

The background of the entire page is a composite image. The upper portion features a dark blue night sky filled with numerous white, curved light trails, characteristic of star trails or long-exposure photography of stars. The lower portion shows a silhouette of a landscape, including a tree on the left and a range of hills or mountains, set against a warm, orange and yellow sunset sky.

**SEPTEMBER 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)  
September 2022

A Kingdom Support Initiatives Publication  
2022

September 1<sup>st</sup>

## **The Enemy is Exposed**

*Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. I Samuel 17:49*  
NIV

### **Bible Reading:** I Samuel 17

The word for today is for a user of this devotional who has been overwhelmed by series of attacks from the enemies and it seems God is not defending you. You feel deserted, and due to life challenges, you think the enemy is powerful. God's word to you today is this: the enemy is exposed! God is more powerful than anything because He is the Almighty God.

We have been taught that enemies look for our weak points, apparently, the enemy has weak points too. As God's armies, we have to identify that weak point in order to win this battle. In our reading today, David faced a warlord that had an intimidating resume; his physical appearance alone made the entire people of Israel shiver. Goliath was fully prepared for this battle, his outfit covered him from head to toes, however David noticed a small part that was exposed, the forehead! Isn't that amazing? Despite Goliath's competent abilities with powerful physique, and assuring testimonies, he was exposed on his forehead. Your enemy is exposed and dethroned in the name of Jesus. This is significant because where Goliath was exposed is important, essential and sensitive to the body. Your enemy is not only exposed, but exposed in a delicate part. It's simply to identify that point of weakness and appropriate the victory you have in Christ Jesus. Praise to God for giving us the Holy Spirit who reveals secrets things to God's children (I Corinthians 2:9), and through that we can boldly declare like David, "He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze" (Psalm 19:34).

As children of God, the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds (2 Corinthians 10:4). The enemy is not a person but a power that is working and manifesting to contradict God's plan and purpose for your life. However, no enemy can withstand the name of Jesus, the Name that is above every other name (Phil. 2:9-11). That's David's strategy against the enemy; he said: "you come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied" (I Samuel 17:45). No wonder he was able to identify his enemy's weak point and fought in the name of the Lord. Dear friends, Jesus Christ is more powerful than any situation, enemy, or problem, "simply look unto Him and that enemy will fall at your feet to the glory of God.

**Self-Reflection:** Be sober, sensitive and vigilant (I Peter 5:8)

**Action Point:** Praise God and pray to God today.

**Daily Confession:** Lord Jesus I thank You because all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to You. In the name of Jesus, my enemy is defeated, the eyes of my understanding is opened to the secrets of my enemy and I am victorious through Christ Jesus, amen.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for God's power to heal the city you live and work in.

**Song:** There is power in the name Jesus (x2)

To break every chain (x3)

### Spiritual Sensitivity

*When I got up in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead. But when I examined him carefully in the morning, behold, it was not my son, the one whom I had borne. (1 Kings 3:21)*

**Bible Reading:** 1 Kings 3:16-28

What you might know: Solomon reigned after David, and the Lord gave him extraordinary wisdom that humanity still benefits from to date. In today's story, two prostitutes brought a case of their children before the king. One of the prostitutes killed her baby and exchanged it with the living child of her fellow prostitute. In the wisdom of God, king Solomon administered justice and return the living baby to the right mother. While recognition is given to king Solomon, I want to point our attention to a spiritual principle which was exhibited by one of the prostitutes: spiritual sensitivity. This principle is important in our destiny journey. The ability to be alert, cautious and active spiritually. The prostitute with the living baby understood what it means to be sensitive and this saved her. In fact, King Solomon would not have had a case to preside over if she hadn't carefully examined the dead child. She was asleep when the incident happened but when she woke up, she carefully examined the baby and discovered that the dead baby is not hers.

Many Christians have lost their inheritance, blessings, and virtues due to spiritual insensitivity. They lack the ability to discern what is right and wrong. No wonder Apostle Paul prayed that the eyes of our heart may be enlightened by God so that we may come to know God's purpose and plan and work therein (Ephesians 1:18). Spiritual sensitivity is a result of our communion and fellowship with God. Some people had revelations meant to direct, guide or reveal certain secrets but because of sin, carelessness, inactive prayer life, disobedience, and wordlessness, they are spiritually insensitive, and unable to access God's instruction or direction. Dear friends, always watch and pray, be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be alert and cautious at all times so that you can live in God's fullness for your life.

**Self-Reflection:** How sensitive am I spiritually?

**Daily Confession:** And [I pray] that the eyes of your heart [the very center and core of your being] may be enlightened [flooded with light by the Holy Spirit], so that you will know and cherish the hope [the divine guarantee, the confident expectation] to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the [g]saints (God's people). Ephesian 1:18

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for the gift of discernment for our children so that the deception of the enemies can be exposed before their eyes

**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.

### **Stand Your Ground**

*But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the Lord brought about a great victory. 2 Samuel 23:12*

**Bible Reading:** 2 Samuel 23:11-12

David's mighty men were the epitome of strength, determination, sacrifice, courage, and forbearance. These men stood by David before and after he became king in Israel. They were warriors, battle warlords, fierce, rugged and focused. There are some lessons from David's mighty men for God's end-time armies. Let's focus on Shammah. Shammah was one of the three mighty men of David; ranked third after Josheb-Basshebeth and Eleazar. Shammah stood his ground in the middle of the battlefield and fought vehemently even though Israel's troops fled from the Philistines.

Going to the battlefield itself takes courage, and Christians have been described as soldiers on the battlefield (Ephesians 6:10-18, 2 Timothy 2:1-7). Even though many followers of Christ don't want to hear this, being a soldier of Christ requires suffering and hardship. No wonder Apostle Paul declared that 'I may know Him, and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death (Phil. 3:10). Shammah stood his ground alone and fought; he was determined that the enemies of the Lord will not prevail and God respected his action. He fought, sacrificed his strength, and energy and surrendered his life as a soldier. God honoured His word because He shows Himself faithful to whoever is faithful (Psalm 18:25). The Lord brought a great victory to the Israelites through Shammah that day.

Dear friends, God needs you to be courageous. Step out of your comfort zone, walk with Him, and don't quit. Launch forth according to God's word and expect Him to prove Himself on your account. As a Christian, learn to stand your ground in this end time like David's mighty men. Your victory is guaranteed in God. Amen

**Self-Reflection:** Where am I not standing my ground?

**Action Point:** Be strong, courageous, and stand your ground for Jesus.

**Daily Confession:** Lord I receive grace to stand my ground in this world; I am courageous, focused, and determined to fulfil God's purpose in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for courage for my friends and colleagues in any situation they may be passing through in Jesus name.

**Hymn:** On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;

All other ground is sinking sand,

All other ground is sinking sand.

