

Faith



Lord, grant me the ears to hear Your voice. Amen.

The Way of Thoughts

JUNE 1, 2017

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Philippians 4:8

In Korean, the word “thought” is made up of two syllables, “Saeng” and “Gak”. “Saeng” means to create and “Gak” means awakening or realization. If that is the way this Korean word is formed, the word “thought” in Korean has a profound meaning – create awakening.

We all know that our thoughts influence our life in a profound way.

We are formed and shaped by the thoughts we have in our minds.

Thoughts are not random; there is a pathway in our thoughts. In the mountain, you see a narrow road that is created because many people have passed by. In the same way, our constant thoughts will pave a way of thinking. It is important to discipline our thoughts and make a habit of making good thoughts. That will create awakening within us.

Lord, there are many negative thoughts within me. Within me, there are thoughts of worries, fear and anger. We are distracted in many ways. Help us think about the things you give to us. Amen.

The Inner Voice

JUNE 8, 2017

"He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!'"

Luke 15:16, 17

Sometimes we are obsessed with the results of what we do. When things do not go as well as we wish, we immediately worry, become anxious and lose confidence in ourselves.

When our best is not enough, what we need is faith. Faith is doing our best and leaving our results in God's hands. When we try to control the result, we will be soon overpowered by fear and because of the fear, our life will not be able to go forward.

Our daily practice should be the practice of our faith that makes us do our best and leave the results in God's hands.

Lord, I leave the results of my life in Your hands. Amen.

Leaving the Results in God's Hands

JUNE 8, 2017

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

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Lord, I leave the results of my life in Your hands. Amen.

Hope for What is Not Seen

JUNE 10, 2017

"...Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

Psalm 42:1

When life is tough, we say, "I cannot see my future." But come to think of it, we can never see our future because it has not arrived yet.

No one knows what kind of future lies ahead of them.

But sometimes this invisible future paralyzes us simply because it is invisible and because we cannot control it. But, do we have to just accept the future passively and powerlessly?

We have hope. Hoping for what we do not see is hope. We have something that we desire for our future that is yet invisible. With that hope, we live day by day actively. Waiting for it with patience is different from just powerlessly accepting whatever comes to you. We are actively pursuing and waiting for what we desire, envisioning our future.

What we hope for becomes real through our faith.

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

Lord, let the hope come alive within me. Through the eyes of hope, help me see the brighter future. Amen.

Longing of My Soul

JUNE 12, 2017

"As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God".

Psalm 42:1

There has to be longing or thirst in life. Life without longing is tasteless and meaningless. As we lose the longing for life, we lose the true joy of life.

But we cannot create the longing for life on our own. As we long for the living God, all other desires for life are created. In this longing, we find the treasure of life.

The longing of my soul is cultivated within me.

Lord, as I long for you, come and quench my thirst. Amen.

Two Trees

JUNE 14, 2017

"For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

Matthew 13:44

I wonder whether the treasure hidden in a field is our life. Jesus said life was more precious than the whole world.

My life is not my work. My life is not my money. I can neither create life nor purchase it. Life simply flows within me. When I have life, I find new vitality. Everything within me comes alive.

There are two trees: one alive and the other dead. On the surface, they look the same in the beginning. But in the tree that is alive, there is a strong movement of life. But you do not see that in the dead tree. The tree that is alive will bring out leaves and fruit and the dead tree will become dry and rotten.

Lord, give me life that brings vitality and let it overflow within me.

Amen.

Two Kinds of Faith

JUNE 17, 2017

"Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command (call) me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!'"

Matthew 14:28-30

I see two kinds of faith in this short story. One, faith that asks God to call us to walk through the storm. Two, faith that begs God to save us out of the storm.

People cry out; "save me, save me: Save me from financial difficulties. Save me from this disease. Save me from the misery. Save me from difficulties of life." I see FEAR in that faith.

The real faith is faith that comes from COURAGE, not from fear. The real faith cries out, "Call me; Call me to walk through the storm. Give me the courage to face my storm and give me the strength to overcome it."

I do not want to seek the easy way out. I seek two things: Courage and Strength.

Lord, call me. Give me the courage and the strength to journey through the storms of my life. Amen.

Yesterday, Tomorrow and Today

JUNE 20, 2017

"Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:13-14

We have to be able to forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead.

We have to be able to forget the sorrow and pain of yesterday and strain forward to the dreams of tomorrow.

Let us not become dark and gloomy because of our painful past and let us not worry about our unknown future. Then today we can run pressing on.

Lord, forgive the sins of my past, give me beautiful dreams for the future and grant me the passion to press on today. Amen.

Be the Light!

JUNE 22, 2017

"...but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.'"

Ephesians 5:13-14

We are scared of coming to the light because we are exposed. All things within us become exposed. So, we hide behind the darkness.

