

The background of the entire page is a composite image. The upper portion features a long-exposure photograph of a starry night sky, with numerous white and blueish-white light trails from stars curving across the frame. The lower portion shows a dark silhouette of a mountain range against a soft, orange and yellow sunset sky.

**OCTOBER 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)  
October 2022

A Kingdom Support Initiatives Publication  
2022

October 1<sup>st</sup>

## God of Wonders

*For from Him [all things originate] and through Him [all things live and exist] and to Him are all things [directed]. To Him be glory and honor forever! Amen. Romans 11:36 (AMP)*

### **Bible Reading:** Romans 11:33-36

Our God is a God of wonders and wonder working God! His creativity transcends human understanding which remains unfathomable despite man's curiosity (Isaiah 40:21-23). He is an indescribable God because no number of names or words can appropriately describe Him. God's wonders are evident every second even when humans are oblivious or refuse to acknowledge it. There are many signs and wonders that show God's creative wonders. For instance, as a woman, if you have experienced child birth before and you reflect on that experience, you are left wondering how great our God is. No wonder it is called, "signs and wonder", a signal and emblem that God is present; that His workings is beyond human's power and leaves everyone wondering and glorifying Him.

God's love, faithfulness, grace, mercy, presence, power, and name among others sustains God's creation. After reading several accounts and theories of creation, I can only submit that God remains unfathomable to human and until we acknowledge how limited we are, and embrace God through Christ Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, then human won't see the wonder working of God that sustains all things. I encourage you to cultivate the habit of seeing His miracle in all things. It is a kingdom principle that we must learn especially when the world teaches otherwise. For as long as our attention is on Christ Jesus, we are guaranteed of seeing Him, our allegiance is pledged to Him, and His wonders become continually real in our lives.

Finally, appreciate God's wonders in your life because you are a testimony of God's faithfulness every day.

**Daily Confession:** Lord thank you for your unending wonder in my life and concerning my expectations.

**Intercessory prayer:** Appreciate God for His signs and wonders in your family, your colleagues at work, in your city etc.

**Song:** God of wonders beyond our galaxy

You are Holy, Holy

The universe declares your Majesty

And You are Holy, Holy

Lord of Heaven and Earth

Lord of Heaven and Earth

October 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Experiencing Jesus (I)**

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 1 John 1:1(NIV).*

**Bible Reading:** 1 John 1:1-4.

When a court of law wants to make judgement concerning a case, they don't request testimonies of people who have not had a firsthand experience of the event leading to the case in question. Rather, they go first for people who witnessed the event. The efficacy of a witness testimony is dependent on the person's experience of the event. An experience is characterized by hearing, seeing and touching (handling). It is not dependent on someone else's testimony but your own personal involvement in or/and experience of a thing or an event.

John the beloved who had been very close to Jesus spoke of his own personal experience of Jesus (the Word of life). John shares his experience with us so that we can desire personal experience of Jesus ourselves. It is possible that you've only been hearing other people's testimony of Jesus; how he saved and changed their lives, how he delivered them from destruction, and how he has been their great provider and so on but you have not experienced him personally as your Lord and Saviour. Even though Thomas one of Jesus' disciples acted in doubt (which was wrong), his cry to see and touch the resurrected Christ is worth emulating.

This actually made him a better witness because he later heard, saw and touched the resurrected Christ. Dear friends, I desire fresh encounters and experiences of Jesus daily. Why not cry for experiential knowledge of the Word of life today?

**Self-Reflection:** Position yourself to experience God in a deeper realm

**Action point:** I'd forever be chasing after you, Lord Jesus.

**Daily Confession:** Lord I pray that you reveal yourself to me just as you revealed yourself to the people of old.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for God's mercy for your nation.

**Hymn:** Saviour, more than life to me,  
I am clinging, clinging close to Thee;  
Let Thy precious blood applied,  
Keep me ever, ever near Thy side.

## Experiencing God (II)

*Gideon said to Him, "If I may ask, sir, why has all this happened to us if the Lord is with us? What about all the wonderful things that our fathers told us the Lord used to do how he brought them out of Egypt? The Lord has abandoned us and left us to the mercy of the Midianites. Judges 6:13 (GNT).*

**Bible Reading:** Judges 6:11-16.

An encounter with God can transform your life forever. Ask Saul on his way to Damascus and his divine encounter that changed the course of his life (Acts 9). A pretext to our Bible reading today: When the children of Israel sinned against God, He gave them into the hands of the Midianites who suppressed and plundered them. When the Israelites cried to God, He heard their cry and sent them a prophet to correct them. God intervened by sending an angel to Gideon who was threshing wheat in a wine press to hide it from the Midianites. The angel of the Lord greeted him with a greeting that sounded strange to his ears, "the Lord is with you, mighty warrior". When we experience God, He speaks into what seems impossible to us. In fact, when He steps in, everything changes. This was what happened in the case of the children of Israel. Gideon wondered why a mighty man of valor could be hiding from the Midianites. This led him to an important question that changed the course of his life. He said to the angel "...What about all the wonderful things that our fathers told us the Lord used to do how he brought them out of Egypt?" What a question! Have you been reading so many great signs and wonders the Lord wrought for his people throughout the scriptures but have not seen any in your life like Gideon? God is still changing and transforming lives. Though Gideon was from the weakest clan in Manasseh and was the least of his family, God used him to defeat the vast army of the Midianites. Like Apostle Paul, may you encounter God in new ways that will bring repentance and transform your life in Jesus name.

**Self-Reflection:** You too can experience God's wonders as you desire and work towards experiencing the fullness of our God.

**Action Point:** Locate scriptures that address your current situation and pray them into reality.

**Daily Confession:** Lord Jesus, let it be unto me according to your word from today.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray that God will encounter our families afresh for the glory and honour of his name.

