

# Identity

*Lord who knows me so well, thank you for loving me,  
even though you know all about me. Amen.*

# God Knows Me

JUN 4, 2017

"O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely."

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Psalm 139:1-4

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You don't feel lonely merely because you are physically alone. You can feel lonely even when you are in the company of others, amidst all the activities and the conversations that take place...

Even though many people can be around me, if I feel that there is no one who really knows me and understands me, I feel lonely.

That's why many people these days feel lonely. People are busy taking care of their own matters. People have no room to pay attention to others, never mind taking care of them. We cannot say that this is anyone's fault. It is simply a phenomenon that we see in this busy world.

The Psalm that we read today is a confession of a lonely person who met God who understood him intimately. God knows my struggles, my pain, my tears and my aching heart. When we meet God who understand us, we can overcome our loneliness.

More so than believing that we know God, it is by knowing that God knows us that we experience true grace and through that grace, we can overcome our own loneliness.

*Search me, Lord, for You alone know what is in my heart. Thank you for loving me, even knowing what is in me. Amen.*

# Treasure in a Field

JUN 13, 2017

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

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Matthew 13:44

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Blessed is the person who finds treasure hidden in a field. They are the ones who find the essence of life.

Peter was a fisherman. Catching many fish was what he wanted to do with his life. One day he went fishing but caught nothing. That was when Jesus came to him and with the help of Jesus, he caught many fish. But surprisingly, he gave up all his fish and followed Jesus - he found the treasure hidden in a field.

Giving all our energy and effort for what is not the treasure is like losing life. We want to find life not lose it. Let us find our life.

*Lord, give me the eyes that see the treasure in life. Amen.*

# Two Roads

JUN 18, 2017

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. 14For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

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Matthew 7:13-14

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There are two roads in life: the road that I am called to take and therefore unique to me and the road that I follow mindlessly because everybody else does it.

If I follow the unique road that is specifically given to me, I will be able to find my life but if I follow the road simply because all other people take it, I will lose my life.

It is from courage that I can see the unique road that I am called to take. Following the road everybody else takes may look safe. But since we take that road out of fear, we will not experience the true freedom and fulfillment in that road.

Finding my own way, listening to my own voice and living out my own life; isn't this what life is all about?

*Lord, show me my way. Show me the road that you want me to take.  
Amen.*

# Change

JUN 23, 2017

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

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Romans 12:1-2

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We do not make change. The change makes us. The change I make for myself is merely the confirmation of my own self. We can call it self-centred change. In that kind of change, the only thing we hear is my own voice.

The real change is to listen to the voice that discerns the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let us hear what we truly need to hear today.

*Lord, speak to me and I will listen. Give me the ears to hear. Amen.*



# Our Heart

JUL 7, 2017

"But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

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Matthew 24:13

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Failures in life start from our heart. From our heart, life's big decisions are determined. When we give up in our heart, we are driving ourselves towards failure.

Challenges in life always make our hearts weak and feeble. To achieve what we want in life, we need to learn to control and discipline our heart. If we do not lose our heart, we do not lose our life.

*Lord, I give my heart to you. Please give me the calm and peace in my heart so that I may be strong in facing challenges in life. Amen.*

# My Way

JUL 25, 2017

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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Matthew 5:11-12

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You can't let praise or criticism get to you. It's a weakness to get caught up in either one.

- Coach John Wooden

We like praise; we hate criticism. That itself is not a bad thing. It is our natural reaction. The problem is when we give too much attention to that. Then we lose our own unique way of living. We should not live someone else's life; that would not be me. We should live our own authentic life. We should not follow what other people want from us because they don't know us. God knows us the best. When we find ourselves in God, we no longer live by others' praise or criticism but follow the way that we have found.

*Lord, help me listen to your voice. Amen.*

# Liberation

AUG 15, 2017

"For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

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Galatians 5:1

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We should not take freedom for granted.

Jesus Christ sacrificed himself to give us freedom. There is a cost of sacrifice to attain our freedom. We should not submit again to a yoke of slavery. To keep the freedom, we have to fight. We have to fight against things that bind us. Then, we can enjoy the freedom.

*Lord, thank you for the freedom you gave me. Help me not to submit again to a yoke of slavery and live my life proclaiming the freedom.  
Amen.*



# Virtue of Humility

AUG 28, 2017

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

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Ephesians 4:1-3

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Unity cannot be achieved without our efforts. Today's Scripture says to make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit. Even though the unity is a gift of the Spirit, we have to do our part to maintain the unity.

