appreciate Your commitment to me, help me to be continually committed unto You, amen.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for God’s mercy over your city.

Song: He loves me I cannot say why
He loves me I cannot say why
On Calvary tree, He suffered for me
He loves me I cannot say why

July 13th

Greater Commitment (II)

Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:39

Bible Reading: Romans 8:31-39

Each time I read today's Bible passage, I leap for joy because "if God is for me, who can be against me?" I also tremble at God's power, and His pre-eminence because He is the Lord of all! While this truth strengthens me, it also humbles me because it reminds me that I am kept by God's grace, and righteousness and holiness are key to walking with God who gives grace lavishly on us (Ephesians 1:8).

While God continually strengthens His children, the devil wants to weaken us. Sin humiliates and condemns. Fear is the instrument the devil uses to oppress and torment many children of God. Many times, some Christians forget that they have been redeemed, justified and have become the righteousness of God when they gave their life to Jesus Christ. The load of sin pulls many people down and the devil also mocks them. Today's reading is a bold declaration that God's love secures us. In fact, we are to glory in our salvation, and continually walk in harmony with God. Since perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18), it is important to remember that God's commitment to loving us is by grace, and not by works. This should also open a new chapter of deeper relationship with God and a walk devoid of sin and carelessness.

Like Apostle Paul, I ask that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. (Amen)

Action Point: Pray with Ephesians 1:17-23

Intercessory prayer: We pray for those who feel lonely to embrace God's love.

Song: Open the eyes of my heart Lord (x2)

I want to see You
To see you high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory,
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

July 14th

Greater Commitment (III)

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonor. If a man cleanses himself these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 2 Timothy 2:20-21 NKJV

Bible Reading: 1 Peter 2:9-10

We have identified God's commitment to restore humanity to his original position before the fall. Thus, Christ sacrificed Himself on the cross to reconcile us to God. There's no commitment that won't require sacrifice and determination. Also, God's commitment to us takes away fear and condemnation from us and gives us confidence in God's love for us. God's love for us should inspire a deeper our walk with Him daily.

Finally, God's commitment should instill in us a sense of responsibility for lost souls. At KSi, this year's theme is "Press on" (Philippians 3:13-14). We are committed to press on in our walk with God, to fulfil divine purpose, pay attention to sound doctrine, embrace a consistent prayer and study life, evangelism, and excellence in what we do. This is because as followers of Christ, we are called to spread God's word both in season and out of season, know God, trust Him, and walk in His will, love our neighbors as ourselves, be diligent in pursuit of excellence in our undertakings, seek God's kingdom and all other things shall be added.

Dear friends, resolve today that you will allow God's Spirit to work in you both to will and to act in accordance to the will of God because you are God's representatives and you are called to fulfil His purpose (Phil. 4:13).

Self-Reflection: God's commitment should instill in us a sense of responsibility for lost souls and to fulfil purpose in life.

Action Point: Identify your God given course and pursue it!

Daily Confession: Lord I receive grace by faith to fulfil Thy purpose in Jesus name

Intercessory prayer: Lord help our youths to know the truth (Jesus Christ) and pursue Him daily.

Hymn: Must I go, and empty-handed?
Must I meet my Savior so?
Not one soul with which to greet Him:
Must I empty-handed go?

July 15th

How Lengthy is Your Lent?

Jesus answered, "It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God". Matthew 4:4

Bible Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

Lent is a season of penance and prayer before God. It heralds the Easter period; the time when we remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a 40-day period when Christians are expected to fast and pray unto God in the name of Jesus Christ. Among many things, the season reminds us of two things whenever we go to God: the need for self-discipline and humility.

On self-discipline, subjecting the flesh is important in connecting to God and walking in the Spirit. Fasting is self-denial needed to truly connect to God to hear and receive from Him. Studying God's word and praying take self-discipline. Jesus Christ instructed his disciples to pray without ceasing because prayer is an essential aspect of our Christian journey. In fact, Jesus Christ revealed to his disciples that there are some things that cannot happen except through fasting and prayer (Matthew 17:19-21; Mark 9:2-29). This is necessary because it will help us fix our gaze on Jesus.