But today's Scripture says that everything that is exposed becomes light. As we come to the light, we become the light. When we come to the light every morning, our life shines the bright light.

Let us come to the light today.

Lord, shine on me today so that I may awake from my sleep and I may rise from the dead. Amen.

Sabbath

JUNE 24, 2017

"So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.:

Genesis 2:3

We think of the Sabbath day simply as a day of rest. But as you read the Scripture carefully, you can see that there is something else that God did other than resting. God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it. God created everything for six days and on the seventh day, God blessed creation.

That is why Jesus healed the sick on the Sabbath. He blessed the sick and restored them.

We work hard, but let us not forget that it is God who blesses all our work. On the seventh day, we bring all our efforts, our tears, our sweat and our pain before God. God then blesses them and sanctifies them.

Let us worship God on this blessed day!

Lord, I worship you. Bless this day and sanctify it. Amen.

Courage to Begin

JULY 6, 2017

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6

"He has half the deed done, who has made a beginning."

- Horace, 60 B.C.

We often hesitate because we have no confidence. The result is that we give up once too often.

Let us have confidence. God who began a good work will bring it to completion when the right time comes. We cannot live a life of not even being able to start because of our fear of failure. Failure is something we need to overcome, not to avoid. The only way to overcome our failures is to go through them. And we need courage to go through our failures.

When we believe that God who began a good work will bring it to completion at the right time, we can have courage.

Lord, who still works in me, give me courage so that I don't live a life that cannot even begin because of fear of failure but to pass through my failures and overcome them. Amen.

Life that Moves Forward

JULY 6, 2017

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

2 Timothy 4:7

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."

- Albert Einstein

Life has to go forward. As the fish survives by swimming forward, we also can survive by moving forward.

Moving forward means going into the unknown. Therefore, we need faith to move forward. It is the eyes of faith that see the unknown.

As we see our life with the eyes of faith, our life moves forward and the doors of opportunity open up.

Lord, give me the eyes of faith so that I may see the doors of my life opening up. Amen.

What is Faith?

JULY 15, 2017

"Immediately the father of the child cried out, 'I believe; help my unbelief!'"

Mark 9:24

There are two kinds of faith; the faith that "I believe" and the faith that "asks God to help my unbelief." The faith that I believe is all the religious activities that I do. Without faith, why would I do these religious activities? But there is faith I can never achieve even though I do all the religious activities. That is why I cry out to God to help my unbelief.

The latter faith is something beyond my control and my power. The faith is God's gift. When I have the faith, I am just thankful. Since there is nothing that I did to have faith, I simply recognize that it is God's grace.

This faith is the faith that transforms me.

Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief. Amen.

Courage

JULY 26, 2017

"In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

John 16:33

The real courage is to have courage when we have problems. Problems make us weak and take confidence away from us. We all have fear but it is mostly dormant and hidden. But when we have problems, fear surfaces raising its face. As we look at the face of fear, we become weak.

When we see the face of Jesus who has conquered the world, we can have courage.

*Lord, help me see the face of Jesus who has conquered the world.
Amen.*

The Day of Prosperity and the Day of Adversity

JULY 30, 2017

When times are good, be happy;
but when times are bad, consider this:

God has made the one
as well as the other.

Therefore, no one can discover
anything about their future.

James 4:17

Good times and bad times are woven together in life. We don't know whether the good times will come tomorrow or if the bad times are waiting for us. It is not something that we can control. There are things that we cannot control in life. Trying to control what we cannot control makes us anxious.

Even though we don't know what is waiting for us tomorrow, we can know what to do. When the times are good, we will be happy but when times are bad, we will think and pray. Then my life will be complete.

Lord, help me resist the temptation to want only the good times; help me to learn to think deeply when the bad times come rather than complaining. Amen.

See What You Need To Do

AUGUST 2, 2017

"Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin."

James 4:17

"Living is easy with eyes closed..."

- John Lennon

Sometimes it is the easier to live with eyes closed. It is easier to live not seeing the ugly things in life, disappointing things, pain and suffering.

But when we choose the easier way, our eyes become blind to see what we need to do in life. We have many things to do like reconciliation to be made, the problems to be solved, the burdens to carry and the people to forgive.

It is easier to live with eyes closed but to live with eyes opened is what I call LIVING.

Lord, give me the courage to open our eyes to see what I need to do today. Amen.

Waiting

AUGUST 6, 2017

"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning."

Psalm 130:5-6

Waiting is a beautiful thing to do. We wait because we have hope. When we wait, we wait with great expectation. All the amazing things happen when we wait. A pregnant woman waits for her child to fully grow. A farmer waits for the seed to grow to bear fruit.

It is not a waste of time to wait. It is a necessary part of our lives. Let us not fill the time of waiting with worries and anxieties. Let us fill the time of waiting with joy and hope.

To wait means to leave everything in God's hands.

Lord, give me the passion to live my life fully and give me the faith to wait. Amen.