## **Abba Father**

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Matthew 6:9*

### **Bible Reading:** Matthew 7:7-11

I am eternally grateful to God for giving me lovely, and caring parents. I won't be where I am today without their sacrifice to ensure that I received the proper training needed for life and destiny. They were highly instrumental to the salvation of my soul. (Galatians 3:26-29; 4:4). I remember my father always encouraged us to wake up at night to pray to God who he said is his own heavenly Father. I am amazed how my parents made me realize that God is the Father from whom the whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name (Ephesians 3:15). God is love personified; He sent His only begotten Son, "Jesus Christ for man's redemption for a new life in Him. Not everyone can call Him "Abba Father" except those who accept His gift of Christ Jesus for the remission of their sins.

God is merciful, faithful, and compassionate; no wonder Apostle Paul said "blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). Jesus Christ encourages us to ask, seek, and knock because as Children of God, we have our heavenly Father who takes care of His children. In fact, we can call on Him any time and He will answer us because He neither sleeps nor slumbers (Psalm 121:2). If my earthly father can neither give me a stone when I ask for bread nor snake if I ask for fish, how much more of God who knows me and I am inscribed in the palms of His hands (Isaiah 49:16). What do you need God to intervene on in your life? Call unto Him today because He is your heavenly Father who is never ashamed to call you His very own. If you don't know Him as your heavenly Father yet, this is an opportunity to repent from your sins and believe the work of salvation accomplished through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Self-Reflection:** Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me. (Isaiah 49:15-16)

**Daily Confession:** My heavenly Father, I thank You for caring, and loving me.

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for the salvation of anyone living on my street who is yet to know Jesus Christ.

**Hymn:** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

September 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Repent and Pray (I)**

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels. Psalm 122:6-7*

#### **Bible Reading:** 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Perhaps there is no serious time in history that our country needs prayer than now. We are faced with difficulties, challenges, unfaithful leaders, famine, and even ungodly policies. Many citizens are left in misery, suffering, victimization, and loss, while there's an ever-increasing difference between the rich and the poor. Some leaders honestly don't even know the direction the government is heading because it's beyond their control. It has been from one evil to the other. The world continues to experience disasters due to ungodliness, our neglect of God and greedy acts. Citizens are fed-up and no one really knows what to do. The Bible offers us solutions: If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14).

From the above Scripture, we have to first repent and return to God. When the Israelites disobeyed God, and did abominable acts before the Lord, they were taken into captivity by other nations; they experienced famine, and God subjected them to the rules of other nations. Believers have to truly live for God and present their nation before God. In essence, the first step is repentance.

After we have repented of our sins, and turned away from our wicked ways by acknowledging God and embracing His provision of salvation through Jesus Christ, then we can pray unto God. Instead of murmuring and grumbling which will not change the situation, we have to turn to God's word. God's word has given us the solution. Pray first for all the people, and then for the leaders in authority for God's help and intervention. God intervened in the past, brought Israel out of captivity, and turned famine into abundance within twenty-four hours (2 Kings 7). It is high time our nations returned to God. Christians need to intercede for their nation so that God's Presence, peace, and security can abide there. Then we can live peacefully, and quietly in godliness, holiness and prosperity.

**Self-Reflection:** When last did you intercede for your country?

**Action Point:** Pray for your nation

**Daily Confession:** Lord Jesus I thank You for my country. Let Your mercy prevail and intervene for the glory and the honor of Your name. amen

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for the healing of my country.

**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.

September 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Repent and Pray (II)**

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicle 7:14*

**Bible Reading:** 2 Chronicle 7:13-15

Yesterday we reiterated the need for individual and corporate repentance. As believers, we are saddled with the responsibility to humble ourselves and seek God's face concerning pleasant and unpleasant situations in our country. The truth be told, many Christians are doing exactly this, praying earnestly and without ceasing. It may seem as if God is not hearkening but truly God listens and without the prayer of the righteous, worse things would have happened. After genuine repentance and earnest prayer of the righteous have been offered, faith and patience is required. Apostle Paul warns, "we do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those through faith and patience inherit what has been promised." (Hebrew 6:12). Don't speak negative of your country, city etc because you have decreed positive thing already. While others are saying there is a casting down, prophecy a lifting up. Faith requires that we cast our burdens unto the Lord because He truly cares (1 Peter 5:7). Finally, it is important we continually intercede for other nations of the world, patiently await positive change, and preach the gospel of Christ Jesus because the end is here (Matthew 28:19-20).

**Self-Reflection:** What's your confession after you have prayed?

**Action Point:** Intercede for this nation and others nations of the world.

**Daily Confession:** Lord help me to cultivate the right attitude after prayer, faith, and patience.

**Intercessory prayer:** Choose a country other than yours and for pray for its healing.

**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.



September 7<sup>th</sup>

### **Preach God's Word**

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)*

#### **Bible Reading:** 2 Timothy 4:2

In today's reading, Apostle Paul instructed his son in the Lord, Timothy to preach the Word regardless of time, feeling, or situation. Always have God's word on your lips to share with people you come across. Be attuned to the Holy Spirit to deliver God's word that will address situations per time. Our attitude to evangelism, exhortation and sharing of God's word need to be changed. We have to show concern for the lost, and trust God to speak His word through us. If we are to follow Paul's instruction to Timothy, then it means we have to have burden for the lost and be filled with God's word. It is important that our faith is rekindled every day because faith comes by hearing, by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). Studying and meditating on God's word is important because it renews and transforms our minds, help us conform to godly pattern, and enable us to test and approve God's will (Romans 12:1-2). As you resume your daily business today, preach the word whether convenient or not. Patiently and diligently trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you because it is "Not by might, nor by power but by the Spirit" says the Lord Almighty (Zechariah 4:6).

**Self-Reflection:** Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2, NLT)

**Action Point:** Preach to someone today about Jesus Christ.

**Daily Confession:** Lord thank You for the privilege to preach God's word. I receive the grace to fulfil Your word in Jesus' name. Amen

**Intercessory prayer:** May the heart of everyone that attend my church be a fertile ground for the word of God.

**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?

September 8<sup>th</sup>

### **The Spirit of Wisdom**

*Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore, get wisdom: and with all thy getting, get understanding.  
(Prov. 4:7)*

**Bible Reading:** Exodus 31:1-11

Sophia, which is the Greek word for Wisdom, means intelligence, insight and skill. Wisdom is one of the core attributes of Christ; He is Wisdom personified. In fact, Christ is the power and the wisdom of God, (1 Cor. 1:24b). He is the embodiment of all wisdom and understanding and it is from Him that all grace flows. Isaiah 11:2 tells us that wisdom is a spirit; the spirit of wisdom empowers to be skillful and to make sound judgement based on God's word. In today's reading, God filled Bezaleel and Oholiab with the spirit of wisdom and knowledge and in all manner of workmanship (Exodus 31:3&6). To be filled with the spirit of wisdom is to be controlled, led and instructed in all things in the wisdom of God. Anyone filled with the spirit of wisdom, will become a wonder in their generation. This is as a result of the workings of the Holy Spirit in such life. Men like Daniel, Shedrach, Meshach and Abednego stood before king Nebuchadnezer because they were filled with the Spirit of wisdom (Daniel 1:4) and they did exploits for God in the land of Babylon.