Secondly, the season reminds us of the need for genuine humility. There is a need for us to humble ourselves before God even as we enter His presence with confidence and boldness to obtain mercy and find grace in the time of need (Heb. 4:16). Humility is important because God is the Creator and Maker of all things; the Uncaused that caused all things to be; and God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.

Thus, beyond the lent season, let this attitude be in you which is in Christ (Philippians 2:5-11).

Self-Reflection: Beyond the lent period, there is need to make repentance, holiness, humility, prayer and thirst for God's word part of our lives.

Action Point: Choose a day in a week that you will be fast and pray to God in the name of Jesus Christ.

Daily Confession: Lord may these right kingdom values be rooted in me in Jesus name.

Intercessory prayer: Teach my children to know you daily.

Hymn: Ere you left your room this morning,
Did you think to pray?
In the name of Christ our Savior,
Did you sue for loving favor,
As a shield today?

July 16th

Come and Reason

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.
Isaiah 1:18

Bible Reading: Isaiah 1:17-20

Today's scripture calls our attention to a very significant aspect in our relationship with God, and fellow men. In the passage above, God gives an open invitation to His own children who have gone contrary to His law and have rebelled against Him by asking them to come and reason together with Him. What exactly does God want to reason with sinners about? Why does He need to reason with them? I thought He would just do whatever He wants because He is a sovereign God who cannot be questioned?

The word, *reason*, as used in the passage suggests 'a dialogue between God and His creation made in his image and in his likeness, with the sole purpose of experiencing His love so that we can be in right standing with God'. At the point of reasoning/dialoguing, God's love is revealed and our righteousness or unrighteousness becomes a filthy rage when we behold the righteousness of God. This is when genuine repentance takes place and forgiveness is accepted from the loving Father. From the tone of that passage, I believe that God is interested in His people and He does not want anyone to perish according to 2 Peter 3:9, hence, the invitation to come. It is in coming to God that our heart encounter redemption and our lives are transformed for God's glory. God is interested in you, therefore, come unto Him today!

Self-Reflection: He that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out. John 6:37

Daily Confession: Lord, I turn to you today, please save me before it is too late.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for the salvation of those who are yet to know Jesus Christ within your circle of influence.

Hymn: Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou hast bidd,'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

July 17th

A Great Door

For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries. 1 Corinthians 16:9

Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 15

Life is full of opportunities, however, only a few identify these opportunities and profit from them. For some people, they identify the opportunities but are not able to profit from it due to the prevalence of certain stumbling blocks impeding their advancement. These stumbling blocks can come in various forms which range from enemies without to enemies within. It is often said that once a person deals with the enemy within, dealing with the enemies without becomes a walk over (Matthew 15:19-20).

Today's reading centers on the life of Saul; a mighty man of valour, good looking and divinely appointed by God as the first king of Israel. Despite this God given privilege, king Saul failed in his divine placement because of his carelessness and failure to deal with his own weaknesses. King Saul was cautioned many times but he did not yield to the warnings. Perhaps things would have been different if King Saul had dealt with the enemy within. The great door that was opened to him was shut and the kingdom was taken away from him and given to David.

Similarly, many times God opens doors unto His people but how we maximize such privilege matters is important. Always remember that "he who is faithful in little, much shall be given unto him" (Luke 16:10). Let us therefore strive to ensure success in every divine opportunities given to us, so that in the end we will not cause God grief as Saul did because of his disobedience. 1 Samuel 15:10-11, "Then came the word of the Lord unto Samuel, saying, it repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night".

Self-Reflection: Are you mindful of your placement in Christ?

Daily Confession: Thank God for opening doors of great advancement for you. Ask for grace to overcome any weakness or trait in you that may want to pull you down.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for the leaders in your government, in church and at your place of work.

Hymn: I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining everyday;
Still praying as I onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground"
Lord, lift me up and let me stand.