The Way of the Cross

AUGUST 12, 2017

"Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?"

Matthew 26:53

"Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding. You cannot subjugate a nation forcibly unless you wipe out every man, woman, and child. Unless you wish to use such drastic measures, you must find a way of settling your disputes without resort to arms."

- Albert Einstein

Jesus did not take up the cross because he had no power. Nor did he let himself get arrested because he had no power. Jesus did this because the cross was the only way to save the power-enslaved humanity.

The way of the cross is not easy, but it is the only way that leads to salvation in the end.

Lord, help me not let go of your cross. Amen.

Making a Living

AUGUST 13, 2017

"And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

Paul said God would fully satisfy our every need. It is important to believe this. We all care about our basic needs and we ought to do that.

But, despite the importance of making a living, it is not good to be obsessed with it. When we believe that God will provide for our needs, our thoughts can go beyond making a living.

Let us trust that God will provide for our every need and let us focus on the noble and meaningful things in life. I believe that is the secret of living a meaningful life.

Lord, thank you for the daily bread. Amen.

Where Are You?

AUGUST 26, 2017

"But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.'"

Genesis 3:9-10

From the beginning, God was looking for us; "Where are you?" Human being's very first words to God were "I was afraid... and I hid myself."

God is still looking for us, "Where are you?" But we are still afraid, and so we hide from God.

God sent Jesus to this world to find us. He showed us through his life and death that God loves us.

Let us not hide anymore, but come before God and accept God's love.

Lord, help me not to hide in darkness because of fear but to come out into the light through your love. May God's glory shine on me. Amen.

Potter and Clay

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

"So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."

Jeremiah 18:3-6

I am not the potter; I am the clay.

My life is being formed in God's hands. This does not mean that I am a powerless one who can do nothing.

God gave us the freedom and the power to build our life. We have tremendous God-given power to build our life, but because of our sins, weaknesses and shortcomings, we make mistakes and fall. That is when God comes to us and picks us up, gives us courage, and opens the door for new opportunities. Then we can start a new life. As this is repeated, my life is being formed. Behind our efforts to make our life, God walks with us in the hidden.

Lord, thank you for not giving up on me, but always giving me courage and new opportunities. Amen.

God Will Satisfy Every Need

SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

"And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

God will satisfy our every need. When we believe this, our life will change. The anxiety will disappear from our consciousness and as the anxiety loses its power, our thoughts will find freedom and this freedom will allow us to have higher, more noble and more beautiful thoughts.

Then our eyes will be open and we can be considerate of other people.

Lord, thank you for the daily bread. Help me to live day by day with freedom that comes from believing that you will satisfy my every need.

Amen.

Fear

SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

"Our problem is not to be rid of fear but rather to harness and master it."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Fear makes us weak. There is no worse slavery than the slave of fear.
(The slave of fear: the worst of slaveries – George Bernard Shaw)

Everyone has fear. But not everyone becomes a slave of fear. When we believe that God is with us, we can overcome fear.

There is no greater joy than when we live with confidence. As we overcome the fear that is within us, we can live with confidence.

God who abides with me and gives me courage and strength, help me to walk with you every day and live a confident life. Amen.

Assurance of Faith

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval."

Hebrews 11:1-2

When we have faith, we are able to experience the reality of life. The things we hope for and think about don't remain as concepts but they come alive as reality.

This is the evidence of faith. When life comes alive and when things we have hoped for, become reality, then we are able to believe that God is alive.

As we live with faith, we will be able to experience many wonderful and unimaginable new world opens up to us.

Lord, help me grant me faith. Help me to live everyday with faith. And through this faith, help me to see things I couldn't see before. Amen.

Rootless Life

SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

"The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish."

Psalm 1:4-6

"A tree with strong roots can withstand the most violent storm, but the tree can't grow roots just as the storm appears on the horizon."

- Dalai Lama

In life, we need roots. A rootless life is always shaky and unstable. When the wind blows, it is easily blown away. When encountered by a small wave, there is anxiety, worry, and fear in a rootless life.

Rooted life is a life that God watches over and God is pleased with. If we live with a consciousness that God is always with us and watches over us, then we have built our lives on a very solid root.

Lord, thank you for accepting me, watching over me, and loving me.

Amen.

Way

OCTOBER 3, 2017

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

John 14:6

"The world makes way for the person who knows where he is going."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Life has to go forward. To live a life that goes forward, we have to see which road we take. To know which road to take, we have to be able to hear the voice from our heart.

Let us pay attention to our heart and listen. Jesus will open a way for us.

Lord, help me not to commit sins of living mindlessly day by day. Help me to live awake. Help me to always pay attention to the voice spoken to my heart. Amen.

Being Strong

OCTOBER 5, 2017

"And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,..."

Romans 5:3-4

"That which does not kill me makes me stronger."