**Hymn:** More about Jesus would I know,  
More of His grace to others show.

October 4<sup>th</sup>

### **Be The Answer to Someone's Prayer**

*"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" John 6:9 (NIV)*

#### **Bible Reading:** John 6:1-15

Being the answer to someone's prayer involves risk and sacrifice. The Bible is full of examples of persons that offered themselves for God to use them for His glory. In today's Bible reading, the little boy gave his lunch. He gave his all, not sure if his lunch would go round, he offered it anyway and God multiplied it. The boy had more than enough in the end. Perhaps his parents taught him to be generous, sensitive to the need of others, take risks for others, and be loving, the boy gave all he had for the glory of God. There is nowhere God's word will be read that this boy's act will not be mentioned. He became part of Jesus' ministry; a reference point for parents to teach their children, and from him, we learn about love, sacrifice and being an answer to someone else's prayer.

In another situation, some friends brought their sick friend to Jesus for healing. They took the risk of passing their friend through the roof of the building because the building was occupied and there was no way in or out. Their efforts remain fresh because they are mentioned in history to date (Mark 2:3-5). Living each day to become answer to someone's prayer is important. It takes sensitivity, compassion and ultimately loves. Many times, selfishness blindfolds us to become oblivious to the need of others. We are called to fulfil the second command of Jesus: "love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31). God's word summarizes it thus: "The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself" (Proverbs 11:25).

**Self-Reflection:** What can I do to meet someone's need around me?

**Action Point:** Be sensitive to somebody's need today and trust God to help you to meet the need.

**Daily Confession:** Lord Jesus, use me for your glory; that I can be a blessing to others and my actions can put smiles on the face of others in Jesus' name. Amen

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for provision for orphans, orphanage homes, and camps. Bless me Lord that I may be a blessing to these places in Jesus' name.

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

October 5<sup>th</sup>

### **What's in Your Hand?**

*Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going. Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NKJV)*

**Bible Reading:** 2 Kings 4:1-7

What do you have in your hand? God is faithful and He prospers the work of our hands. He opens the door of increase so that our toil does not go in vain. The Bible never condones laziness; rather God's word maintains that "a lazy man should not eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). The Shunammite widow in today's Bible reading had a little oil that seemed insignificant but when the Lord blessed it, she had more than enough. Moses had a shepherd's staff that seemed useful only to his flock but became a mighty tool in the deliverance of Israel. What do you have in your hand?

God expects His children to be diligent, and faithful in whatever our hands find doing (Eccl. 9:10). If you don't have anything doing presently, be expectant because this season, I decree an opening door of employment unto you in Jesus' name. Don't be afraid to start small. whatever vision you have, take a bold step, and launch out in God's time. Let diligence be your watchword, be persistent, innovative, and creative in whatever you do. Remember the parable of the talent; the servants were given talents based on their capacities. Each servant was saddled with the responsibility to use their talent and profit off it. In the story, only two servants faithfully used their talents. The last servant buried his talent and never profit from it. Dear friends, use what's in your hands and see God lift you in due season. May the Lord bless the work of your hand.

**Self-Reflection:** God never condones laziness!

**Daily Confession:** Father blesses the work of my hands. We intercede for as many that are looking unto You for employment, Lord provides for them in Jesus' name. Amen

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for employment for those needing one.

**Hymn:** Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to thee

October 6<sup>th</sup>

### **What Kind of Steward Are You?**

*And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise servant, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give to their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth, I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. Luke 12:42-44 (NKJV)*

#### **Bible Reading:** Matthew 25:14-30

The Bible presents diverse examples of servants who were faithful stewards. They were obedient, loving, compassionate, affectionate and dutifully executed their assignments. There were also some people who were unfaithful in their service. Examples of servants in the Bible include king Saul, & king David, the young prophet (I Kings 13), Jonah (Jonah 1), and the Rechabites (Jeremiah 35) among others. One of the common threads that connect or disconnect these examples is faithfulness. Faithfulness means being loyal, committed, sacrificial, and completely sold-out to a purpose. In today's Bible reading, we met three persons with two perspectives; committed, faithful, and diligent stewards who utilized their talents and profited greatly, while the other was unfaithful to the extent that he had to hide his talents until his master returned.

Here's the word for today: Leadership is a call to serve and a rare opportunity to be a faithful steward in whatever capacity we have been called. If our churches, governments, institutions, and nations can be led by selfless stewards, then our world will be completely changed. If love can be the watchword for our endeavours, many of the evil around us will cease. Our families, nations and societies will live in peace again. As a leader, strive that God finds you faithful to the assignment He has committed into your hands. Feed His flock, walk in His ways, and fulfil God's purpose for your life.

**Self-Reflection:** What makes a faithful steward?

**Action Point:** Intercede for leaders in families, communities, government, and various institutions.

**Daily Confession:** Lord I receive grace to be committed to Your plan and purpose in Jesus name

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for the leaders in your life to be faithful stewards.

**Hymn:** When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word  
What 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.



### Lessons from the Rechabites

*Jonadab son of Recab will never fail to have a man to serve me. Jer. 35:19b (NIV)*

**Bible Reading:** Jeremiah 35:1-9

Another bible character to examine on faithful stewards is the family of the Rechabite who obeyed and reaped the reward of unflinching obedience. It is a known fact that God rewards obedience. God instructed Prophet Jeremiah to test the Rechabites. Jeremiah orchestrated this plan to the extent that the venue for the exhibition was in the house of God and remember. Despite the person involved (prophet Jeremiah) or the venue (the house of God), the Rechabites were not moved. Many people have disobeyed God due to fear or the need to reverence people. Obedience requires commitment, dedication, devotion and holding fast to one's integrity just to follow instructions.