Let us examine ourselves. There are important spiritual qualities to maintain the unity of the Spirit.

Humility produces gentleness. Gentleness produces perseverance. Persevering means that we wait patiently to accept the others. The whole thing begins with humility, and so, in the absence of humility, there is no unity, only division.

*Lord, help me to have a humble heart. Make me an instrument of peace. Amen.*

# Words

SEP 6, 2017

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone."

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Colossians 4:6

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You are what comes out of your mouth.

Words are not just a language but they reveal our integrity. It's important to say the right words at the right time but it's not always easy. We have to be careful with what we say because with words we say, we can either lift up or crush those around us.

Let us try to avoid unnecessary words, unhelpful words, and hurtful words.

Saying all the positive and flattering words isn't always helpful in every situation. When we know what to say and when to say to the one who needs the very words we say, our words will come alive and have a profound effect on others.

God will give us the words to say.

*Lord, give me the right words to say and grant me the wisdom to be quiet when I don't have them. Amen.*

# Way

## OCT 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.'"

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John 14:6

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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.*

# My Own Life

OCT 11, 2017

"Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

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Genesis 28:15

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“No matter who your parents are, you’ve still got your own life to figure out. The silver spoon in the mouth too often becomes the silver dagger in the back.”

- Peter buffet, the youngest son of billionaire investor Warren Buffett.

A life that is dependent is not a good life. It’s important to have the strength to stand on our own feet. No one else can live my life for me and I can’t imitate somebody else’s life either. I have my own way, my own calling and my own dream to live. It doesn’t matter how small it may be, what is important is to have my own life and my own story. Only then we can find the beauty of life.

We are able to stand alone because God is with us.

*Lord, thank you for giving me so many good things and blessing me with so many good people. But most importantly, thank you for giving me the strength to stand alone. Amen.*

# Boasting of Our Weakness

OCT 12, 2017

"If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness."

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2 Corinthians 11:30

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We don't need to be embarrassed about our weaknesses. Sharing our weaknesses is sometimes more powerful than boasting about our strengths. As we share our weaknesses, deeper bonds will be formed, resulting in a stronger unity and a more intimate sharing. When we boast about our strengths, there will be competition, division and separation.

When we are weak, we will experience the strength.

*Lord, help me not to be embarrassed about my weaknesses. Instead, help me to freely share my weaknesses. Amen.*

# Weakness and Strength

OCTOBER 13, 2017

"...but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."

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2 Corinthians 12:9-10

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You don't become stronger because you want to or try to be stronger. You become stronger when you are able to embrace your weaknesses within you. Embracing your weaknesses means to boldly share with others about them and not keeping them hidden. When my weaknesses do not torment me, and disturb me deeply, I have become stronger. That is true confidence that comes from within me.

The power of Christ can dwell in me when I am able to confront my weaknesses instead of avoiding them.

*Lord, I pray that your power may dwell in me. Help me not to suffer silently because of my weaknesses but help me to boldly share them with others so that I may be free from the darkness of my weaknesses. Amen.*



# Our Struggle

OCTOBER 18, 2017

"For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

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Ephesians 6:12-13

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Life is a struggle. As Jacob wrestled all night with a man at river Jabbok, we also wrestle with things in our lives. Jacob became Israel only after that struggle. Likewise, our identity will become clearer only after living through struggles.

There is a darkness within me. At times that darkness takes me into the dark places. However, we shouldn't just let the darkness drag us into the abyss without a fight. We need to struggle against the darkness. Dark night will soon fade and bright sun will rise. Even though our bodies may be tired, our souls will be renewed.

*Lord, give me the strength and the perseverance to endure through life's struggles. Help me to understand that I enter the Kingdom of God only through struggles. Amen.*

# Purpose of Life

OCTOBER 29, 2017

"The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps."

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Proverbs 16:9

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"As surely as we are driven to live, we are driven to serve spiritual ends that surpass our own interests...We are not only in need of God but also in need of serving God's ends, and these ends are in need of us."

- Abraham Joshua Heschel

Everything moves towards a purpose, our soul, our life, history and the universe. God's will creates this movement and God's will is our purpose. It is foolish to design your life according to one's own desire, will and feeling. As we meditate constantly on God's will, our purpose of life will be formed within us.

*Lord, I pray that I may not create my own path, but help me to find your way. Amen*

# The Law and Sin

NOVEMBER 4, 2017

"What then should we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet, if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, 'You shall not covet.'"