- Friedrich Nietzsche

When we are able to overcome sufferings, we become stronger. Suffering on its own cannot destroy us. If we have faith, sufferings will make us stronger, not weaker.

Being strong is not our will power. Being strong is having stronger hope deep within. The reason we are unable to overcome difficulties in life is because of despair. If the hope that is within us becomes stronger, then we will be able to stand strong.

Lord, help me not to be fearful of small waves. Give me the courage to rise above the waves. Amen.

Though the Fig Blossom Does not Blossom

OCTOBER 8, 2017

"Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the
stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my
salvation."

Habakkuk 3:17-18

We should be thankful for who God is and not for what God gives us.
Even during life's most difficult times, if God is with us, we will have
nothing to fear and worry about.

It is God who gives and also takes away. But ultimately, God will grant
us what we need the most. Let us be thankful in all circumstances.

*Lord, give me faith that allows me to be thankful in all circumstances.
Amen.*

God Who Keeps Us

OCTOBER 9, 2017

"I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore."

Psalm 121

God keeps our going and our coming. When we know that somebody is keeping us safe gives us a tremendous comfort. The reason we fear and worry about our life is because our life is uncertain.

But when we know that there is somebody who always keeps loving eyes on us, we need neither fear nor worry about life. We can have peace. This peace gives us joy and the joy makes us very comfortable.

God who always keeps me safe, thank you. Help me to leave everything in your hands.. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

OCTOBER 20, 2017

"He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'"

James 1:5-8

Jesus taught us the Lord's prayer and then taught us how to pray. From today's passage, the following is the key point about prayer: "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs." Prayer is not just one-time event. Prayer is knocking persistently. Prayer is proclaiming that I won't give up even though I know that I can't do it on my own.

Let us not give up easily.

Lord, grant me faith that will knock without ceasing. Amen

Faith and Doubt

OCTOBER 27, 2017

"If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord."

James 1:5-8

When our hearts are divided, we cannot have peace. We will be like a wave that is driven and tossed by the wind. True peace is possible only when our heart is wholeheartedly turned towards God. That is when we will have the wisdom that comes from God.

When doubt takes over our faith, fear controls us. Then, we lose the strength and the wisdom to break through the storm.

Lord, I pray that fear may not control me. Help me to overcome fear with faith. Amen

Faith and Endurance

OCTOBER 28, 2017

"My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing."

James 1:2-4

Maturity comes from endurance. And endurance is like a muscle that is built within us when we persevere through trials with faith. Small muscles are built when we overcome small trials with faith and big muscles are built when we overcome big trials. Just as strong muscles make strong bodies, when these spiritual muscles are built, we will be made whole and lack nothing.

Lord, grant me faith to overcome difficult trials that may come my way.
Amen

Not Being Alone

NOVEMBER 12, 2017

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff—

they comfort me."

Psalm 23:4

I have nothing to fear because God is with me. Even when I am alone, I
am not lonely because I am not alone.

Unless we are alone, we will not know that we are not alone. Because
when we are alone, that's when we will meet God.

*Lord, thank you for always being with me. Thank you for coming to me
in my solitude and embracing me. Amen*

Being Rooted

NOVEMBER 13, 2017

"Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6

Being strong and bold means that our life is built on a strong root.
Since our root is strong, we will not be shaken and blown away.

What is our root?

Our root is our faith that God is with us, God will not fail us and forsake us. When this root is strong, we can be strong and bold.

Lord who is my root, help me to be strong and bold. Amen

We Are of More Value Than Many Sparrows

NOVEMBER 14, 2017

"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows."

Luke 12:6-7

We have to remember that we are of more value than many sparrows. God knows us so well. Even the hairs of your heads are all counted and that means God knows our deepest needs.

God who knows us so well will take care of us according to our needs. When we leave our life in God's hands, our life can go forward.

Lord who knows me so well and still loves me, thank you. I leave my life totally in your hands. Amen

The Direction of Life

NOVEMBER 17, 2017

"Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Luke 13:30

"Life is not about speed but direction, not about form but content, not about having and getting but loving and sharing."

- Patrick Mundus

We don't know our future. Just because we run fast, that doesn't mean that we will get there any faster. The important thing is to find the direction of life. We have to find what kind of life we want. There are things that we have to finish. There are things we have to do before we leave this world. Finding them is to become the first.

Lord, help me not to run aimlessly. Help me to find the direction you show me. Amen

Mystery of Life

NOVEMBER 28, 2017

"...the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me."

Colossians 1:26-29

What is the mystery of life? Einstein discovered the mystery of the universe that we didn't know before. St. Paul said that he discovered the mystery of life and he said that it was Christ in us. For St. Paul, knowing Christ was knowing the mystery of life.

God sent Jesus Christ to reveal to us the mystery of life. Jesus' life and his teachings reveal the mystery of life.