Interestingly, the instruction given to the son of Jonadab wasn't directly from God, it was from their forefather. Among other things, he instructed them not to take wine. He was only a man and the Rechabite family refused to go against their forefather's instructions. Imagine God's response: "you have obeyed the command of your forefather Jonadab and have followed all his instructions and have done everything he ordered". Obedience and disobedience have due rewards. While the former is positive, the latter is negative. Are you still disobeying God's instruction because of what people will say about you? Let the story of the Rechabites inspire you. Choose to obey God in all things. Only then will the reward of obedience follow you just like God's everlasting covenant was established with the Rechabites.

**Self-Reflection:** Obedience and disobedience are all rewarded. Choose obedience!

**Action Point:** Read Jeremiah 35 and Deuteronomy 28

**Daily Confession:** I am obedient because I have the Spirit of God in me. As He leads me, I choose to follow in Jesus name.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for wisdom for teachers

**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.

### **A Selfish Generation**

*During the war between the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner had been strengthening his own position in the house of David. 2 Samuel 3:6*

**Bible Reading:** 2 Samuel 3:6-13

Many times, I wonder if there was no one who could have called king Saul to order. It's recorded that God took the kingdom from him and the prophet Samuel left him alone. King Saul made a series of choices about David that were outrageous and evil. Was there no one who could have counselled him against those choices? Interestingly, someone who would have advised the king refused to talk because of selfishness.

Our focus character today is Abner. He was king Saul's cousin and the commander-in-chief of his army. He was the king's right-hand man, and he was almost like the second in command to the king. In those days warlords played significant roles because they are in charge of the army. While don't know if Abner counselled king Saul against his wrong moves against David, it was recorded that Abner followed him in hunting David (1 Samuel 26:13-15). The root of his attitude was his selfishness. While the king was busy with the irrelevant, working and warring against the house of David, Abner was benefitting and strengthening himself. When he was meant to stand up for the right thing, and speak up against king Saul's unwise decisions, Abner was silent. Eventually, when king Saul died and Ish-Bosheth, Saul's son spoke up to Abner about his adulterous acts, he threatened to restore the kingdom to David. Abner knew God's will about David, which means perhaps he knew that king Saul's vehement pursuit to kill David was wrong. Perhaps a truthful counsel from Abner would have saved king Saul, but Abner wouldn't do that because of what he will gain from chaos and disorder. As a leader, friend, parent, and even shepherd etc, what truth are you withholding from others due to personal gain? In what ways do you allow personal gain to stand in the way of truth?

**Daily Confession:** Lord rid me of self.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for protection over your children.

**Hymn:** O love of God, how rich and pure!

How measureless and strong!

It shall forevermore endure,

The saints and angels song.

October 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 insightful story that teaches us never to allow our limitations to hinder us in life. Jesus was passing through Jericho when Zacchaeus heard about Him. Zacchaeus was a corrupt tax collector. He was rich but of small stature. His small stature which seemed like a barrier was actually instrumental to his seeing Jesus. Zacchaeus changed his perspective; instead of giving excuses, he created a way. Zacchaeus perhaps 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 as many that desire to see Him, He will appear unto them. Zacchaeus did not allow any situation to debar him from reaching his goal, he climbed up to a sycamore tree and by so doing, he caught Jesus' attention and Jesus followed him to his house. May you do something that will make God pause and look in your direction this season! 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 of Him. He passed through Jericho and 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 your divine timing in Jesus' name.

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

**Daily Confession:** Jesus, I really need you in my life. I ask for divine visitation for a turnaround in my life.

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for divine visitation for those who need Jesus in their lives.

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

Jesus loves me (x2)

I am so glad that Jesus loves me

Jesus loves even me.

October 10<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 a 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 ingredient essential to receiving from God. While it is necessary to depend on God absolutely, the question I want you to meditate on today is this: I depend on and trust in God, can God depend on me?

Today's Bible 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 will not carry out his father's request, he later 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 hearts are enlightened by the revelation from God's word, and the Holy Spirit, we are transformed and we turn from our wicked ways to become who God wants us to be.

Furthermore, while this story exemplifies two possible reactions, there is also the possibility of a son that would have pledged obedience to the father and followed 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 shines before men so 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, 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 it is then that God can depend on you.

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

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for the grace to finish strong for many who are in one tribulation or another.

**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

Oct. 11<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 me? why does God need to delight in me? What will make God delight in me? 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, such action is positive. For instance, as a lecturer, I like all my students, however, I take delight in students who are disciplined, resilient and hardworking. I love it when my students are creative, innovative, and diligent in-class readings, discussions, and assignments, and apply whatever we learn in and out of class. Parents also love children who are thoughtful, productive and obedient. 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 wants His children to abide in, love and obey Him (John 14:15; 15). Then His children can live a righteous and godly life; a life that shows forth the life of 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 righteousness (Job 1:1). Dear friends, God wants to delight in His children. He wants us to love and live for Him. At KSi, we encourage you to consider these questions again: can God depend on me? Can God delight in me? 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 delight in me.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for God's intervention in your country.

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

## Returning to Egypt?

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

### **Bible Reading:** Deuteronomy 17:16

The word Egypt, when used in a biblical and spiritual context symbolizes bondage, oppression and worldliness. The 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 (who did not know Joseph) realized that the Israelites population was immense, he ordered the killing of Jewish babies at birth. Due to this history, Egypt is a place of perpetuate enslavement.

God's warning not to return to Egypt means that someone is about to go back to the old lifestyle that God detests. It means someone is about to compromise their righteous standard. Why do you want to return to the old lifestyle of sin and death when Christ Jesus has freely given you life in abundance? Why are you about to comprise your stand in Christ Jesus for temporal gain?

Instead of returning to your old vomit, we encourage you to hold on to God's word. Patiently wait for the fulfilment of God's promises because God is ever faithful to His word. Hold on to Him and fix your gaze on Him. Don't comprise because you left the path of destruction long time ago when you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour. 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.