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Romans 7:7

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The law itself is not bad. Without the law, we would not have even known that we are deeply entrenched in sin. In that sense, the law is like our nerves. Without nerves, we would not even feel the pain when we touch a hot object.

Through the law, we know that we are sinners. But the law cannot help with our sins. That is not the function of the law. The law only shows our true self.

As we stand before the law, we can be awake from our illusion about ourselves.

*Lord, thank you for giving me the law so that I may not fall into my own self-righteousness. Help me to always understand who I truly am.*

*Amen*

# What Do We Sow?

NOVEMBER 8, 2017

"Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit."

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Galatians 6:7-8

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We need to reflect on what we're reaping in our lives: eternal things or things that will eventually corrupt. When we carefully see what we are reaping, we will know what we are sowing because whatever we sow, we will reap.

What has eternal value? Love, trust, faith, truth, joy, patience, kindness and mercy: This the eternal life.

*Lord, help me to always sow things for the Spirit, through the Spirit.*

*Amen*

# The Direction of Life

NOVEMBER 17, 2017

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

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Luke 13:30

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"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*

# Three Pillars of Life

NOVEMBER 19, 2017

"Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me."

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Revelation 3:20

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We can see three pillars of life in today's scripture. First is listening.

We need to hear what needs to be heard. Jesus said those who have ears to hear, let them hear. The next is opening the door. It is to open the door of our hearts. Once we hear the voice, we need to open the door. Thirdly, it is fellowship with Jesus. It is a life of always being conscious of Jesus and walking with him.

*Lord who is knocking at the door of my heart, help me to open up my heart and spend time with you. Amen*



# Life of Fullness

DECEMBER 1, 2017

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority."

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Colossians 2:9-10

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We need fullness in life. Having fullness is having strength in life.

When there is fullness, our life becomes bigger. The secret to overcoming challenges in life is to have fullness.

When we have fullness, we have a room to look around and get a better perspective in life.

When we have fullness, we can accept others, be generous, and be forgiving. Where there is love, there is fullness.

*Lord, allow me to have fullness. Amen*

# The Face of Holiness

DECEMBER 4, 2017

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

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Colossians 3:12-14

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Holiness isn't a personal quality you have for yourself. Holiness manifests itself in our attitude towards others. Compassion, kindness, humility meekness, and patience are all manifestation of our holiness.

Let us be holy.

*Lord, I meditate upon your holiness that was manifested in your sacrifice on the cross because of your love for me. Help me to be holy like you are holy. Amen*

# Let Your Speech Be Gracious

DECEMBER 8, 2017

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone."

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Colossians 4:6

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Words are very important. Saying the right words is just like seasoning food with salt and they can bring great joy to people. When we speak filled with grace, we will know what we ought to say. Also, when our heart goes with the words we say, the words become powerful.

*Lord, guide my lips. Amen*

# Simplicity in Life

DECEMBER 9, 2017

"One thing I asked of the Lord,

that will I seek after:

to live in the house of the Lord

all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the Lord,

and to inquire in his temple."

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Psalm 27:4

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**Memory Verse: “Look to Jesus the pioneer and the perfecter of our faith.” (Hebrews 12:2)**

If we have too many things that we pursue and seek after, life becomes complicated. When we don't know what we really want, we tend to seek after many things. Since we don't know what we want, what we want changes quite often.

Simplicity is beautiful. Simplicity should apply to what we want as well. King David had only one thing he sought after; that was to be with God.

Jesus also taught us to seek first the Kingdom of God. Then, everything else will take care of itself.

*Lord, help me to find the simplicity of life. Help me to find what I really want in life. Amen*

# A Child of God

DECEMBER 31, 2017

'But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.'

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Galatians 4:4-7

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**Memory Verse: "Look to Jesus the pioneer and the perfecter of our faith." (Hebrews 12:2)**

We are God's children. Let us not forget this even if we forget everything else. Even if I fall, I am a God's child. Even if I fail, I am a God's child. Even if I lose everything, I am a God's child. If we don't forget this, we will be able to stand up again. We can face the New Year with the renewed confidence.

*Lord, thank you for giving me the privilege to be your child. Amen.*

# Look to Jesus

JANUARY 11, 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. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart."

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Hebrews 12:1-3

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**Memory Verse: “Look to Jesus the pioneer and the perfecter of our faith.” (Hebrews 12:2)**

Let us look to Jesus. He endured the pain of the cross. He was humiliated but he disregarded its shame. He was quiet and yet strong.