God says He will put His Spirit in our hearts to quicken us to live by the dictates of the Holy Spirit. Thus, when we ask for the infilling of the Holy Spirit, we are actually submitting to the authority of God to reign and work in our hearts. It takes God's wisdom to live an extraordinary life. Dear friends, I encourage you to continually meditate on God's word for divine insight and empowerment, live according to God's counsel, and study to gain insight and knowledge. Also, prayer for deeper access to God's wisdom (James 1:5).

**Self-Reflection:** Wisdom is life to him who has it, but folly is the chastisement of fools (Prov. 16:22, RSV)

**Action Point:** Ask for the spirit of wisdom today.

**Daily Confession:** Lord, I receive wisdom, that pure, peaceable and gentle wisdom that flows from your throne of grace. I operate in the spirit of wisdom in every area of my life.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for wisdom for husbands, wives, children and teachers that you know.

**Hymn:** How great the wisdom and love  
That filled the courts on high

September 9<sup>th</sup>

### **A Lesson from Zacchaeus**

*And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and saw him and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for today I must abide at thy house. Luke 19:5*

**Bible Reading:** Luke 19:1-10

The story of Zacchaeus is an interesting and insightful story that teaches us never to allow any limitation hinder us in life. Jesus was passing through Jericho when Zacchaeus heard about Him. Zacchaeus was a chief publican; he was also rich but of a small stature. His stature that seemed like a barrier became instrumental to him seeing Jesus. Zacchaeus changed his perspective; instead of giving excuses, he created a way. Perhaps, Zacchaeus would not have devised a solution if he did not desire to see Jesus. Do you really desire to see Jesus? Do you desire to know Jesus? “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” Hebrews 2:9. The good news is that for as many that desire to see Him, He will appear unto them. Zacchaeus did not allow any circumstance debar him from reaching his goal. He climbed up to a sycamore tree and by so doing, he caught the Lord’s attention and the Lord followed him to his house. May you do something that will make God pause and look to your direction this season in Jesus name. Divine visitation is your portion!

I want you to know that Jesus is always passing your way but only those who are spiritually alert will be able to lay hold upon Him as He passes by. Dear friends, Jesus is always passing by. He passed through Jericho; He also passed through Samaria (John 4:4) and a great revival broke forth. A one-time prostitute became an evangelist. He will pass your way this season and you will not miss divine timing in Jesus name.

**Self-Reflection:** Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Mt 5:8

**Action Point:** When you gain heaven’s attention, every other thing is at your command.

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for God’s visitation in my neighbourhood, my place of work and in my country in Jesus name.

**Hymn:** I am so glad that Jesus loves me

September 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

### **Sing unto the Lord**

*O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Psalm 96:1*

**Bible Reading:** 2 Chronicles 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 of the benefits of singing unto God as seen in our text is that it brings down God's presence into one's life. Seeing God for who He is and seeing Him in all things enables us acknowledge Him and for what He has done for us. When we sing, we express our heartfelt love and gratitude to God. Our sincere act of worship gives God joy and we are also filled with joy and strength in the process for the joy of the Lord is our strength (Zephaniah 3:17, Psalm 126:2) Our singing should not be limited to church alone but we are to praise Him everywhere, in all things and at all time.

**Action Point:** Sing joyful songs to God at all time.

**Daily Confession:** Lord, I thank You for You are God. Thank You for Your faithfulness, goodness and love over my life.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for divine intervention in countries that are experiencing famine, diseases and wars.

**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

September 11<sup>th</sup>

### **Little me in the Big God**

*For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:13 (NIV)*

**Bible Reading:** 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

One of Kathryn Kuhlman's slogans reads: "Little me in the BIG God". She believed that it's all about God; this belief characterized a simple yet a highly impactful life that showcased God's raw power through the Holy Spirit. God's power and greatness was revealed through her life without any reservation. Reading through those pages of books that documented some of the miracles God wrought through her, I can only conclude that God mightily used her for His glory. Personally, I was strengthened when I read some of her books. In fact, Apostle Paul's confession "*For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose*" became real and had profound meaning to me!

We can only make great impact when we choose to forget our little self in the great God. When we come to that understanding that it is God who is at work inside us both "to will and to act" then we can work in line with Him. It has never been about our ability or our strength because it is not by human strength or ability but by God's grace. He that knew you before you were formed; knows everything about you and it is only Him who can fulfill His word concerning you. It is only wise to align ourselves with Him so that He will prove Himself mightily in us and through us. Acknowledge your inability and His ability and submit to God totally. Receive the gift of salvation through Christ Jesus, and abide in Him. May the truth of this revelation sink into our spirits so that we can live according to God's plan, and purpose for our lives.

**Self-Reflection:** No boasting, it is by grace!

**Action Point:** We can only make great impact when we choose to forget our little self in the great God.

**Daily Confession:** Lord, I agree that I cannot do without You; I humble myself and ask You to work Your greatness in my life and through me. Amen

**Intercessory prayer:**

**Hymn:** Rock of Ages, cleft for me,

Let me hide myself in Thee;

Let the water and the blood.

September 12<sup>th</sup>

### **Time to Retreat**

*After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. Matthew 14:23 (NIV)*

**Bible Reading:** Mark 6:45-47

“A way to make people rest” a doctor said, “is to prescribe bed rest because many people are so occupied that they are using up their strength without gaining more. They don’t need drugs, they only need to rest and that will relax and recuperate their lost energy”. In fact, in some cases, patients’ phones and other access to the public are disconnected so that they can be alone and rest. That is a form of retreat!

The word, retreat is used by several institutions. Regardless of where it is used, it has a similar meaning and understanding of refuge, reflection, recuperation, and withdrawal to renew strength and re-strategize. For instance, when used in the military, it means a withdrawal of military force, and when used in spiritual sense, it means to be alone with God for spiritual renewal. Also, organizations constantly go on retreats to evaluate their activities, and plan for future operations.

Jesus Christ, our perfect example understood what it means to retreat. He knew times and seasons. For instance, He knew when to be alone to seek God’s face, when to exit the crowd, and when to leave an argument. He lived by the principle of retreat. The reality is that days are busy, and we are occupied with different responsibilities that demands our attention, and our strength are used up. Christians need to cultivate the habit of going on regular personal and corporate retreat to seek God’s face. Just like Jesus, there is a need to constantly be alone with God, devoid of noise and distraction. Our time alone with God positions us to hear God speak expressly, ask for directions, instruction, and counsel, study His word, open door of revelation unto us, and in the process renew our strength (Isaiah 40:31). Dear friends, let’s seek God alone daily despite our busy schedule, communicate with Him in your hearts because that’s the seat of connection. Like Jesus, we are to develop the attitude of being comfortable to be alone with God and His word is the same for when we seek Him, we will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13).