**Daily Confession:** Lord, I refuse to return to Egypt. I choose to look unto You and I believe I will not be put to shame.

**Intercessory prayer:** God restore those who have compromised their faith due to issues of life in Jesus name.

**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.

Oct. 13<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 sacrifices. 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 is not complete except the other side embraces the gesture. Love is a gift that takes humility to accept for "...whosoever that believes will not perish but have everlasting life". Dear friends, embrace this gift of life. How? accept that you are a sinner, confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, believe in your heart that Jesus took away your sin through his death and resurrection on the cross, forsake your evil ways and embrace Jesus.

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

**Daily Confession:** My Father in heaven, thank you for Your love; I know you truly love me and I choose to embrace your love in Jesus Name. Amen

**Action Point:** Make a decision right now for the journey to eternity starts now, accept Jesus Christ today, do not wait till tomorrow.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for anyone you know who is yet to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour.

**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

Oct. 14<sup>th</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

The command to love God is foundational to our faith journey. Our obedience is proof of our love for God. We obey because we love. Partial obedience or obedience out of fear is no obedience at all. 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 where our attention will be. In fact, this can tell who we will obey.

In today's reading, Jesus Christ was asked what the greatest commandment was and he replied on two levels: "love the Lord your God" (vertical level) and "love your neighbour as yourself (horizontal level). This means we are to love both God and man (His creation). 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, being an ardent pursuer of God regardless, and being a God chaser. We are living the essence of our faith through our love for God. If we truly love God, we will love our neighbours.

Dear friends, as you work in that office, a study in that school or commute on that bus, let the love of Christ show forth in you. Reach out to others with the love of Christ that has been shown unto you. You can preach the gospel, and encourage people both in words and in deeds. Here's how the Bible puts it: "And in whatever you do, do it unto God". Jesus seeks true friend in me. Friends know themselves. If I am His true friend, I will know Him and I will always obey Him.

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

**Daily Confession:** Even when obeying is painful, Lord help me to still obey You with joy and gladness. Help me to make you at the centre of my focus and to love you with the whole of my life. Amen

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for grace for our leaders to do what's right and noble.

**Hymn:** Wonderful story of love

Tell it to me again

Wonderful story of love

Wake the immortal strain

Angels with rapture announce it...



### **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 and why it is vital to our Christian faith. We will focus on Jesus' second commandment: love your neighbour as yourself (horizontal). Certain persons under Old Covenant lived the life of the New Testament. Such persons include Abraham, Jonathan and David. For instance, in the aspect of love, Jonathan lived the life of love. He was selfless and sacrificially gave unto David without any reservation. Abraham lived the life of faith and David lived the life of worship and thorough walk with God. In fact, a classical example of God's kind of love in the Old Testament existed between David and Jonathan. The Bible recorded of Jonathan "For he [Jonathan] loved him [David] as he loved his own soul [1 Sam. 20:17].

Jonathan and David's relationship was sacrificial. Sacrifice is a price we have to pay for love. Through sacrifice, we get rid of selfishness. Both Jonathan and David knew that love should be the heartbeat of any friendship. This also means that sacrifice and reciprocity should be a non-negotiable basis of friendship. Such gesture will help build safety and security which are foundational to any long-lasting relationship. Friends sacrifice for friends.

The truest intention of every true love is in making the other. This is because love finds pleasure in giving rather than receiving. In fact, marital relationships should understand this principle so that both parties involved can enjoy their home. 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 selfless. If love aims at building others and making impact, then seek to love today.

**Self-Reflection:** Love not in words but in deeds.

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

**Action Point:** Show God's love through your actions.

**Intercessory prayer:** May God help us to show the love of Christ daily.

**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.

### Still Defining Love

*“...Love endures long and is patient and kind...” - 1 Cor. 13:4 [AMP]*

#### **Bible Reading:** 1 Corinthians 13

A definition can offer clarity and bring things into the right perspective. It can help us know what a thing is and what it is not. In the context of our devotional, defining love is defining life! Defining love in the right way is eye-opening – seeing God’s nature from His very own perspective as the Author of love. God is love and love is the source of life. In our Bible reading today, Apostle Paul identified some highly sacrificial activities that in our human understanding, one can easily and quickly assume such activities for love. On the surface, these activities have the form of love but deny the power and nature therein. He identified the character of love. Love is patience, kindness, humility, tolerance, perseverance, self-sacrifice and trustworthiness.

The law of love is the law of service. Love is about making others. It is about rendering service and paying the sacrifice for others to be made. In the making process, we build others to our stature and we desire more for them. Love gives all because it is service-oriented and not lordship. It is about fellowship and genuine relationships. Love is about fellows in the same ship, that is, men and women who choose to serve others. Love-centred mindset understands that the way to greatness is simply to serve others (Mark 10:43-45). Anyone who is love-centred is ready to support people and make them work in the right way for a better tomorrow. Dear friends, God is our perfect example. He gave His only begotten son Jesus CHRIST because He SO loved us. When the Bible says “God SO loved the world...” it speaks of the intensity of God’s love towards humanity. In fact, God loves us, He still seeks fellowship with us. I encourage you to check your life and your relationships. Is your love characterized by the nature of God described in our Bible reading today?

**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:** Our generation will love God and love our neighbours as themselves.

**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...

**Love Metre***He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. I John 4:8***Bible Reading:** I Cor. 13

God is love. In fact, love is the nature of God. Human beings can express genuine love because we are made in the image and likeness of God. However, since the fall in the Garden of Eden, something was lost -- the divine nature and relationship with God. Hence, a counterfeit nature, a make-up to cover up for what was lost emerged. Love was replaced with love. The capacity to love genuinely was rendered latent because this capacity is the nature of God. How do you know genuine love? Jesus is our perfect example. Our Bible reading today clearly outlines the characteristics of love. Apostle Paul reveals how unprofitable any activity that is devoid of love is. 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.