When we truly understand Jesus, we will realize that we are not standing alone in alienation but we are connected in Jesus Christ to the eternity.

Lord, thank you for revealing to me that I am not alone. Thank you for being with me and abiding in me. Amen

Being Rooted in Jesus

NOVEMBER 30, 2017

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Colossians 2:1-3

A tree with strong roots will be able to withstand storms. So, it is important to have strong roots in life. When winter comes, leaves fall and flowers wither. But since the roots are strong, leaves come alive and flowers bloom again as the season changes to spring and summer.

Likewise, in building our lives, we need to build strong roots. Even though in difficult situations leaves may fall and flowers may wither, but if we have strong roots, then leaves will grow and flowers will bloom again as circumstances change.

Let us be rooted in Christ. Our lives will be overflowing with thanksgiving.

Lord, help me build my life in you. Amen

Let Us Fly Towards Things That Are Above

DECEMBER 2, 2017

"So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth,..."

Colossians 3:1-2

Thinking about and seeking things that are above means living a life that is pursuing higher things. Our life shouldn't just stay the same. We should be seeking higher things.

There are things that pull us down from behind to prevent us from moving forward. The greatest obstacle is myself. The inability to believe in myself, constantly looking down on myself and pushing myself down, all these things hinder me from going forward.

We have now been raised with Christ. Let us fly towards things that are above!

*Lord, thank you for saving me. Grant me the strength like the eagle.
Amen*

Being Awake and Waiting

DECEMBER 16, 2017

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home."

2 Peter 3:10-13

The day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day, everything will be dissolved with fire, including the heavens. When Peter wrote this, this was unimaginable. But now it is very imminent and real to us.

Let us be awake. Let us wait for God and for new heavens and a new earth. New heavens and a new earth must first come in our hearts.

Lord, let us be awake, always waiting for the day of God. Amen

The Birth of John the Baptist Announced

DECEMBER 15, 2017

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.’ Zechariah said to the angel, ‘How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.’ The angel replied, ‘I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to

Luke 1:5-20

When Mary was pregnant with Jesus, she heard the message that came from her womb. She knew what her child would do when he was born in this world.

God scattered the proud, brought down the powerful, and sent the rich away empty. He lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry with good things. Mary had a very different idea from the idea of the world. She also knew that her son would fulfill exactly what she imagined.

Lord, thank you for sending John the Baptist to us. May we share the good news of joy with many people during this Christmas season.

Amen

Let it be With me According to Your Word

DECEMBER 16, 2017

"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The

Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her."

Luke 1:26-38

It was too difficult and absurd for Mary to accept the news that she would conceive a child since she was a virgin. Mary must have been scared. She probably wished that the message never came to her. Mary would have wanted to live an ordinary life like any other girls of her age.

Even though the message brought fearful reality, Mary accepted the message and let the Word be fulfilled. This was Mary's faith.

Through her faith, the Saviour was born to this world.

Lord, thank you for Mary's faith and courage. Please give me courage to live by your Word. Amen

We Live By God's Grace

DECEMBER 17, 2017

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Luke 1:57-66

Because he didn't believe, Zechariah, he became mute, unable to speak. But by God's grace, he was able to speak again. It was God's grace that he was able to have a son and also it was by God's grace that he was able to speak.

Our life gets untangled not by our own efforts but it is God's grace that opens up our life. Understanding this is the wisdom of life.

Lord, I present my life in your hands. I trust that you will lead my life by your grace. Amen

We Live By God's Plan

DECEMBER 19, 2017

"Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.' The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel."

Luke 1:67-80

It was in God's plan that Jesus came to this world. There was already a movement before Jesus was born. God prepared John the Baptist and God revealed God's plan to John.

Our life does not just happen. Our life proceeds by God's plan. We think we make our life by our short-sighted decisions but that is not true; there is God's plan that controls our life.

Let us be humble!

God who leads my life, help me to be obedient to your plan and your movement. Amen

Innocence and Wisdom

DECEMBER 26, 2017

‘See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.’

Matthew 10:16

Innocent people can have God’s wisdom. We will encounter many situations living in this world. But there is nothing to worry about.

God will give us God’s wisdom in each situation. God will let us know what to say and what to do. Innocence and wisdom go together.

Lord, help me to have a pure heart. Amen.

The Way God Opens Up For Us

DECEMBER 28, 2017

"Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God."

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

There is a way in life. We cannot open the way with our power and wisdom. God opens the way and shows the way to us. Those who are arrogant cannot see the way.

Lord, open up the way for me. Amen.

Trust in the Lord

JANUARY 7, 2018

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Memory Verse: "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:6)

Let us trust in God this year. Let us not depend too much on our own insight. We will find peace in our minds. Let us submit ourselves to God and let God lead our ways. God will make our paths straight.