**Self-Reflection:** How often do you retreat to be alone with God?

**Action Point:** Plan a personal retreat and be faithful to it!

**Daily Confession:** Lord I receive strength for the journey ahead and grace to be alone with You in order to seek You. Thank You Lord because You always hear me anytime I call in Jesus name.

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for God’s strength for spiritual leaders in my life.

**Hymn:** Alone with God, the world forbidden,

Alone with God, O blest retreat!

Alone with God, and in Him hidden,

To hold with Him communion sweet.

September 13<sup>th</sup>

### **When God is Silent (I)**

*Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sin have hidden his face from you so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:1-2 (NIV)*

#### **Bible Reading:** Isaiah 59

There are times it may seem God is silent especially when we are passing through hard times and we have prayed expecting God's spontaneous response concerning that situation. Also, it may be that we want to take a decision and we earnestly await God's instruction, and direction but it seems God is silent. The truth is God can be silent in some situations due to some reasons and it is possible God is speaking through His silence but we are not hearing what He is saying. For the next few days, let's consider why it seems God is silent on us.

God's intention is that His creation should communicate and fellowship freely with Him. Even after the fall of Man, God intervened through different ways such as worship, offering of sacrifices, and the Levitical priesthood to stand before God representing God's children among others. Despite these provisions, God wasn't satisfied because the total redemption of humanity was the ultimate. Hence, the provision we have in Christ Jesus!

In today's reading the first reason to consider when God is silent is SIN. God never sleeps nor slumber (Psalm 121:3-4); however, at times sin keeps us away from Him. It keeps us from hearing Him. What sin is causing God to be silent over your situation? What unrighteousness is rooted in your life that has become part of your life? Are you like Joshua the high priest who was filthy and disconnected Him from God due to the garment of unrighteousness that was on Him? Thank God for mercy that found Joshua the high priest!

Sin disconnects us from God; it forms a void and creates distance between us and God. This was evidenced when Adam fell. God's nature departed from him and God had to search for Adam in the Garden. This is the same for anyone who live in sin; even when God is speaking, He cannot hear and when God knows that a man cannot hear Him, then, what is the point of speaking? King Saul is an example of someone who was totally disconnected from God because of the sin of disobedience. He wanted to hear from God but a huge gap has been created already due to his disobedience, and wrong choices so he devised an alternative; he consulted the witch of En Dor (1 Samuel 28:3-25). Until a man comes to amend his ways by taking a decision to walk with God absolutely and forsake the life of sin, God will do nothing but remain silent. Dear brethren, God desires holiness and righteousness because without it, no man can see the Lord.

**Self-Reflection:** Is it sin that has made God silent over your life?

**Action Point:** Examine yourself! Accept Jesus Christ today and follow Him in holiness.

**Daily Confession:** Lord thank You for your faithfulness, I plead for mercy in areas where I have been disobedient and kept out of my life. I give you full access into my life.

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for deliverance for anyone struggling in sin

**Hymn:** Behold, what love, what boundless love

The Father hath bestowed on sinners lost

That we should be now called the "sons of God".

September 14<sup>th</sup>

## **When God is Silent (II)**

*How I have been grieved by their adulterous hearts, which have turned away from me, and by their eyes, which have lusted after their idols Ezekiel 6:9b (NIV)*

**Bible Reading:** Ezekiel 6:9; Ezekiel 20:16

Yesterday, we started considering reasons responsible for God's silence. Sin is a principal factor that disconnects us from God. Accept Jesus Christ today and embrace the God-kind of life! Also, may God help us to live in the reality of who we are in Him because when anyone becomes born again, he is a new creation and old things have passed away and all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). Being in Christ means that you are empowered to live above sin because no one who is born of God will continue to sin for God's seed remains in him (1 John 3:9).

The second point we want to consider today is that God is silent when we want our self-will to prevail. In this case, we don't accept what God is saying. For instance, prophet Balaam knew God's intention but refused to accept God's verdict (Number 22-23). There are cases of many singles who keep praying concerning their life partner and God spoke initially about His plan but because they refuse to surrender to God's verdict, and God becomes silent on that issue because His word is "yea and amen".

Another reason why God remains silent is what the Bible refers to as "idol in a man's heart". God speaking to Ezekiel said that the children of Israel refused to hear Him because of the idols in their heart. This refers to those self-constructed, and self-proposed wishes and plans contrary to God's plan. When we pray to God on an issue and we have our mind made up concerning the issue even before praying to God. In such case, God is not silent rather our senses have been blocked because we have committed ourselves to the idols in our heart. We avoid God by giving excuses and insisting on our own way.

Knowing the mind of God requires being open to receive His word; it means being rooted in God's word to know His mind on issues of life and submitting to God's exact will, plan and purpose. So next time when it seems God is silent, take yourself through the test to know if there is any idol in your heart and if your plan aligns with God's. Disobedience, stubbornness of heart and idols in the heart will keep God silent and far away. Until you submit your will unto God, there won't be absolute hearing of God because God speaks to yielded heart, mind and will!

**Self-Reflection:** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

**Daily Confession:** Lord, I submit my will unto you.

**Intercessory prayer:** May my children desire you.

**Hymn:** Be gone, unbelief, My Saviour is near  
And for my relief, Will surely appear



September 15<sup>th</sup>

### **When God is Silent (III)**

*I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, I will put my trust in him.  
Isaiah 8:17 (NIV)*

#### **Bible Reading:** Habakkuk 2:1

Sin breaks covenant, causes God to be silent, brings delay and even blockage from hearing God. Also, when our will is not in resonance with God's, when we refuse to accept God's verdict; and when people have idols in their hearts, then God is silent.

Furthermore, God can be silent when it's not yet His time and, in that case, God is saying "let patience have thorough work in you" (Hebrew 6:12). Divine timing is important in all things. As human beings, we are always in a hurry to get things done and to have everything. In fact, God seems too slow for many people. Until we learn to be patient, learn to listen to Him, and yield to His counsel, we are not yet ready for an answer. Remember, "there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

Also, God is silent when He sees that He is not the Counselor that matters in your life. Many people seek counsel from fellow man even before asking God. While it is good and biblical that we seek godly counsel (Proverbs 11:14; Proverbs 15:22; Proverbs 24:6), God wants us to hear and know His mind on an issue first before any other person. Just like Daniel, it takes serious discipline to build a lifestyle of seeking God's face concerning issues of life. King David learnt to seek God's face first on any issue before asking earthly counselors. However, when he refused to seek God's counsel in order to know God's mind despite Joab's counsel, king David faced the consequences (2 Samuel 24). Our motive is important in our relationship with God. If your motive isn't right for asking, then don't expect God to hearken to you because God knows the intent of our heart (2 Chronicles 16:9a).