God's word is the only sure and reliable 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 your sure guide. For instance, in 1 John 3:18, we are encouraged to love both in words and in deeds. God first loved us so we are to love Him, and perfect love cast away fear.

Dear friends, at KSi, we encourage you to run a love test today using our Bible text. Finally, 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 His word.

**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, the word of God to examine yourself.

**Daily Confession:** I choose to love because God is love!

**Intercessory prayer:** May God's love and peace reign between countries in war.

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

He's the fairest of ten thousand 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

## 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 Him daily. It is by drawing closer to Him that we gain more revelation about his ways. God desires to speak to us daily through the Holy Spirit. To receive revelation from God, we must become childlike. No wonder Jesus 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). When we become God's friend, He reveals deep truth to us. We have to be simple and humble at heart to hear from God. After hearing his instructions, we must obey them.

**Daily Confession:** Father, grant me the simplicity of heart and the willingness to heed your voice in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory prayer:** God open the eyes of our hearts so that we can see you.

**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"!

Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Be An Evangelist**

*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 Bible 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 needs to change. We have to show genuine concern for the lost, act on the concern, 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 a 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, helps us conform to a godly pattern, and enables us to test and approve God's will (Romans 12:1-2). As you resume your daily business today, preach the word whether conveniently or not in patience and diligence, and trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you, after all, 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 favourable 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 this privilege. I believe I am given the grace to fulfil Your word in Jesus' name. Amen

**Intercessory prayer:** We pray for more unction to function for evangelists of the gospel in Jesus' name.

**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?

## The Mind of Christ

*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. James 4:10*

**Bible Reading:** Philippians 2:5-11

Humility is among the fruit of the spirit. God honours some virtues in a person's life including humility. For instance, He gives grace to the humble and resists the proud. When God sees that someone is humble, He clothes such a person with divine honour that enlarges his capacity and blesses beyond words. Jesus Christ, our example deliberately gave up His heavenly glory and embodied humanity for the salvation of mankind.

There is no one that is humble that regrets it in the long run because being humble simply means one is taking one of the attributes of the Triune God. In God's humility, He resides both in and with us for whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting. Although being humble may require that we give up some privileges, discipline ourselves, and continually practice self-control, it pays in the long run. Many times, people might even see us as fools just like someone questioned who will give up such heavenly glory to die for another person. What Jesus did is beyond any human comprehension. Hence our need to believe in His redemption. Jesus Christ is our ultimate example.

Humility is not necessarily a strong suit of human nature. Hence the need to continually look unto Jesus, the Author and the Finisher of our faith. Did you know that Jesus understood the limitation of the human flesh? He has a strategy. Jesus was in constant fellowship with the Father. He communed with the Father which put everything into the right perspective and strengthened Jesus to be who He was meant to be while He was on earth. Dear friends, let humility speak in your attitude, mindset, understanding and every area of your life so that You may receive grace and lift from God.

**Self-Reflection:** Let this mind be in you that is in Christ.

**Daily Confession:** May the mind that is in Christ be in me in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for restoration for areas that have experienced natural disasters such as flooding, typhoons and hurricanes.

**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.

Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>

### **The Miracle of Transformation**

*I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds: which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me Philemon 10-11*

#### **Bible Reading:** Philemon 1

The greatest miracle that can take place in the life of anyone is the miracle of salvation! Through salvation, Christ Jesus' redemption provision at Calvary is appropriated, embraced and spiritual rebirth takes place (read John 3). The miracle of spiritual transformation starts from this point; recognizing human's sinful nature, acknowledging the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and accepting Jesus Christ by faith by confessing our sins and believing the redemptive work of Christ Jesus.

Today's Bible reading chronicles the life of Onesimus, an estranged servant of Philemon. Prior to Apostle Paul's letter to Philemon, Onesimus misbehaved (the exact offense was not stated explicitly) and Philemon sent him packing. However, Onesimus encountered Jesus Christ through Apostle Paul's ministry. His life was transformed first from a sinner to a righteous man. A servant turned to a partner in fulfilling God's kingdom assignment. His perspective changed and Onesimus was translated from the kingdom of darkness into that of light. Here's the truth: the power for true transformation is in the gospel of Christ Jesus. Onesimus' encounter with Christ changed the course of his life. It made Onesimus to become relevant and profitable in God's kingdom and to God's creation. God's word brings about change first from the inside to the outside because the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believe. It is spirit and life and capable of transforming lives and destiny to the glory of God.

The blood of Jesus washes away the sinful nature in us and our life is transformed. We are reconciled to God and God's nature is restored and we become God's sons and daughters. Dear friends, Jesus Christ is knocking the door of your heart again today, confess and believe Him and forsake your old ways. For deeper desire to know God for bigger relevance in God's agenda, draw closer to God and allow His word dwell in you richly (James 4: 8; Colossians 3:16).

**Self-Reflection:** The greatest miracle is the miracle of salvation!

**Daily Confession:** Thank You Lord for the miracle of transformation. I embrace You and I pray for as many that are yet to believe and accept the gift of salvation that you open their eyes to the truth so that they can be sons of God in Jesus name. amen!

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for the salvation of as many who are yet to give their lives to Jesus.

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

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **Salvation Before Service**

*He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. Matthew 5:1-2 NIV*

**Bible Reading:** Matthew 10:1-2

The call to salvation precedes the call to service. We are saved in order to rise for the salvation of others. In fact, we have been called to the ministry of reconciliation. Jesus Christ our example in our reading today calls His disciples first to himself to fellowship and commune together before He sent them out. We have to avoid the danger of focusing on ministry at the expense of a deep walk with God. We cannot forget that the call is first unto salvation and then to serve.