*Lord, help me to know you better. I want to know you more deeply.
Amen.*

Be Strong

JANUARY 9, 2018

“...do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10

Memory Verse: “I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

Let us be confident. Let us not lose heart because of small problems. Often small problems take away our confidence. Don't let your small problems grow within you and get bigger.

God will help us and strengthen us. God's right hand will uphold us.
We can be strong with God's help.

Lord, give me your strength and help me to be bold. Amen.

Invisible Fruit

JANUARY 10, 2018

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith".

Galatians 6:9-10

**Memory Verse: “So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.”
(Isaiah 41:10)**

We get discouraged when we don't see the fruit of what we are doing. When we see the fruit, we can persevere even though our work is hard. Because it gives us the encouragement and the motivation to continue what we do. But when we don't see the fruit, we wonder why we need to continue what we do.

Fruit is important. But let us remember that the fruit can be visible and invisible. Just because we don't see the fruit, let us not be discouraged. When the right time comes, we will reap what we sow if we don't give up.

Lord, help me not to be obsessed with the visible fruits. Please give me the strength to do your good work with faith. Amen.

Prepare Yourself to Start Your Day

JANUARY 12, 2018

"Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong."

1 Corinthians 16:13

Memory Verse: “Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.” (Hebrews 16:13)

Let us prepare ourselves to start our day. Let us prepare our hearts in the morning. As you wake up, speak to yourself. Be awake, see everything with the eyes of faith, be courageous, and be strong. As we do this, our daily life will change.

Lord, help me to prepare my heart to start the day. Amen.

Give Careful Thought to Your Ways

JANUARY 13, 2018

"Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."

This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways."

Haggai 1:5-7

**Memory Verse: "Give Careful Thought To Your Ways."
(Haggai 1:5)**

We have to give careful thought to our ways. If we have no satisfaction in our lives, what are the reasons? Why don't we have fruit in our hard efforts? Why don't we bear any fruit even though we work so hard? If we are asking these questions, then we need to give careful thought to our ways.

Unless a branch is attached to a tree, it will not be able to bear fruit. When we are completely attached to Christ, we can bear fruit in our lives.

Lord, help me to be completely attached to you more than anything else. Amen.

Life of Discipline

JANUARY 22, 2018

"Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified."

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Memory Verse: “Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one.” (1 Corinthians 9:25)

We need to discipline ourselves to achieve what we want to achieve. Faith is a discipline. Prayer is a discipline. Worship is a discipline. Only through our discipline, we can have faith that is consistent. It is through our discipline that we can protect ourselves from being controlled by our circumstances. Let us overcome our circumstances every day. That is true victory.

Lord, help me not to be disturbed by my petty emotions but to discipline my thoughts daily. Give me strength to discipline myself to deeply meditate on you and you alone. Amen.

God Will Make It Grow

JANUARY 26, 2018

"He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'"

Mark 4:26-29

Memory Verse: "...the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how." (Mark 4:27)

We don't know how our life bears fruit. We sometimes see the fruit of our good works but more than often than not, we do not see the fruit with our eyes. We may plant the seed and water it but it is God who makes it grow.

Let us enjoy our good works. When the time comes, God will produce the fruit out of our good works.

Lord, help me not to be discouraged because I don't see the fruit but enjoy the good works that I do. Amen.

Tomorrow

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

Matthew 6:34

Memory Verse: “Do not worry about tomorrow.” (Matthew 6:34)

Leaving our tomorrow in God's hands – that is the wisdom of life. It is God who opens our tomorrow. God will keep us and protect us from any harm. God will lead us into a brighter tomorrow. Living with faith that tomorrow will be better than today is to live with hope.

Lord, I leave my tomorrow in your hands. Amen.

Faith Seeking Understanding

FEBRUARY 12, 2018

"The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, 'Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.' And he left them, and getting into the boat again, he went across to the other side."

Mark 8:11-13

**Memory Verse: "Why does this generation ask for a sign?"
(Mark 8:12)**

People ask for signs. They want to confirm God's existence. Only when we have confirmation, we get satisfied. Even our faith depends on our confirmation. But how can you say that it is faith if you can believe only after your confirmation? We cannot confirm God's existence. When we believe in God, genuine relationship with God is formed and from the relationship, we get confidence in God.

Lord, help me to have relationship with you through my faith. Amen.

Temptation

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." '

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." '

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time."

Luke 4:1-13

**Memory Verse: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."
(Luke 4:12)**

We are all tempted. The question is how to overcome our temptation. The reason we fall into temptation is because we don't trust God. The best way to overcome temptation is to put our total trust in God. God will give us our daily bread. Our greatest desire in life is to worship God and God alone. We should trust God and do not put God to the test.

Lord, help me to put my trust in you and you alone. Amen.

The Power of The Word

FEBRUARY 19, 2018

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Isaiah 55:10-11

Memory Verse: “; It (the Word of God) shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” (Luke 4:12)

God’s Word will never be wasted. When the Word of God falls on our heart, it will ultimately bear fruit. It is not that we use the Word of God to change us but the Word of God has power to change us. What we need to do is to receive the Word of God with faith.