In conclusion, after considering all these and God is still silent, then the only thing you need to do is simply stand in Him and wait on Him! Prayerfully wait on Him in patience because He is working something out for your good. Don't be discouraged, don't lose your faith and don't change your position in Him so that you don't delay or deny yourself of what He has planned for you. Remember, quality takes time. God bless you!

**Self-Reflection:** Review these lessons and examine your life again

**Action Point:** Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth of that situation to you.

**Daily Confession:** Lord, thank You for your word of life. I ask for grace to wait on You and take my position in Christ Jesus. I receive the fullness of all that you have for me according to your right timing in Jesus' name. Amen.

Intercessory prayer: I pray for clarity and wisdom to submit to your will for those seeking your face for instruction and life direction.

**Hymn:** He will answer every prayer

He will answer every prayer

Go to Him in faith believing

He will answer every prayer

September 16<sup>th</sup>

### **Wake Him Up!**

*Jesus was in the storm, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him,  
“Teacher, don’t you care if we drown” Mark 4:38 (NIV)*

#### **Bible Reading:** Mark 4:35-41

A story was told of a woman who always responded to the greeting “How are you doing today?” with “I want to wake Him up”! One day a man walked up to her and asked her “why do you always answer greetings with such a response?” The woman replied with the story in our reading today. For her, instead of telling people how horrible her situation was, she goes to speak to God about it by simply “Waking Him Up”!

How blessed are we as children of God that we have a Father who is always ready to hear us when we call upon Him. Just like Jesus disciples in today’s reading, we have to learn to call unto Him regardless of our situation. Firstly, Jesus Christ entered into the boat with them but along the line, Jesus slept because then, He was in the human flesh so he had to sleep just like you and I. Our heavenly Father never sleeps nor slumber (Psalm 121:3), He is ready to answer us anytime we call unto Him.

Presently, Jesus still invites us to call Him into that situation because He will not come in if you do not invite Him. God is not an intruder! In fact, Jesus Christ gave us an invitation that we should ask until our joy is full (John 16:24). Regardless of the situation, learn to go on your knees to pray unto God because when He comes to your aid, peace is restored and safety is guaranteed.

E.M. Bounds, one of forefathers of prayer re-echoed God’s word in his books that until you ask, you won’t receive; until you seek, you won’t find and until you knock, the door won’t be opened unto you (Matthew 7:7-8). Take your burdens unto the Lord for He cares for you. Pray in the name of Jesus Christ which is above every other name (Phil 2:9-11); develop that lifestyle of calling unto God even before calling upon men and believe God that whatever you ask in the place of prayer you have received. God bless you.

**Self-Reflection:** Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if any man hears my voice, I will come in and sup with him. Rev.3:23

**Action Point:** Read books on the subject of prayer! Pray unto God concerning that issue today!

**Daily Confession:** Lord I choose to call unto You in whatever situation I find myself!

**Intercessory prayer:** Release the spirit of supplication to Your church in Jesus name.

**Hymn:** All they who put their trust in God

Can never be removed;

They stand secure like Zion’s mount

September 17<sup>th</sup>

### **Can God depend on you?**

*The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. Luke 12:42-43 (NIV)*

**Bible Reading:** Matthew 21:28-32

I invite us to reflect on few questions for the next two days: Can God depend on me? We have been taught the importance of trusting in and depending on God. Faith is central to our Christian journey, and it is a spiritual currency through which spiritual transactions are made. In fact, many consider faith as a means to an end; an essential ingredient to receiving from God. While it is necessary to depend on God absolutely, the question I want you to meditate on today is: I depend on and trust in God, can God depend on me?

Today's reading is an encounter between a father and his sons, one of the sons promised to carry out his father's instruction before the father's departure but refused to fulfil the promise while the second son told the father that he won't heed his father's request but he finally worked on the farm. The change of heart of the second son to obey the father is important because repentance is central to our walk with God. When the eyes of our heart is enlightened by the revelation from God's word, and the Holy Spirit, we are transformed and we turn from our ways to become who God wants us to be.

Furthermore, while this story exemplify two possible reactions, there is a possibility that the son would have pledged obedience to the father and follow through regardless of the cost. As believers, in our walk with God it is important to know that God wants to depend on us too even as we depend on Him. God desires that our light shine before men that they see our good works and glorify our father who is in heaven. That is, God desires believers who will truly be the light of the world in word and deed; He wants us to be His hands, and feet etc, and He seeks that we live in love. He wants us to be obedient, loving, and faithful in what we do. Also, God wants to entrust us with kingdom wealth, wisdom, and unfathomable grace that is beyond human comprehension. In your daily living, make it a priority to be God's ambassador because then God can depend on you.

**Self-Reflection:** Can God depend on you?

**Daily Confession:** Lord may You find me dependable in Jesus name.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for essential workers in your city and your country for God's protection over them.

**Hymn:** We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,  
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,  
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love

September 18<sup>th</sup>

### **Can God delight in you?**

*The Lord answered, who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. Luke 12:42-43 (NIV)*

**Bible Reading:** Matthew 21:28-32

Today, I invite us to ponder on these questions: Can God delight in you? why does God need to delight in you? What will make God delight in you? To delight in a person or in something is to take great pleasure in them. Delight gives a sense of joy, happiness, and fondness. By implication to be delighted in something or to be delighted is associated with something positive directly or indirectly. For instance, as a lecturer, I like all my students, however, I take delight in students that are disciplined, and resilient. I love it when my students are creative, innovative, and diligent in class readings, discussions, assignments, and life application of whatever we discuss in class. Also, raised by parents that reprimand and reward, I know what it means to be delighted in somebody or something. It is a product of obedience, diligence, and discipline. If earthly teachers and parents can delight in their students and children, how much more of God who is our heavenly Father?

God wants to take delight in His children. Firstly, God loves when His children abide in Him, love and obey Him (John 14:15; 15). Then His children can live a righteous and godly life; a life that show forth Christ, no wonder Apostle Paul declared boldly “for to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). Fathers of faith like Abraham, David, the prophets, Daniel, and the Apostles among others understood what it meant for God to be delighted in someone. They lived for God; took absolute delight in God (Psalm 37:4), and then God was delighted in them. God spoke highly of Job as a faithful, and righteous man. Despite the storms of life that befell Job, he stood for God. Dear friends, God is calling our attention to another truth God truly wants to find in His children. He wants us to love Him, and live for Him. At KSi, we encourage you to consider these questions again: can God depend on you? Can God delight in you? May God’s word grow to produce fruits of righteousness in multiple folds in Jesus name.