For instance, Apostle Paul's conversion on his way to Damascus was his first call to salvation. Paul developed a cordial relationship with God. He was redeemed and later given a specific ministerial assignment to preach the gospel of Christ Jesus to both the Jews, then to the Gentiles (Romans 1:16). While God continually sends out labourers into his vineyard so that God's word can be preached across the nations of the world (Matthew 9: 37-38), it is never at the expense of their relationship with Him.

Here's the word for today: You are called first to be saved through the precious blood of Christ Jesus, then to serve in God's vineyard. It is important that your service unto God is a product of your relationship with God because that is when your service is God-approved and acceptable (Col 3:17 & 23).

**Self-Reflection:** You are called first to be saved and then to serve!

**Daily Confession:** I am saved by God's grace and I render my service unto the Lord wholeheartedly. Lord I pray that you use me for Your glory in Jesus name. amen!

**Intercessory prayer:** Lord restore any minister who has lost their fervency in you due to the workload of the ministry.

**Hymn:** We have an anchor that keep that soul  
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll  
Fastened to the rock which cannot move  
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love



Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **Complete that Assignment!**

*Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord".  
Col. 4:17 (NIV)*

#### **Bible Reading:** Colossians 4:17

Every race has a beginning and an end. The ability to complete a task diligently is important in life. Distractions are everywhere. In fact, different things compete for our time at the same time, hence there is a need to understand the necessity to fulfil a task promptly. In today's Bible reading, Apostle Paul admonished Archippus to complete his God-given assignment. Apostle Paul understood the importance of completing a God-given task because there are some people that cannot persevere till the end. It is either they are distracted, or they lose interest in the process. Finishing strong is an important virtue to develop so that when you start a task, you can finish it well. It requires sacrifice, tenacity and diligence to hold on till the end.

Despite the situation, we are admonished to fulfil our God-given assignment. We have to diligently complete our God-given assignment. Our commitment will be tested and we have to refuse to be quitters. Many things make people leave their assignments uncompleted. It could be laziness, procrastination, discouragement, persecution, loss of zeal, interest and strength; spiritual attack and inconsistency among others. The way out: Like Apostle Paul declared, "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Always rely on the Holy Spirit to help you. Make it a rule and point of duty to complete the right tasks you embark upon. Furthermore, anyone that wants to complete his assignment must press toward the mark, strive ahead, persevere, and never lose sight of the purpose. May God help us to finish strong.

**Self-Reflection:** Reward goes to only those who endure till the end.

**Action Point:** Take a decision and work it out to complete postponed assignments.

**Daily Confession:** Lord, I receive the grace to fulfil every God-given assignment. I rely on the Holy Spirit to empower me; procrastination, insensitivity and laziness will not debar me from fulfilling my God-given ministry in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for strength and grace to finish strong for my friends, family members, and leaders in my life in Jesus name.

**Hymn:** Ho, my Comrades! See the signal

Waving in the sky!

Reinforcements are now appearing

Victory is nigh!

**Quick Fix**

*Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 2:3*

**Bible Reading:** 2 Timothy 2:1-7

My jean trouser was dirty. I dipped the brush in water and quickly brushed the trouser and it was ready for wear. That was quick, fast and easy! This generation wants quick fixes regardless of the implication at times! Fast food, fast tracks, fast internet etc.

The truth is that we enjoy the dividend of such fast initiatives, but it is different when it comes to our walk with God. In fact, there is no quick fix in our journey of faith. Unlike the story above that supports quick fixes or the school system where there is room for double promotion for bright and brilliant students, there is no double promotion in the school of the spirit. God is never in a rush with us because He knows that quick fixes most times leave us with repercussions that can be colossal. For instance, the idea of fast food has brought grievous health challenges to many people.

In our Bible reading today, Apostle Paul passionately instructed his spiritual son, Timothy to embrace hard work, diligence and perseverance. In order to further understand the essentials of endurance, hardship, and perseverance needed, he referred to a soldier and an athlete. These two examples have one thing in common, they endure hardship in order to win earthly glory. They sacrifice their comfort and work tirelessly. They are disciplined. Soldiers and athletes do not believe in a quick fix. They train for hours in order to learn the art and act of their trade. Life is not like my jean. It requires thorough pruning, patience, hard work and diligence. Dear friends, I admonish you to submit yourself to the necessary discipline and training. May God help us.

**Daily Confession:** God help me to submit myself to true pruning in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for your children that they may have the right outlook on life.

**Hymn:** Inward, Christ soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus  
Going on before!

**From Paul with Love**

*Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. I*

*Timothy 1:18*

**Bible Reading:** 1 Timothy 1

The book of Timothy is an instruction manual written, and sent by a father to a son. Passionate about equipping Timothy because of the ministerial grace, unction and commitment bestowed on him, Apostle Paul wrote the book in order to set the right pattern that can guide behaviours, inform decisions, and shape perspective. The book is considered as one of the pastoral epistles because it contains counsel to a younger minister on how to relate and carry out certain ministerial responsibilities. The book has instructions about the criteria for selecting Christian leaders, what is expected of a Christian leader, and the responsibilities of Christian leaders. The book is also a counsel first to Timothy. I consider this important because when we receive God's word, we are to apply its principles first to our lives. Apostle Paul exemplifies this truth throughout the book as he used himself as an example of how God's word has transformed him from being a chief sinner to an ambassador of Christ in chains for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Apostle Paul amplifies the need for righteousness, holiness, godliness, moderation in all things, and godly behaviour that will advance the kingdom of God. Right instructions are important to life and destiny, and it is a blessing to have the right instructors.

Furthermore, throughout the book, the writer commanded and instructed Timothy in love that is characterized by a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith. As we take a few studies on the book of Timothy, I implore you to consider specific instructions that God will bring your way. In between, ponder on this question: Do you apply God's word to your life before you send them out? May God bless His word in our hearts. Amen

**Self-Reflection:** Why do you instruct? How do you give instructions? Are your instructions genuinely from a pure heart? Do you apply God's word to your life before you send them out?