July 18th

Make Peace with Words

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1 (NIV)

Bible Reading: Proverbs 15:1-2

Today's reading reminds me of a stage play I saw few years ago: The story was about two travelers who contravened the tradition of the land. They stayed overnight in a village but refused to inform the king or anyone from the village. The king summoned these strangers for interrogation after they were found. During the conversation, the king reacted angrily and one of the travelers replied angrily at the king while the other pleaded and spoke gently to appease the king. The king ordered one to be lodged in the prison overnight while the other was given a royal treatment for the night.

As simple as this plot is, we are reminded that wisdom is profitable to direct. Relationships and interactions have several sides and we have to learn to reply harsh words with gentle answers. The Bible reminds us that harsh words stir up anger. There are many avoidable crises and conflicts that started with harsh words. In fact, many homes have been destroyed simply because of disagreement that would have been resolved with gentle response, and lots of lives have been lost, destinies destroyed, favored denied and right relationships withheld because of wrong attitudes and responses.

What is the solution? Let your word be seasoned with life, wisdom, and sound knowledge that comes from God's word. Speak the truth in love and grace. Be intentional about ensuring that your word builds not pull down. Let it heal not wound, and help not destroy. Dear beloved, I encourage you to examine your responses/reactions to situation today, and check your attitude. Do you encourage gentle answers or are you always filled with harsh words that stirs up anger? Always remember that wisdom from God is first pure and peace-loving (James 3:17-18).

Self-Reflection: The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. (Isaiah 50:4, KJV)

Action Point: Admit the truth today and make amendment.

Daily Confession: Lord I ask that You help me that my words be seasoned with life that comes from Your word in Jesus name.

Intercessory prayer: Lord please help our leaders to use their words wisely.

Hymn: O be careful little mouth what you say
O be careful little mouth what you say
There's a Father up above

July 19th

Words that Heal

The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. (Isaiah 50:4, KJV)

Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 3:19-4:1

Words are powerful; they define, influence and determine destinies and lives. Words have creative power and are available to everyone. Words originate from thoughts, and many times define people's actions. In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth by speaking words. He said, "Let there be light" (Genesis. 1:3). No wonder the Bible calls our attention to the power of life and death that lies on our tongue (Proverbs 18:21).

The Gospel is first of all a message of good news, providing healing, deliverance and freedom to anyone who embraces it. It carries the power of salvation. Apostle Paul declares: "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16a). As children of God, we have been called to present words of life that heal people, situations, and circumstances; nurture and prepare ourselves and others for God's kingdom.

Furthermore, God's word is profitable to direct. It is spirit and life. It is wisdom, gives understanding, power, and sharper than two-edged sword. It is available to profit us in all things, hence, speak it, study it, meditate on it, live it, and share it. God's Spirit empowers us to preach the gospel, speak God's word to any situation, and put your absolute faith in God for all things.

Finally, live in righteousness and holiness for "a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks" (John 4:23). Prophet Samuel lived a righteous and holy life and God was with him, hence, none of his words fell to the ground but his words came to pass (1 Samuel 3:19).

Self-Reflection: Preach the word: be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. (2 Timothy 4:2)

Action Point: Speak God's word to somebody today!

Daily Confession/Intercessory prayer: Lord I pray for healing for anyone I have wounded with my words, and help me to speak words that will heal and transform lives and situations to the glory of Your name in Jesus name. Amen

Hymn: O be careful little mouth what you say
O be careful little mouth what you say
There's a Father up above
And He's looking down in love
So, be careful little mouth what you say

July 20th

Divine Visitation (I)

*Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation has preserved my spirit. Job
10:12*

Bible Reading: Psalm 8:4-5

Divine visitation means an official visit from God to anyone in order to ensure that things are being properly done. It is when the Almighty God makes Himself our guest. God's desire, according to our Bible reading today is to visit us – "What is man that thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Psalm 8:4).