**Self-Reflection:** For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation. Psalm 149:4

**Daily Confession:** Lord may You be delighted in me.

**Intercessory prayer:** May God delights in my children. May they live for you in Jesus name, amen.

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

September 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Returning to Egypt?**

*...the Lord has told you, You are not to go that way again. Deut. 17:16b (NIV)*

**Bible Reading:** Psalm 137:1-4

The word Egypt when used in spiritual context symbolizes bondage, oppression and at the same time worldliness. Israelites were enslaved in the land of Egypt. They were made to work under harsh and terrible conditions without any compensation. In fact, when king Pharaoh realized that the Israelites population was immense, he ordered that Jewish babies be killed at birth. In essence, Egypt is a place of perpetuate enslavement and God is warning you today – don't go back to Egypt! In today's context, it means that someone is about returning to the old lifestyle that God detests through compromise. Why are you returning to the old lifestyle of sin and death when Christ Jesus has freely given you life in abundance? Why are you about to compromise your stand in Christ Jesus for earthly gain?

Instead of returning to your old vomit, we encourage you to hold on to God's word. Although you have prayed, employed God's word and even lived a life that God approves of but nothing is forthcoming. Patiently wait for God because God is ever faithful to His word. So hold on to Him, fix your gaze on Him and choose not to compromise. You left that path of destruction long time ago when you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour so don't go back beloved. Don't go back for there is light at the end of the tunnel, and God is able to do according to His word, so patiently wait on Him!

**Self-Reflection:** In what areas are you returning to Egypt?

**Daily Confession:** Lord, I refuse to return into bondage. I choose to look unto You and I am not put to shame. I receive grace to patiently wait upon God for my set time is here and nothing will delay or deny me of receiving what God has ordained for me.

**Intercessory prayer:** Lord Jesus I pray patience and faith for families waiting on you for breakthrough

**Hymn:** Standing on the promises of Christ my King  
Through eternal ages let His praises ring  
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing  
Standing on the promises of God

September 20<sup>th</sup>

### Selfless Love (I)

*For God SO loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life - John 3:16 [NIV]*

**Bible Reading:** I John 4:19

Love holds life, and life came into existence because of love and fellowship. It was love that made God sacrifice His Only Son - Jesus Christ. Love is sacrificial and it should be the basis of every relationship, fellowship and living. The measure of one's love for something or someone is determined by how much one can sacrifice or let go in order to have that thing. Love is about making and giving. "For God SO loved that He gave..." what a great concept of love our heavenly Father revealed to us here. The God kind of love states that "love is defined by being selfless, giving and making".

The truth is this: God has brought your way another opportunity to embrace His love by accepting Jesus Christ into your life for love isn't complete except the other side embrace the gesture. It is a gift that takes humility to accept for "...whosoever that believes will not perish but have everlasting life". Accept this gift of life by accepting that you are a sinner, confessing with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, forsaking your evil ways and embracing Jesus. This love you cannot afford to waste on your end. God bless you.

**Self-Reflection:** Jesus loves me. Have I given my life to him? Do I love him in return?

**Prayer:** My Father in heaven, thank you for Your love; I know you truly love me and I choose to embrace your love. Help me never to give in to anything fighting for my attention and love over yours in Jesus Name. Amen

**Action Point:** Make a decision right now for the journey to eternity starts now, accept Jesus Christ today for tomorrow might be too late.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for every household on your street for the salvation of their souls.

**Hymn:** I am so glad that our Father in heaven

Tells of His love in the book He has given

Wonderful things in the Bible I see

This is the dearest that Jesus loves me

September 21<sup>st</sup>

### **Selfless Love (II)**

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind -  
Matthew 22:37 [NIV]*

**Bible Reading:** Matthew 22:34-40

Loving God is foundational, and obedience is function of our love for God. That we obey is because we love. Partial obedience, obedience out of compulsion, fear and timidity is no obedience at all for all actions are judged based on our intentions and motives. Reciprocity is essential in establishing a relationship. In this case, God first loved us (1 John), and we are to love Him in return. Who or what we give our heart to determine who our attention will go to; it tells a lot about who we will obey, honour, fear or reverence.

In today's reading, Jesus Christ was asked what the greatest commandment was and he replied on dual levels, God and man which centres on love. If we don't love God, then the essence of Christ's sacrifice for our redemption that aims to make us will amount to nothing. How do we love God? Love Him with all your heart, soul and mind; let Him be the centre of your focus. Love is personal; it starts with having a relationship with God, be an ardent pursuer of God regardless, and a God chaser. As you work in that office, study in that school or even sell among other traders, and your daily living, let the love of Christ show forth in you. Reach out to others the love of Christ that has been shown unto you. You can preach the gospel, encourage people through the words of your mouth, give unto others, the list is endless. And in whatever you do, do it unto God. Jesus seeks for true friendship in me; for He is my friend. Friends know themselves. If I am His true friend, I will always obey Him.

**Self-Reflection:** Do you know Jesus? Does He know you as a friend? We can find truest friend in Jesus but can He really find a true friend in me?

**Prayer:** Even when obedience is hurtful, Lord help me to still obey You with joy and gladness. Cause me to make you the centre of my focus and to love you with the whole of my life. Amen

**Action Point:** Evaluate your love for God. Is God your priority?

**Intercessory prayer:** May God bless and keep missionaries.

**Hymn:** Wonderful story of love

Tell it to me again

Wonderful story of love

Wake the immortal strain

Angels with rapture announce it...

September 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **Selfless Love (III)**

*Love your neighbour as you love yourself - Matthew 22:39 [NIV]*

**Bible Reading:** I John 3:11-19

For days now, we have been studying love values, with focus on those attributes that make love vital and a God attribute. Today, we want to continue with a shift in our gaze unto love for one another. Some certain persons in the Old Testament/old covenant lived the life of the New Testament. Such persons include Abraham, Jonathan and David among others. In the aspect of love, Jonathan lived the life of love, selflessness. Abraham lived the life of faith and David lived the life of worship and thorough walk with God. The classical example of love among humanity, God kind of love is that which existed between David and Jonathan. For he loved him as he loved his own soul [1 Sam. 20:17]

Sacrifice is a price for love and selfishness we are rid of; love should be the heartbeat of any friendship. Reciprocity should be a non-negotiable basis of friendship. Trust, safety and security are the foundation of any long lasting relationship. Friends sacrifice self for friends; regardless of the true and reliable relationship we have with our human friends, Jesus Christ is the only true Friend for human limitations make men betray or become inefficient and we are not to put our trust in them.

The truest intention of every true love is in making. It finds pleasure in giving rather than receiving. In fact, marital relationships should understand this principle so that both parties involved can enjoy their home. So understands God's command today: love your neighbour just as yourself. Let it be that you do unto others only what you want others do unto you. In thought, words and actions let love be the motivating factor; seek to make others, contribute meaningfully into their lives and live to please God. When you follow the JOY principle of JESUS, OTHERS and YOU then you are being selfless in showing love. If love aims at making and making impact, then seek to love today.