**Action Point:** Study the book of 1st Timothy

**Daily Confession:** Lord I receive Your counsel as You bring them my way in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for God's strength for the ministers of the gospel in your life.

**Song:** Ancient words ever true

Changing me and changing you

We have come with open hearts

Oh, let the ancient words impart.

### **Paul's Instructions Begin**

*The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience, and a sincere faith. I Timothy 1:5*

**Bible Reading:** I Timothy 1:1-11

Every instruction written to Timothy had a rationale. It was also from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Paul urged Timothy to tarry in Ephesus for the purpose of teaching and correcting false doctrines. Right teaching is important in life. We are the results of the teaching we received. Apostle Paul continually equips his son in the faith with the necessary wisdom needed to be a trustworthy minister of the gospel. Many lives and homes have been built, restored, sustained, and successful due to the right teaching counsels and vice-versa. Who is your teacher and what teaching do you give yourself?

Timothy is warned to carefully watch out for heresies and correct them. The reason such command is love that is rooted in purity, goodness and sincerity. As teachers of God's word, we have to pay attention to the teachings and revelations that come out of our mouths and our lives. The same goes for the students of the word-- be noble and attentive like the Berean church that checked the accuracy and truth of Paul's revelations from the word of God (Acts 17:11). If we allow the word of God to guide and check the validity of every word we listen to, we will avoid heresy no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation (2 Peter 1:20-21).

Dear friends, it is not a coincidence Apostle Paul's instructions started on the subject of the word of God because all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. It shuns unrighteousness, and ungodliness and says yes to righteousness.

**Self-Reflection:** What teaching do you give yourself to, and who is your teacher?

**Daily Confession:** Lord I yield to Your word as You instruct me. Blot out every word of heresy in Your church and let the truth of Your word spread across our hearts in Jesus' name. Amen

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for every teacher of the word of God in our churches and anywhere they are functioning for grace to teach the pure word of God in Jesus' name.

**Song:** Ancient words ever true  
Changing me and changing you  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh, let the ancient words impart

Oct 27<sup>th</sup>

### **The Worst of Sinners**

*Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst. I Timothy 1:15*

#### **Bible Reading:** I Timothy 1:12-20

Apostle Paul considered himself as the worst of sinners despite his resume: “circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews, in regards to the law, a Pharisee, as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless (Philippians 3:4-6). However, Paul’s divine encounter on his way to Damascus led to his conversion and subsequently, he realized that it was God’s grace that found him when he was lost. First, I think it is important we continually recognize and acknowledge God’s amazing grace that redeemed us from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. This revelation made Apostle Paul formed the habit of acknowledging God’s grace over his life throughout his epistles. Acknowledging God’s amazing grace is a humble position that constantly glorify God in us.

Secondly, when we see God’s mercy at work, we can intercede for others, trusting God that His unlimited patience exemplified in our lives will be at work in lives of others. God can turn anybody unto Himself if He could make Apostle Paul, the worst of sinners believe and preached the gospel.

Furthermore, Apostle Paul’s description of himself as the chief of sinners was a product of a deep revelation of himself in the light of God’s redemption. It takes pride and arrogance away and we can boldly declare like Apostle Paul: “By the grace of God, I am what I am” (I Corinthians 15:10a). Paul’s description of himself moved from least of the apostles (I Corinthians 15:9) to the chief of sinners (I Timothy 1:15). Do not give up or lose hope on any unbeliever because God is able to reach out to anyone, anywhere and anytime. Therefore, continually preach the gospel of Christ Jesus.

**Self-Reflection:** God can save anyone because He continues to show his unlimited patience for everyone, including me.

**Daily Confession:** Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that I was once a sinner and Your amazing grace found me.

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for those that are yet to receive the gift of salvation, that You reach out to them and bring them to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, convict them of their sins through the Holy Spirit and work in them to submit totally to Christ Jesus. Amen

**Hymn:** On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand

### Paul's Further Instructions

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

#### **Bible Reading:** 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Ponder on these questions: What subjects have made it onto your prayer lists in recent time? Who have you prayed for? why do you pray for them, and how often do you intercede for them? In this chapter, Apostle Paul guides Timothy in answering these questions. He admonished Timothy to embrace intercession first for everyone, for kings and those in authority. This command is important because praying for everyone and those in authority will make us live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Beyond doubt, our country is experiencing difficult times caused largely by those in authority. This truth can harden one's heart from praying for those in authority. For instance, we read of our leaders' corrupt practices, actions, policies, and unpatriotic acts among others, and the entire nation is suffering. However, is this case different from the time when Apostle Paul wrote this letter to Timothy? I don't think so because since the fall in Eden, the human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? (Jeremiah 17:9). This means that there has been corruption, irregularities and diverse acts that have plagued our society. However, there is a need to look beyond these realities and focus on God. Apostle Paul's instruction goes to every child of God, every Christian family, and every church. It is a good thing that we can pray for our family members, friends, and church brethren etc. Our prayer must go beyond this. We need to pray for our kings, regents, queens, traditional rulers, presidents, governors, ministers, commissioners, mayors, local government chairmen, municipal leaders, and leaders in our various institutions. Since the prayer of the righteous avails much, we can influence policies, and government through our prayers because a king's heart is like streams of water in the Lord's hand: "He directs it wherever He chooses" (Proverbs 21:1). Finally, Apostle Paul's instruction has a reward "peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (vs 2b). If you follow this instruction, and you will reap the reward therein. Make it a point of duty to always intercede for those in authority anytime you pray. Start interceding for your leaders today!

**Self-Reflection:** My prayer is incomplete without interceding for others, including those in authority.

**Action Point:** Intercede for your leaders today!

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for your family members, friends, brethren, and for those in authority.