Lord, please speak to me. I will listen. Amen.

Two Thoughts and Two Hearts

FEBRUARY 28, 2018

"While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.'

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'"

Matthew 20:17-23

Memory Verse: "To sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father. (Matthew 20:23)

We see two different thoughts: Jesus' thought and the thought of the mother of sons of Zebedee. We see a contrasting image. What we want for our children as parents shows what's in our hearts.

The way to follow Jesus is not to sit at Jesus' right hand and left, but to deny ourselves and take up our own cross.

Lord, there are things that control my life without my awareness.

Lord, let my heart turn to you. Amen.

Two Kinds of Trust and Two Different Results

MARCH 1, 2018

"Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit."

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Memory Verse: “Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.” (Jeremiah 17:7)

We see two kinds of trust: trust in yourself and trust in the Lord. We see a contrasting image. Depending on whom we trust, the result will be radically different.

The blessed life is to be able to persevere through difficult circumstances and bear fruit.

Today in 1919, many courageous Korean Christians stood against Japanese imperialism and fought for freedom. As a result, many of them were killed. But we see the fruit of their sacrifice.

Lord, help me not to trust in my own strength but to trust in You and live my life with the strength that comes from You. Amen.

The Word Sharper Than Two-Edged Sword

MARCH 3, 2018

"Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account."

Hebrews 4:12-13

Memory Verse: “All are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.” (Hebrews 4:13)

There are two kinds of faith. The faith that is in our consciousness and the faith that is deep within our soul beyond our consciousness. The faith that is deep within us is formed by the Word of God. It is because only the Word that is sharper than two-edged sword can penetrate beyond our consciousness. This is the faith that we do not control but controls us.

Lord, help me to meditate deeply on Your Word. Amen.

Listen To My Voice

MARCH 8, 2018

"But this command I gave them, 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people; and walk only in the way that I command you, so that it may be well with you.' Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but, in the stubbornness of their evil will, they walked in their own counsels, and looked backwards rather than forwards. From the day that your ancestors came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day; yet they did not listen to me, or pay attention, but they stiffened their necks. They did worse than their ancestors did."

Jeremiah 7:23-26

Memory Verse: "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people." (Jeremiah 7:23)

A lot of our problems come from not listening. When we don't listen, we will lose the direction of life and wander. Jesus also said, "Whoever has ears, let them hear." People who have ears to hear are blessed people. If we pay attention, we can all hear. The problem is that we do not pay attention. Listening is the discipline of paying attention to what is going on in our lives and waiting for God's voice. Once your ears are trained you can discern the voice you need to hear from the noise.

Lord, grant me the ears to hear Your voice. Amen.

Beautiful Life

MARCH 9, 2018

"I will heal their disloyalty; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily, he shall strike root like the forests of Lebanon. His shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive tree, and his fragrance like that of Lebanon. They shall again live beneath my shadow, they shall flourish as a garden, they shall blossom like the vine, their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon. O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you."

Hosea 14:4-8

**Memory Verse: "It is I who answer and look after you."
(Hosea 14:8)**

A beautiful life is a life that is blessed by God. When we totally entrust ourselves in God's hands, we will experience the abundance and our life's fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon. We don't bear the fruit on our own. When we remain in God, the fruit comes as a result.

Lord, make my life beautiful. Amen.

God's Word Written On Our Hearts

MARCH 10, 2018

"This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord", for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest."

Hebrews 8:10-11

Memory Verse: "I will put my laws in their minds, and write them on their hearts." (Hebrews 8:10)

We can only know God through our hearts, not through our brains.

The prophet Jeremiah told us that God will write His laws on our hearts. The word of God is in our heart, not in our brain. It takes a long and difficult process for the word of God to travel from our brain to our heart. Let us meditate on God's word deeply with faith.

Lord, I open my heart. Please carve your words on my heart. Amen.

Faith Is The Assurance Of Things Hoped For

MARCH 17, 2018

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible."

Hebrews 11:1-3

Memory Verse: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

We all have a desire within us. We can call it a dream. This is something that we really desire to have or do in our lives. Without faith, this desire becomes a vain dream. When we have faith, this desire becomes realized in our lives. As we live with faith, we will be able to see our dreams becoming realized in our lives.

Lord, help to live my life with faith. Amen.

Looking To Jesus

MARCH 20, 2018

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.."

Hebrews 12:1-2

Memory Verse: "...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Let us look to Jesus every day. When life is difficult, let us look to Jesus. When we cannot see what is ahead of us, let us look to Jesus. When the dark clouds surround us, let us look to Jesus. Jesus will make our faith perfect.

Lord, help me to run my race, looking to Jesus. Amen.

God's Faithfulness

MARCH 22, 2018

"Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered...