Jesus completes what we are lacking. As we meditate on Jesus, his image will be formed within us. Then our ugly self will turn into a beautiful image.

*Lord, help me to have you always in my thoughts. Help me to always think of your beauty. Amen.*



# God Who Knows Me

JANUARY 14, 2018

'Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.' Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth.'

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Jeremiah 1:4-9

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**Memory Verse: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you." (Jeremiah 1:5)**

God knows me. God knows me better than I know myself. My sorrow, my hurt, my struggle, and my pain. God knows all about me.

When God calls me, he calls me, knowing who I am. So God will help my shortcomings and God will give me God's wisdom and strength.

When God calls us, let us respond to the call with affirmative yes.

*Lord, give me the courage to respond to your call with yes. Amen.*

# In God's Image

JANUARY 15, 2018

"Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'"

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Genesis 1:26-28

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**Memory Verse: "So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them." (Genesis 1:27, 28)**

God created humankind in God's image. That is a wonderful statement about humankind. We are created in God's image. We need to restore God's image.

God calls us to take care of the world. God calls us to take care of the world as people who are created in God's image, not to exploit the earth as greedy people.

The earth becomes a huge garbage dump. That is not God's image.

*Lord, help us to be good stewards to take care of the earth we live in.*

*Amen.*

# Do Your Best

JANUARY 19, 2018

‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”’.

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Matthew 19:27-30

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**Memory Verse: “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.”  
(Matthew 25:21, 23)**

The way the master commended the person who had five talents and two talents was exactly the same.

What God wants from us is not how much we have achieved but how we have lived with the given life.

Let us not focus too much on the result.

*Lord, help me to do my best with my life. Amen.*

# The Last Will Be First

JANUARY 25, 2018

"Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.

What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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Matthew 19:27-30

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**Memory Verse: "Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first." (Matthew 19:30)**

Following Jesus means to let ourselves go. It means to empty ourselves. Then, God will build us up. We should not build our life on our own. We empty ourselves but it is God who will fill us up. If we try to be first, we will be last and if we become last, we will be first.

*Lord, help me to live a life that is built up by You. Amen.*

# Humility In Our Thought

FEBRUARY 2, 2018

"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."

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Romans 12:3

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**Memory Verse: “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think.” (Romans 12:3)**

Humility is not in our behavior but in our thought. A person who understands clearly who he/she is, doesn't have to hide behind the false humility in action. Understanding who we truly are is the best way to be humble.

*Lord, I come to you, the Light. Please shine your light on me so that I can see clearly who I am. Amen.*

# Come To The Light

MARCH 11, 2018

"And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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John 3:19-21

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**Memory Verse: “Those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.” (John 3:21)**

It is not easy to come to the light because our dark side is exposed. We all have our own dark side. If we avoid the light because of that, the darkness will control us. When we come to the light, the darkness can no longer control us. Let us not be scared of our darkness being exposed. God’s grace is big enough to embrace our darkness.

*Lord, help me to come to the light every day. Amen.*



# Moulded In God's Image

MARCH 19, 2018

"The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 'Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.' 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."

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Jeremiah 18:1-6

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**Memory Verse: "Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel." (Jeremiah 18:6)**

Our life is in God's hands. St. Paul said, "I am who I am by God's grace." As we walk with God and meditate deeply on him, we will be moulded in God's image. We will restore the image of God in which we are created.

*Lord, mould me in Your image. Amen.*

# Life That I Pursue And Life That Is Given

MARCH 19, 2018

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again."

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Romans 4:13-15

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**Memory Verse: "I lay down my life in order to take it up again." (John 10:17)**

There is a life that I pursue and a life that is given to me. The life that I pursue is not eternal. But the life that is given to me is eternal. Jesus gave away the life we human beings pursue out of his love for us. But God gave him the eternal life.

*Lord, help me to follow the example of a life you set for all of us.*

*Amen.*

# The Way To Be Righteous

MARCH 19, 2018

"For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation."

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Romans 4:13-15

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**Memory Verse: "If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void." (Romans 4:14)**

It is honorable to respect the law and try to keep it. But if we think that we can be righteous by keeping the law, we are mistaken and deeper darkness will invade our soul. From that point on, the law is not any more a beautiful thing but a chain that imprisons us.

Let us recognize daily that "I am who I am by God's grace." Let God's mercy work in our lives.