The most important thing about divine visitation is the personality of the visitor, who in this case is God. Why would God visit a man? First of all, God visits a man to show His mercy, love, and favour. His visitation brings salvation, fellowship and communion, fulfilment of His word, blessings, direction and intervention, as in the case of Sarah in Genesis 21:1. God also visits to establish justice, truth and righteousness - Psalm 89:32 "Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes".

Paul's conversion on his way to Damascus to persecute God's people vividly shows how God can visit a man with His salvation. Also, Sarah received her miracle of Isaac at God's visit, king Nebuchadnezzar learnt and enjoyed God's mercy, but God's visit to king Belshazzar (Daniel 5:17-31) brought judgement because he did not glorify or honour God. For a user of this devotional today, I declare divine visitation upon your life unto salvation, blessings, and God's mercy in Jesus name. Continually embrace righteousness and shun evil.

Self-Reflection: The most important thing about divine visitation is the personality of the visitor.

Action Point: Pray for God's visitation today.

Intercessory prayer: Father, visit my neighbour today and show them your goodness.

Hymn: Thou my everlasting portion
More than friend or life to me
All along my pilgrim's journey
Saviour, let me walk with Thee

July 21st

Divine Visitation (II)

And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken. Genesis 21:1

Bible Reading: Exodus 3:7-10

Divine visitation brings divine intervention, and restoration (Joel 2:25-27). When God pays you a visit, there is divine revelation, wisdom, strength, understanding, help and blessing among others. In our reading today, Israelites cries reached God and God rescued them (Exodus 3:7-10).

Attitude is important to receive from God. For instance, while king Saul's attitude was carefree, stubborn and disobedient, king David was careful, and humble (1 Samuel 13; and 2 Samuel 12). Divine visitation is an act of God's mercy and grace because it is not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord of hosts (Zechariah 4:6). There is a need to continually acknowledge God's help, and position yourself to receive it. When you pray to God genuinely in faith, it shows submission to God's will, humility and recognition that you acknowledge God's ability to show mercy and grace (Matthew 7:7; James 4:6; Romans 9:15). Furthermore, a deeper knowledge of God's word (2 Peter 1:3-4); and trust in God are essential attitudes to encounter divine visitation. Like the Children of Israel in our reading today, beloved, I encourage you to call upon God today for a divine encounter you desire.

Self-Reflection: Divine visitation is an act of mercy and grace from God

Daily Confession: Lord, I need your help, please visit me today and help me.

Intercessory prayer: Father, visit my neighbour today and show them your goodness.

Song: He is able, abundantly able
To deliver, and to save,
He is able, abundantly able
To deliver those who trust in Him.

July 22nd

A Walk with God: Lessons from Prophet Samuel (I)

That which we have seen and heard declare unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. I John 1:3

Bible Reading: I Samuel 3

Hannah fulfilled her vow before God after she weaned Samuel. She returned him to God and Samuel started a journey in Shiloh that ultimately positioned him to be a prophet in the land of Israel. Samuel's ministry was summarized thus: "And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground" (I Samuel 3:19). A sign that a prophet is genuinely sent by God is when his/her prophetic declaration come to pass (Deut. 18:22); because when such word come to pass, it means that God's undeniable presence of God is with such a prophet. For Prophet Samuel, God's Presence was evident in his life; he walked with God, heard from God, and spoke with and for God. He had compassion for the people of Israel, including king Saul; he neither entertained ungodliness nor partook there in, and he stayed with God to learn.

The life of Prophet Samuel is fascinating when deeply examined because he was raised amidst bad examples yet he turned out good. Prophet Samuel lived with Hophni and Phineas that would have influenced him negatively; men who did not know God (I Samuel 2:12). In fact, he was trained under prophet Eli who had lost his spiritual savor, authority, sensitivity and position at some point (I Samuel 3). Yet, Samuel humbled even when he knew his master's fate. He abided with God, and cultivated a dynamic relationship, fellowship and communion with God.

Dear friends, if we want to be in tune with God in this generation, we must be ready to walk alone with God, and refuse to compromise regardless of what's going on around. Our allegiance will be tested by cares of life, situations, people and the world system, yet we must stand for Jesus Christ.