He is mindful of his covenant for ever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant..."

Psalm 105:4-5, 8-10

Memory Verse: "He is mindful of his covenant for ever..."
(Psalm 105:8)

God keeps His covenant. That is the source of our hope. That is our salvation. God is faithful. The coming of Jesus Christ affirms God's faithfulness and His desire to keep His covenant. Because of God's faithfulness, His covenant becomes precious.

Lord, thank you for your faithfulness. Your love is always the same.
Amen.

God's Silence

MARCH 28, 2018

"Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you. Do not hide your face from me on the day of my distress. Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily on the day when I call."

Psalm 102:1-2

Memory Verse: “Do not hide your face from me on the day of my distress.” (Psalm 102:2)

God listens to our prayer. He listens to us when we cry out. But when we are under stress, we don't feel God. We feel that our prayer doesn't seem to reach God. Even Jesus experienced God's silence on the cross. But God never turned his face away from Jesus. God was with Jesus. Sometimes we feel that our prayer doesn't seem to reach God but God never fails to listen to us.

Lord, thank you for always listening to me. Amen.

Problems Too Big For Me

MARCH 31, 2018

"Look on my right hand and see— there is no one who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for me. I cry to you, O Lord; I say, ‘You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.’ Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low. Save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me. Bring me out of prison, so that I may give thanks to your name. The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me."

Psalm 142:4-7

Memory Verse: “Save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.” (Psalm 142:6)

Often we face problems that are too big for us to handle. In fact, all the problems are too big for us to handle. Otherwise, we would not call them problems. When we try to deal with problems that are bigger than us with our own strength, we become overburdened and stressed out. When we face problems, we need to cry out to God. God will give us not only the strength but also the wisdom to deal with our problems.

Lord, bring my soul out of prison, so that I may give thanks to your name. Amen.

No Testing Beyond Our Strength

APRIL 15, 2018

"No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it."

1 Corinthians 10:13

Memory Verse: “No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Testing is a part of our living. We are thankful that God does not let us be tested beyond our strength. God always provides us a way for us so that we can overcome our difficult times. Let us look very carefully around us. We will see a way God has provided for us. Even though we may feel that we hit the dead end, there is always a way out.

Lord, thank you for providing a way to overcome our life's challenges. Amen.

The Way of Life

APRIL 27, 2018

"‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’"

John 14:1-6

Memory Verse: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.” (John 14:1)

We don’t know what is ahead of us. So, when we don’t see a way, we worry. Let us remember that Jesus is the way. He will open up a way for us. He will lead us and give us the strength to finish our journey.

There is nothing to worry about.

Lord, thank you for opening up a way for us. Amen.

Dreams Being Fulfilled

MAY 2, 2018

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

John 15:5-7

**Memory Verse: "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."
(John 15:7)**

"Ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." Living with a dream is a beautiful thing. To believe that the dream will be fulfilled is to experience both the beauty and the power of life. If we abide in God, we will have beautiful dreams. Also, because we believe that the dream will be fulfilled, we can live a confident and a powerful life.

Lord, do not let little things worry me and discourage me but give me your strength to pursue the beautiful dreams you gave me. Amen.

We Belong to God

MAY 7, 2018

"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

Isaiah 43:1-2

Memory Verse: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” (Isaiah 43:1)

We belong to God. God will protect us. When we pass through the waters, let us not fear. When we walk through fire, let us not fear. God will protect us. We belong to God. Let us leave ourselves in God’s hands.

Lord, I leave my everything in your hands. Please protect me from harm. Amen.

God's Will

MAY 14, 2018

"Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord", will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?" Then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers."

Matthew 7:21-23

Memory Verse: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord', will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only one who does the will of my Father in heaven." (Matthew 7:21)

God does not really care whether you did great things in life or not. God does not care to listen to your great confession. What God wants from us is to listen to God's will and to do it. No matter how great our achievements may be, if we are not connected to God, our achievements have nothing to do with God. Let us be connected to God.

Lord, help me to walk with you every day so that I may first understand your will. Amen.

Heavy Burdens

MAY 15, 2018

"Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy... Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation."

Psalm 68:9-10, 19

Memory Verse: "Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation." (Psalm 68:19)

God bears our burdens every day. Our burdens are too heavy for us to bear all by ourselves. Let us lay down our burdens before God. God will help us. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens." When he helps us, our burdens will become lighter.

Lord, I lay down my burdens before you. Amen.

Prayer

MAY 24, 2018

"I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me; give ear to my voice when I call to you. Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice."

Psalm 141:1-2

Memory Verse: "I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me; give ear to my voice when I call to you." (Psalm 141:1)

When we call upon God, God comes to us. When we cry out to God, God listens to us. When life is hard, let us pray. When we are sad, let us pray. When there is nothing we can do, let us pray. God will answer us.

Lord, please answer my prayer. Amen.