*Lord, help me to pursue the righteousness that is not on the outside but on the inside. Amen.*

# Boldness and Courage

APRIL 3, 2018

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.’ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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Acts 2:36-41

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**Memory Verse: “God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” (Acts 2:36)**

Peter whom you see in today’s Scripture passage is very different from Peter whom you see in the Gospels. We see changed Peter after meeting the risen Lord. The risen Lord is still with us. When we allow him to be in our hearts, we will have boldness and courage. Let us live with boldness and courage.

*Risen Lord, please give me boldness and courage. Amen.*

# Stand Up And Walk

APRIL 4, 2018

"One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, 'Look at us.' And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, 'I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.' And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him."

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Acts 3:1-10

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**Memory Verse: "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.' (Acts 3:6)**

The beggar who begged at the gate of the temple was healed and then he entered into the temple, walking and leaping and praising God. Isn't this real healing? When there is healing in us, we can stand up and walk. We don't need to beg people for love. We don't need to beg for recognition. We don't need to beg for happiness. We can stand and live our lives with confidence.

*Lord, I will rise and live my life with confidence. Amen.*

# We are Precious

APRIL 5, 2018

"O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

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John 3:7-10

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**Memory Verse: “The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)**

Being born again is to accept the new world we didn't know before. In the old world, we were the main agent who made all the decisions using our own power and wisdom. But in the new world, we experience life that is opened up in a mysterious way. This is not the change that happens in our environment. It is the change that happens within us. Because of life's difficulties, we do not give up anymore. In hopelessness, we see a new possibility. Even when we fall, we rise again. That is the life of being born again.

*Lord, thank you for the new life. Amen.*

# Being Born Again

APRIL 10, 2018

"Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'"

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John 3:7-10

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**Memory Verse: "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8)**

Being born again is to accept the new world we didn't know before. In the old world, we were the main agent who made all the decisions using our own power and wisdom. But in the new world, we experience life that is opened up in a mysterious way. This is not the change that happens in our environment. It is the change that happens within us. Because of life's difficulties, we do not give up anymore. In hopelessness, we see a new possibility. Even when we fall, we rise again. That is the life of being born again.

*Lord, thank you for the new life. Amen.*

# Know Ourselves

APRIL 23, 2018

‘If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, “Servants are not greater than their master.” If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.”

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John 15:18-21

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**Memory Verse: “If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you.” (John 15:19)**

How others treat us and evaluate us is very important to us. When others recognize us and praise us, we feel that we are worthy. When others ignore us and insult us, we feel worthless. Since we don’t know very well about ourselves, we depend heavily on others’ opinions about us. Let us get to know ourselves more deeply. We will be able to see how precious and valuable we are.

*Lord who knows me so well, thank you for loving me, even though you know all about me. Amen.*



# The Way of Life

APRIL 28, 2018

1"Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 3I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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John 14:12-14

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**Memory Verse: “Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these.” (John 14:12)**

Jesus had a high view of the humanity. He believed that we can do greater works than what he did. We think of ourselves as weak and worthless. We don't think much of ourselves. This causes us to have the same attitude towards others. We don't treat others with respect and honor. Let us live with respect for ourselves and for others.

*Lord, thank you for crowning me with honor even though I am weak and easy to fall. Amen.*

# Finding Oneself

MAY 21, 2018

"Then he said to them all, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?"

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Luke 9:23-25

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**Memory Verse: "Let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no."  
(James 5:12)**

Without finding oneself, gaining the whole world doesn't mean much. The whole world becomes meaningful only when my existence is secure. Jesus came not to give us the whole world but to let us find ourselves. Finding oneself is to discover the self that can never be destroyed.

*Lord, now I have found myself that can never be destroyed. Thank you for your grace. Amen.*

# Our Tongue

MAY 25, 2018

"Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation."

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James 5:12

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**Memory Verse: "Let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no."  
(James 5:12)**

Our tongue is deceptive and manipulative. To make us look good, we say many empty words. Our words should be sincere. Even though we may say few words, they should be meaningful. Few sincere words have more power than many meaningless words.

*Lord, help me to say few words but let them be sincere. Amen.*

# God's Children

MAY 27, 2018

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him."

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Romans 8:14-17

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**Memory Verse: "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God." (Romans 8:14)**

People who are led by the Spirit have confidence that they are children of God. When we have confidence that we are children of God, we can overcome our fear. When Jesus first started the ministry, he was baptized and the Holy Spirit came down on him and let Jesus know that he was the Son of God. Soon after that, Satan came to Jesus and tempted him, asking him to prove that he was the Son of God. The most important thing that we need to always keep in mind is that we are the children of God.

*Lord, thank you for making me your child. Amen.*