Self-Reflection: Anyone who want to be in tune with God in this generation must be ready to walk alone with God

Daily Confession: Lord help me to walk with You wholeheartedly and shun the world and its ways.

Intercessory prayer: Lord strengthen those who are being persecuted because of their faith in You in Jesus name, amen.

Hymn: I surrender all
I surrender all
Unto Jesus
Christ my Saviour
I surrender all

July 23rd

A Walk with God: Lessons from Prophet Samuel (II)

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take his cross, and follow me. Matthew 16:24 (NKJV)

Bible Reading: I Samuel 3

One of the costs of discipleship is self-denial. It is a life of no-compromise, and, no-looking back. Yesterday, we briefly summarized Prophet Samuel's walk with God and realized that he was totally sold out to God. Although raised in a perverse generation and among persons that had potential to influence him negatively, yet he stood for God.

I'd love to draw our attention to Prophet Samuel's action that showed where his heart dwelt. "And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep" (I Samuel 3:3). It was easy for Samuel to hear when God called him because he stayed where he could hear the call. His abode was where he could be instructed aright, God's very presence. Remember the ark of God represent God's presence. In fact, wherever God's ark is taken to, the people or nation must experience God's visitation whether positively or otherwise. Prophet Samuel made it a habit to sleep close to the ark of God even if it was a huge risk, and lonely, because he desired God, he was there alone.

In essence, Samuel's heart dwelt with God. Where your treasure lies, there your heart lies. Samuel denied himself of cravings, and benefits as enjoyed by Eli's sons. He paid the price of being alone with God. He sought God and lived for Him. Are you where you can hear God whenever He speaks? Are you under the right teaching and in the midst of people who can edify you? When you are alone, do you maintain that relationship with God regardless of the cost?

At KSi, we encourage you to ponder on these questions and embrace God's call unto a deeper fellowship with Him.

Daily Confession: Lord help me to embrace You, a deeper walk with You and live as Your true disciple.

Intercessory prayer: Lord strengthen those who are being persecuted because of their faith in You in Jesus name, amen.

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

July 24th

In the Last Days

For the time will come when men will not put with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 2 Timothy 3

Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 2:12-36

Prophet Samuel's life is highly revealing, rewarding, and inspiring. I invite us to carefully examine the time he lived especially because it has similarities in many ways to the present time.

Firstly, Prophet Samuel was dedicated to God. Although his mother took him to Shiloh as a child which meant that he had no say in the decision, when he grew up, he decided to remain dedicated to God. Unlike Hophini and Phineas who chose to act contrary to God's commands even though their father was a prophet, Prophet Samuel chose to follow God. This is important because salvation is a personal decision; regardless of your background, experience, and culture, you have to personally take the decision to follow Jesus Christ. It doesn't matter if your parents are Christians, pastors, or you have been dedicated unto God from childhood, personal decision for God is necessary.

Also, Eli's sons had set a standard contrary to God's word that Prophet Samuel had the choice to emulate. As a Christian, do your standards align with the word of God? Many Christians want to join the world, rather than stand up for Jesus. In our Bible reading today, prophet's sons qualified and earned the title, *sons of Belial* (meaning worthless and wicked). Hophini and Phineas were called sons of Belial because of the measure and gravity of evil they perpetuated. I can imagine the chaos, disorder, and evil caused; the pain, inhumanity, unfairness and suffering Eli's sons melted on the Israelites through their nefarious acts. Through their actions, it was possible they led many people astray. These were the realities that Prophet Samuel lived in and grappled with, yet he refused to compromise his stand for God.

Although you may not have lived centuries ago like Prophet Samuel, but it sounds there are lots of similarities with this present time. In the last days, people will be self-lovers, arrogant, abusive, lovers of money, embrace lustful cravings and ungodliness. The question is what will you embrace in this present time?

Daily Confession: Lord Jesus, I receive grace to stand for You till the end.

Intercessory prayer: Lord Jesus strengthen those who are about to compromise their faith.