**Self-Reflection:** Love not in words but in actions

**Daily Confession:** Lord, let my life reflect the love of Christ that through me, men will come to Jesus. Amen

**Action Point:** Love through your actions.

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for individuals in prison for an encounter with God that will transform their lives.

**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...



September 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Still Defining Love

*“Love endures long and is patient and kind...” - I Cor. 13:4 [AMP]*

**Bible Reading:** 1 Cor. 13:4-8

Defining things brings focus, understanding and help us know what we claim we know. We know what it is and what it is not. Defining love is defining life! Defining love means seeing this divine nature from the Divinity's perspective because God is the author of love; He is love and love is the source of life. Apostle Paul identified extreme activities that in human understanding, one can easily and quickly assume for love. On the surface these activities have the form of love but denying the power and nature therein. He identified the character of love. These attributes include patience, kindness, humility, tolerance, perseverance, self-sacrifice and trust worthiness.

The law of love is the law of service. Love is about making; rendering service, paying sacrifice for others to be made. In the making process, we build others to our stature and even desire more for them. Love gives all; it's about service, service-oriented and not lordship. It is about fellowship and genuine relationship; fellows in the same ship; men that choose to seek serving others. They understand that the way to greatness is simply to serve others (Mark 10:43-45). They are ready to support people and make them work in the right way for a better tomorrow.

God is our perfect example. He gave His only begotten son Jesus CHRIST because He SO loved us. When the bible says that “God SO loved the world...” it speaks of the intensity of God's love towards humanity. He still seeks for fellowship which is rooted in love.

So check your life, your relationship: Is it characterized by the nature of God described above? Change is required for you to get it right.

**Action Point:** Choose to love

**Self-Reflection:** Why do I find it difficult to love God and to love others?

**Daily Confession:** I have the Spirit of God in me, so I love God and love my neighbour as myself and I'm obedient.

**Intercessory prayer:** Help Your church to love even the unlovable.

**Hymn:** How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only son  
To make a wretch His treasure...

September 24<sup>th</sup>

### Love Metre

*He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. I John 4:8*

**Bible Reading:** I Cor. 13

Love is a nature of God. Man can express genuine love because he was made in the image and likeness of God. However, since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, man lost his heritage including the divine nature and relationship that God engraved into him. Hence, counterfeit nature, a make-up to cover-up for what man lost became the order of the day. That is why there are different shades and kinds of love and the opposite called lust. How do you know genuine love? Jesus is our perfect example. Our text today plainly outlined the characteristics of love; it reveals activities without love which is unprofitable. God sees the heart; He knows our motives and understands our ways. For love does not fear, it is kind, truthful, patient and humble among others.

So check your life as Paul admonished and ask yourself: Do I live out of fear or in love? While there are love meters that have been designed in the world today, God's word stands as the only sure love meter because it is a book of love written by God through His servants to His children. If you want to love God and love God's people, God's word is the guide. For instance, I John 3:18 emphasized that we should love in actions and not in mere words; that God first loved us so we are to love Him; and that perfect love cast away fear among others.

So run a love test today that will define love; at KSi, we present to you God's word which is the only valid love metre that is guaranteed to give you a sure and accurate reading when you measure yourself in the light of God's word. Reach out to God and allow Him work truly and thoroughly in you.

**Self-Reflection:** And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**Action Point:** Use God's love metre, His word

**Daily Confession:** I am loving!

**Intercessory prayers:** Lord Jesus teach us how to love like you.

**Hymn:** I've found a friend in Jesus, He's everything to me

He's the fairest of ten thousands to my soul

He's the Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see

All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole

September 25<sup>th</sup>

### **Finding Peace amidst the Storm (I)**

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you... Isaiah 43:1-3 [NIV]*

**Bible Reading:** Isaiah 43:1-5

The Prince of Peace is the Lord over storm! Peace is best found during the toughest and roughest times of war and storm. That sounds paradoxical, right? It's the truth. The Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ promised us His Presence regardless of any storm, He will ever be present. Many times, it is not that God is not there or that His Spirit is missing, the problem is we refuse to acknowledge Him. A presence not recognized is regarded not present, hence, its functionality becomes intruding into privacy and violating the law of volition and self-will.

Given the apt picture of peace, a painter painted an animal sleeping peacefully in the midst of storm and raging earthquake. The reason for such level of confidence is that that animal had its mother close-by who defends it from any encroaching predator. May we come to that point where we can accept Jesus Christ as the source of our peace and security. We can only do this when we trust Him to handle and care for us despite what we are passing through and understand that it's in Him we live, move and have our being. In spite of our circumstances, we know that He is committed to us and we are precious eggs in the hand of the creator and He guards and keeps us with all His might and strength.

Dear friends, Jesus Christ didn't promise a smooth sail nor a storm-less ride, He ONLY promised that He is there even when we pass through fire, water, storm and other hazardous and disturbing situations you can think of. The ONLY key is to fix our gaze on Jesus Christ for He is the author and the finisher of our faith. Touch not my anointed and do my prophet no harm; you are worth more than you think in His Hands. So finding peace is simply by trusting God, submitting all to Him and obeying Him to do all that He commands. His promise is sure because He is the Prince of peace.

**Self-Reflection:** Be still for the Presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

**Prayer:** Listen you storm, I found peace in Jesus Christ and because He is with me, in me and by me, I command be still.

**Action Point:** Use God's word to command every storm to be still in Jesus Name. (Read Matthew 8:23-27 and Isaiah 43:1-3).

**Intercessory prayer:** I declare the peace of God over every troubled heart in and around me in Jesus name.

**Hymn:** 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus  
Just to take Him by His word  
Just to rest upon His promise  
And to know "Thus saith the Lord"

September 26<sup>th</sup>

### **Finding Peace amidst the Storm (II)**

*Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great and wonderful calm (a perfect peaceableness). Matthew 8:26b [AMP]*

**Bible Reading:** Romans 13:1-7

Recap: Yesterday, we reminded ourselves of God's promise of peace; the necessity to acknowledge God as the source of our peace so that regardless of the storm, we can be still and know that He is God. Regardless of that situation you are passing through, remember God is there with you and He will see you through with astonishing testimonies. Amen.

Today, we want to examine the role of believers in peace building. It is important to note that troublemakers are peace-less people; Christians that refuse to pray for their nations, government and those in authority as Paul admonished will always complain about the stormy state of the nation. As Christians, we have been given the power and authority to bring peace on earth by sharing the good tidings of our Lord Jesus Christ and also praying for nations of the world.

We have to discipline ourselves to intercede for the peace of this nation because the selfish nature of man wants it that all you ask for in the place of prayer is nothing but for yourself. Let your prayer point and prayer coverage change today to friends, families, nations of the world, governments, authorities and institutions among others. When the peace of God gets to these areas, we will experience peace indeed. (1Timothy 2:1-4)

Therefore, it is important we understand that as children of God, we can contribute to peace building in the country. As you pray, be sensitive. Also, report any suspicious activities in your area to the appropriate authority.