**Hymn:** Ere you left your room this morning, did you think to pray?

In the name of Christ, our Saviour, did you sue for loving favour?

As a shield today? 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

### **Be Decent and Modest**

*I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God. I Timothy 2:9-10*

**Bible Reading:** I Timothy 2:9-15;

Although today's instruction was directed to women, I believe there are lessons to learn for every Christian. It reminds me of the children's bible song on obedience, an important attribute that pleases God. Firstly, it is important we remember that Apostle Paul's instructions are rooted in love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Hence, the counsel to Timothy on decency and modesty are important in our walk with God and in our daily living. A friend shared with me how indecent dressing, words, and lifestyle have made some youths suffer. Also, I attended a church a few years ago where seats were arranged based on the economic class of the members, and many persons dressed to intimidate others in the congregation. For Apostle Paul, he was concerned with maintaining law and order in the church of God and among brethren where there are different people, perspectives, and experiences. What we can learn from these instructions is that God loves decency, modesty and godliness. We are to adorn ourselves with good deeds that is appropriate for children of God who profess to worship God.

Furthermore, when we submit to authority in the house of God, there is orderliness and peace. I believe that Paul centred on women because women are builders. No wonder the Bible says "the wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down." (Prov. 14:1). God has given the power to build to women and if our wives and mothers understand this responsibility, these instructions are considered as a guideline in living a godly life. Likewise, men should embrace these instructions because it will enhance deeper understanding in building stronger godly relationships in our homes and in the church of God. Submission is necessary because of orderliness, and someone has to hold the steering of the car. In a Christian home, the wife is to submit to her husband, while the husband is to love his wife. When we understand the depth of these instructions, homes will become free of chaos and disorder, and the church of God will advance. In essence, Paul's biblical instructions centre on decency, modesty and appropriateness. If obeyed, our lives will experience a great sense of decorum.

**Self-Reflection:** Are you decent and modest? Are you focused on building inner beauty through good deeds?

**Daily Confession:** Lord help me to yield to your word both in my home and in your church in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory prayer:** I pray for peace and restoration for homes and churches experiencing turmoil in Jesus' name, amen.



**Song:** Obedience is the very best way, to show that you believe  
Doing exactly what the Lord commands, doing it happily,  
Action is the key do it immediately, joy you will receive  
Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe

### **A Noble Task with Noble Requirements**

*Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach I Timothy 3:3*

#### **Bible Reading:** I Timothy 3:1-15

Apostle Paul continued in his instruction to Timothy. His instructions are wrapped up in the word love. I Corinthians 13 outlined characteristics of love and these features fit perfectly into Paul's description of an overseer, deacon, and elder etc in conduct and lifestyle. Firstly, the ability of an overseer to manage their family is a product of love because without love, no family or church can stand. For instance, husbands are to love their wives while wives are to submit to their husbands (Ephesians 5:22-33). Other attributes include worthy of respect, self-control, temperance and gentleness. These are the fruit of the spirit. In essence, a spiritual leader must show in character that he/she is a child of God; godliness must be evidential in such a life.

Paul's instructions are important in selecting spiritual leaders. Christian homes are constantly under attacks by the devil and leaders are the targets. There is a need to trust God for wisdom in choosing leaders so that children of God are not exposed to fiery darts from the enemy. Are you a spiritual leader, do you perceive God calling you to be a spiritual leader, or do you desire to be a spiritual leader in the church of God? Then, pay attention to Paul's instructions and embrace godliness. God qualifies whoever He calls and He has never lowered his standard of righteousness and godliness.

**Daily Confession:** Lord Jesus help our leaders that their lives and homes may be pleasing first unto You and worthy of emulation in Jesus' name.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for the leaders in your local church

**Hymn:** God give us Christian homes!  
Homes where the Bible is loved and taught,  
Homes where the Master's will is sought,  
Homes crowned with beauty Your love has wrought;  
God give us Christian homes;  
God give us Christian homes!

### Godly Counsel

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity. I Timothy 4:12*

#### **Bible Reading:** I Timothy 4

The book of Timothy contains instructions needed to maintain a good relationship, build itchy-free fellowship, and strategies necessary for smooth administration in the church of God. The book is like an expert handing down a manual to a new recruit on how to operate a machine in a factory. However, Apostle Paul did not just hand over a manual with sets of rules and regulations, rather, he addressed Timothy personally in love. He contextualized his instructions to Timothy as his son in the Lord. We can learn some lessons from this. First, God speaks to us in a very personal way because he knows our thoughts, names, circumstances, and daily experiences. He is the Father you cannot afford to miss. A few years ago, I was passing through a challenging situation and whenever I prayed, studied God's word, or even speak with people, God's comforting words kept coming to me. Many times, the people God used to speak to me were oblivious to the fact that they were addressing my situation. Paying attention, being sensitive, and allowing the Holy Spirit to brood over God's word in our hearts are important.

Furthermore, although Apostle Paul addressed his son in the Lord, Timothy, there were many instructions that are important to us today. For instance, Paul's instructions were on godliness, modesty, decency, and love that is characterized by purity of heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. He also instructed on conduct among church leaders and members. Thus, no matter how personal the word God is sending your way, His standard of godliness and righteousness cannot be compromised. God's spoken word (Rhema) cannot contradict His written word (Logos) because God's specific word comes from His word for God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:11). The question is what specific instruction are you receiving from God daily?

**Self-Reflection:** What specific instructions are you receiving from God daily? And how faithful are you to that instruction?

**Action Point:** Be sensitive to God's instruction for your life.

**Daily Confession:** Lord give me an open heart to receive Your word for my life in Jesus name.

**Intercessory prayer:** Pray for the KSi team for God's grace, fresh unction, God's guidance and for God to send faithful and committed labourers into His vineyard.

**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.  
 Trust and obey

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