Hymn: Thou my everlasting portion
More than friend or life to me
All along my pilgrim's journey
Saviour, let me walk with Thee.

July 25th

Abundant Life

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10

Bible Reading: Roman 5:17

Christ's purpose for redemption is to give us abundant life in every aspect of life. Abundant life starts with eternity in view made possible with a living relationship with Jesus Christ, for in Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). No wonder John said: "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers". 3 John 1:2 [AMP]

Since you know that abundant life is your kingdom right, take your life from underneath everything that contradicts the original plan of God for your life and destiny. Appropriate the victory that Christ Jesus won at the Cross when he said it was finished. Pray with understanding of God's provision for your life and destiny; study God's word and apply its principles to your life. Don't allow the enemy to make a mess of your life, arise and shine for your light as come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you (Isaiah 60:1). Call unto God and He will definitely answer you and bring forth your salvation. God bless you.

Self-Reflection: This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success (Joshua 1:8)

Daily Confession: I arise today above anything that is turning God's word into a lie in my life. I live abundantly in life and in destiny in Jesus Name.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for God's peace in places of war.

Hymn: I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

July 26th

Trust in the Lord

*Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.
Psalms 20:7-8*

Bible Reading: Proverb 3:5-7

Trust is as important to life as breath. Trust means confidence and faith. In things that pertain to trust, we cannot but mention faith. Our faith in God determines many things in our lives and the level which we will get to in life. Also, every relationship thrives on trust. For instance, trust is important in our walk with God, a marriage relationship cannot stand properly if both spouses do not trust each other.

Regardless of what we are passing through in life, trusting God is central to our Christian race. Our trust in the Lord should be absolute because partial trust is no trust at all. Lean not on your own understanding because although, “the horse is prepared against the day of battle, yet, safety is of the Lord” (Prov. 21:30). Many have put their trust in wealth, home, investment and even spiritual endowment forgetting that immediately we shift our gaze from Him, we become vulnerable to the flesh taking over.

Do you know there is always reward when you trust in the Lord? Ask King David who trusted the Lord throughout his life time. He enjoyed divine protection, guidance, directions, prosperity and a living relationship with God among others. Let your trust be in Jesus and not in the things you have. If you are yet to give your life to Christ, you cannot put your trust in God because you cannot save your money in a bank you don't have an account in. So, accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour is the beginning of trusting God for life and destiny journey.

Self-Reflection: For whatsoever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23b)

Daily Confession: Lord I repent of putting my trust in myself, in things and in people. I choose to trust you as from today in Jesus Name. Amen

Intercessory prayer: Prayer for teachers in our schools for wisdom, patience and the grace needed to teach our children effectively.

Hymn: Will your anchor hold in the storms of life
We have an anchor that keeps that soul
Steadfast and save while the bellow roll

July 27th

Kept by God's Power

For thou has possessed my reins, thou as covered me in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:13

Bible Reading: Psalm 139

That you know Christ is by His grace and if you are reading this devotional now but you are yet to surrender your life to Christ, it is still His preserving power that has brought these words your way so that you can accept Him as your personal Lord and Saviour. Accept that you are a sinner, confess your sins with your mouth, believe in your heart that Jesus died, took away your sins and rose from the dead so that you can have eternal life. Amen

In today's Bible reading, King David recognized God as his keeper anywhere he went: in heaven, hell, sea or in darkness etc. God is a faithful Friend, Father and Emmanuel. The entire humanity is a living testimony that God's faithfulness is sure daily (Lamentation 3:22-23). For instance, although Jonah left the presence of God, he was still kept and watched over in the belly of the fish (Jonah 1-2). "And behold, I am with you and will keep you in all places where you go, and will bring you again into this land for I will not leave you until I have done that which I have spoken to you of" (Genesis 28:15). We cannot run away or hide from God's Spirit, He sees even in the darkest night. His love for us is unconditional and His right hand of power will always have a grip on us no matter how deep we fall into sin. Even when we fall, we shall arise and the Lord shall be a light unto us. Micah 7:8.