**Self-Reflection:** Being selfless is a commitment and a serious business with huge reward beyond measure.

**Prayer:** Lord make me an instrument of peace.

**Action Point:** Be an instrument of peace

**Intercessory prayer:** May the peace of God which passes all human understanding keep our heart

**Hymn:** I've a message from the Lord Hallelujah!

The message unto you I give;

'Tis recorded in His word, Hallelujah!

It is only that you "look and live"!

September 27<sup>th</sup>

## Revelation

*The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant. Psalm 25:14*

### **Bible Reading:** 1 Cor. 2:7-15

Revelation means to make known through divine inspiration something that is hidden or a secret. Revelation comes from God and it is an act of communicating divine truth. Through the Holy Spirit, we gain access to revelation because it is the Spirit that searches all things, even the deep things of God. The Holy Spirit is the custodian of divine mysteries. According to our memory verse, only those who fear God have access to the secret things of God.

Our God is a God of mysteries and His ways are beyond human understanding, therefore, to walk with God, we must understand this and seek to draw closer to Him. It is by drawing closer to Him that we gain more revelation about his ways. God seeks to speak daily into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, but to receive revelation from God, we must become childlike.

Simplicity and humility of heart qualifies a person to hear from God and the willingness to obey His voice.

At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and has revealed them unto babes. (Matt. 11:25).

**Prayer:** Father, grant me the simplicity of heart and willingness to heed to your voice.

**Confession:** I have access to the deep things of God as I partner with the Holy Spirit.

**Intercessory prayer:** Lord reveal yourself to your church in Jesus name,

**Hymn:** I've a message from the Lord Hallelujah!

The message unto you I give;

'Tis recorded in His word Hallelujah!

It is only that you, "look and live"!

September 28<sup>th</sup>

### God's Delight

*I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.*

**Bible Reading:** Jer. 9:23-24

Our God is a God of precision. He says what He means and He means what He says. He spoke to Prophet Jeremiah in today's Bible text by revealing His mind to the Prophet concerning certain things that He delights in as God. First, God said the wise man should not glory in his wisdom. God is the embodiment of all wisdom and understanding and He will never share His glory with any man. "I am the Lord; that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images" Isaiah 42:8.

Secondly, God said the mighty man should not glory in his strength. Are you a mighty man? You hold a position of authority? Glory not in your strength. Thirdly, God stated clearly that the rich man should not glory in his riches. These three things are termed as important by most humans and they attach so much value to themselves on the account of their wisdom, strength and riches. But God places a higher priority on knowing Him personally and living a life that reflects His attributes of loving-kindness, justice and righteousness. These are the things that God delights in which He wants us to glory in, bask in or boast about.

**Action Point:** Examine yourself in the light of these words. Do you glory in your wisdom, strength and riches?

**Confession:** I am God's delight and my life show forth His glory in Jesus name.

**Intercessory prayer:** God may the will of our leaders be lost in yours in Jesus name.

**Hymn:** All things bright and beautiful,

All creatures great and small,

All things wise and wonderful:

The Lord God made them all.

September 29<sup>h</sup>

### **Stay Connected (I)**

*Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself. It must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me John 15:4*

#### **Bible Reading:** John 15

One of the rules of sustaining a network is to stay connected to that network, either human network or otherwise. For instance, if you are not within the service area of your telecommunication provider, you are simply out of service. Also, no matter the number of contacts you have, if you don't stay in touch with them, you are out of their radar because many times, out of sight is out of mind. Staying connected will cost you something, time, money, or certain responsibilities. However, such responsibilities sustain such networks.

In today's reading, Jesus Christ continually emphasize the importance of staying truly connected to Him. In fact, He later assured His disciples (and believers) of the Holy Spirit who is our Counsel, Teacher, and Friend. He enables us to stay connected to God because He reveals the deep things of God unto us (1 Cor. 2:9-16). He enlightens the eyes of our understanding, and empowers us to live a victorious life.

Each time I meet a new person and we exchange our first timer mails, we end our emails with words like stay connected, keep in touch etc. We understand that if we don't stay connected to one another, then we are disconnected. Today's exhortation is therefore centered on this: stay connected to God. Life challenges strive to push us away from the reality of staying glued to God, however, God is faithful to keep and sustain us no matter what we are passing through. Our responsibility is to stay connected via fellowship, communion, and communication with God through Christ Jesus. Study His word, pray, and obey Him as He gives instructions.

**Self-Reflection:** How is your connection to God?

**Daily Confession:** Lord I receive the grace to abide in You in Jesus name, amen!

**Intercessory prayer:** Lord I pray that you open our eyes to see you amidst the chaos happening in our world.

**Hymn:** Alone with God, the world forbidden,  
Alone with God, O blest retreat!  
Alone with God, and in Him hidden,  
To hold with Him communion sweet.

September 30<sup>th</sup>

## Stay Connected II

*Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Luke 19:10*

### **Bible Reading:** Luke 19:1-10

Yesterday, we studied the importance of staying connected to God. As we learn to walk in His steps, our lives will not remain the same. Today, let's exhort ourselves on the need to network with the right people. Each time I facilitate workshop on networking, firstly, I present participants with the task to check the contact on their devices, phone, messaging, email and even social media. This is because your contact to a certain level determines who and where you can reach. When people are encouraged to volunteer, attend godly social events, and professional meetings among others that will benefit them, the reason is to connect with the right people. It is disheartening that many believers are indifferent in this regard because many have misinterpreted Paul's command, do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, hence, they refuse to stay connected with people in this world (2 Cor. 6:14). Jesus Christ during his earthly ministry didn't discriminate, he put up with different persons at different levels. Zacchaeus the tax collector for example made restitution after he met Jesus. Jesus extended the hand of fellowship to him by connecting with Zacchaeus. Our light should shine into this darkened world so that as we work.

Furthermore, while we pray expecting God's intervention, He can use anybody because he is the maker of all. But if we are not in right relationship and connection with people around us, then, we are left on our own. The life of king David continually challenges me. He understood his personality in God, and he connected with the right people regardless of their nationalities. Believers need to understand the wisdom inherent in staying connected to the right network and investing in right relationships God brings our way. From our neighbours either close or distant, colleagues, and even passersby among others. Relationships will definitely demand from us and as we give.

**Action Point:** check your contacts on your devices. Does it correlate with your vision in life?

**Daily Confession:** Lord connect me to the right people and help me to apply God's kind of wisdom in my relationships.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for safety and God's protection as people travel during the 'ember' months.

**Hymn:** Alone with God, the world forbidden,  
Alone with God, O blest retreat!  
Alone with God, and in Him hidden,  
To hold with Him communion sweet.