Regardless of where you have missed it in time past, find your way back to God because He is ever ready to accept you (Isaiah 1:18). For those that live in fear and trepidation, cease from living this kind of life. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). Take hold of your life by laying claims to God's promises that He will never leave you nor forsake you. Like King David, understand that you are kept by God's power, confess His words and build up your most holy faith. Pray without ceasing and live the life that you confess. We are kept by the Power of God and so always acknowledge the Keeper of our lives.

Self-Reflection: Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion, and power, both now and ever. (Jude 1:24-25)

Daily Confession: I am kept by God's power and His power is alive in me. (Amen)

Intercessory prayer: Pray for God's for your friend in need of healing.

Hymn: A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he, amid the flood, of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe, does seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

July 28th

The Counsellor

Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength. Prov. 8:14

Bible Reading: John 14:16-18; 25-26

A counsellor is one who offers advice to people in order to help them solve their problems. Right counsels have saved many people from making wrong choices and decisions in life. Counselling is often sought for and appreciated by whoever is in need of it. Unfortunately, foolish and ungodly counsels have wrecked and destroyed many destinies. Life, most times is full of ups and downs and we often run into confusion, not knowing the next step to take and during this time, right and timely counsel is needed and must be sought.

God says counsel belongs to Him hence; reliance on the counsel of the Holy Spirit brings safety and assurance. The Holy Spirit is described as the Counsellor in John 14:16 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counsellor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever" (AMP). The Holy Spirit encourages and strengthens us; He also makes intercessions for us (Romans 8:26). The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity. God's very presence in us helps us live as God pleases and builds the body of Christ here on earth. A life void of the Holy Spirit cannot receive counsel from Him because the Holy Spirit dwells inside someone that has given his/her life to Christ Jesus.

We need to learn to hear Him; have a living relationship with the Holy Spirit and this relationship is cultivated daily. As we devote ourselves to Him through the word of God, worship and total obedience, we will learn to understand and partner with the Holy Spirit. Learn to ask Him questions on issues of life and wait for His response. He loves to be a part of your life; seek Him in every decision you take per time and obey Him (Proverbs 11:14). Partner with the Counsellor TODAY!

Daily Confession: I submit myself to the Spirit of God.

Action Point: The Holy Spirit is a person, so develop a relationship with Him.

Intercessory prayer: Pray for provision for those in need.

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God

Fall afresh in me,

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me.

July 29th

Who is Your Friend?

A man that has friends must show himself friendly and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Prov. 18:24

Bible Reading: 2 Samuel 13:1-6

The story is told of a young man, Amnon in II Samuel 13. He was one of King Solomon's sons and lusted after his half-sister, Tamar. Amnon had a deceitful friend, Jonadab who upon hearing the evil desire of Amnon counselled him to pretend to be sick, then request that Tamar his half-sister prepare his meal and lie with her afterwards. Amnon yielded to the ungodly counsel of his friend and forcefully slept with his half-sister. Although his evil friend was unharmed, Amnon paid dearly with his life for his evil act.

On the contrary, the friendship between David and Jonathan yielded a positive result. Without the friendship between the two, David may not have ascended the throne. Many times, Jonathan had to sacrifice his comfort and even his right as a prince to help his friend David. In fact, David and Jonathan became covenant brothers and the lineage of Jonathan was preserved. From the story of Jonathan and David, we learn that (i) the friends we keep will either make or mar our lives and destinies. Be not deceived, evil communication corrupts good manners 1Corinthians 15:33. (ii) we bear the consequences of our actions and the consequences of our actions may affect other people. Be not deceived, whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap Gal. 6:7. (iii) lust is not love and beauty is vain. Proverbs 31:30. Amnon hated Tamar after defiling her. We should guard against deceit as we go about our daily lives. (Deut. 11:16, Luke 21:8, 1Cor. 6:9, 15:33 and Gal. 6:7)

Let the Spirit of God guide you in choosing your friends. God wants us to learn from these examples so that we can avoid their mistakes. Remember, "show me your friend and I will tell you who you are" and the tendency of what you will become. Separate yourself from any unprofitable relationship and align yourself to God totally and wholly. What fellowship can light have with darkness?

Action Point: Take a stock of your friends and relationships and evaluate them. Prayerfully disconnect from the wrong relationships and keep the right relationships.

Intercessory prayer: Lord Jesus I pray that you connect our children to right relationships.

Hymn: There is not a friend like the lonely Jesus,
No not one, no not one

July 30th

Soar Like the Eagle

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they shall soar on wings like eagles” Isaiah 40:31

Bible Reading: Isaiah 40:28-31

There is something peculiar about the eagle, the eagle soars! It releases itself unto the wind so that the wind carries it. It doesn't struggle with the wind by flapping against it, rather it spreads its wings wide to be carried by it. What an amazing strategy to apply in our walk with God! The eagle is one of the birds that soars because it has learnt this strategy and this knowledge has placed it ahead of other birds. It reaches high altitude that many birds cannot attain. Perhaps other birds do not soar because they haven't learnt to release themselves unto the wind to carry them. Rather, they try to control the flow of the wind.

Strength is key to every undertaking and we have been called to receive strength from God in order to soar like the eagles. The only thing required to access this strength is to wait on God because it is from Him that all blessings flow. I can imagine the time of waiting of the eagle on the mountains. During that period, it sheds its wings, sharpens its claws and waits earnestly for the time of manifestation. People who will make impact will definitely have their time of waiting. Waiting on God in our secret places; trusting God on issues of life and releasing our heart unto Him even as we watch and pray are part of the process. So, in order to soar, it is important we learn to trust God, release ourselves unto Him just like the eagle so that He can carry us on His shoulder and be ready for many lonely times which are for our making and grooming. May God give us understand this truth! Amen.

Self-Reflection: Be still and know that I am God.

Daily Confession: Lord, thank You for Your word again. I receive the grace to wait patiently on You and learn to soar with You. Help me Lord to know that You are God and teach me how to be still.

Action Point: Read at least a book on the subject of 'Waiting and Soaring' before the end of the year.

Intercessory prayer: Lord Jesus I pray that you connect our children to right relationships.

Hymn: We have a firm foundation,
Whose hope is in the Lord;
We have a blessed haven,
Who anchor in His word;
Though surges break around us,
And clouds our sky may dim,
He will not leave to perish
One soul that clings to Him.

July 31st

Thy Kingdom Come

And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Luke 11:2

Bible Reading: Romans 11:36

Stuff that you probably know: the word, kingdom, is a combination of two words, *king* and *domain*. A kingdom isn't just a geographical location but also a sphere of influence. Anytime a kingdom takes over another kingdom, the system and modus operandi of the captured kingdom is compromised and such newly acquired kingdom now operates based on the dictates of the captor. Every statement in the Lord's prayer is important and truly conveys the heart of the Father to us.

When the kingdom of God takes over any life, it changes such life inside out—pattern of thinking, the way of life, loyalty and pursuit among others. The way and the manner of operation in heaven is replicated here. God wants to bring heaven to earth, even as we daily prepare to reign with Him in heaven. But while we are still here on earth, God desires that we live based on His kingdom's system in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

“Thy kingdom come” is not only a cry but a heartfelt desire for God's kingdom to become palpable on earth among the nations. Jesus gave us insight into the earnest desire of the Father. We must become more than comfortable in the heavenly realm; it must be our home, where we are more at home there than we are on this earth. We should be turning every place where we are called churches, jobs, and homes, even the places where we shop into an outpost of heaven. It is his kingdom that makes heaven what it is for the Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom rules over all (Psalm 103:19).

Self-Reflection: Reflect on the Lord's Prayer as it relates to your life

Daily Confession: Our Father in heaven, let thy kingdom come in my life and let your will be done. (Mention those areas you desire His kingdom to come)

Action Point: The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God. Psalm 9:17

Intercessory prayer: Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth

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.