

Chris Oyakhilome



Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

A KEY FC	R OTHER BIBLE VERSIONS USED:
NKJV	-New King James Version
AMP	-The Amplified Bible
AMPC	-The Amplified Classic Bible
TANT	-The Amplified New Translation
TLB	-The Living Bible
CEV	-Contemporary English Version
NASB	-New American Standard Bible
ISV	-International Standard Version
NIV	-New International Version
MSG	-The Message Translation
WEB	-The World English Bible
TNLT	-The New Living Translation
ASV	-American Standard Version
TEV	-Today's English Version
RSV	-Revised Standard Version
GNB	-Good News Bible
WNT	-Weymouth New Testament
NRSV	-New Revised Standard Version
MOFFAT	-Moffatt New Translation
WESNT	-Wesley New Testament
EBR	-Rotherham's Emphasized Bible
DRB	-Douay-Rheims Bible
TPT	-The Passion Translation
CJB	-Complete Jewish Bible
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Introduction

Hurray! Your favourite daily devotional, Rhapsody of Realities, is now available in all known living languages of the world. The 2024 edition of the devotional has been packaged to enhance your spiritual growth and development, and position you for resounding success throughout the year.

The life-changing truths in this edition will refresh, transform and prepare you for a very fulfilling, fruitful and rewarding experience with God's Word.

- HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT -

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Read and carefully meditate on each article. Saying the prayers and confessions aloud to yourself daily will ensure the results of God's Word that you're speaking come to pass in your life.

- Go through the entire Bible in one year with the oneyear reading plan, or in two years with the two-year reading plan.
- You can also split the daily Bible reading portions into two parts—morning and evening reading.
- Use the devotional to prayerfully write out your goals for each month, and measure your success as you accomplish one goal after another.

Enjoy God's glorious presence and victory, as you take a daily dose of His Word! God bless you!

-Pastor Chris Oyakhilome

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GOALS FOR THE MONTH:

Rhapsody of Realities

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APPLY THE HIGHER PRINCIPLES OF THE KINGDOM



For we walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Being born again, you're not of this world; you belong in God's Kingdom. You must carry this consciousness every day, that you're from above. In John 17:14, the Lord Jesus, referring to His disciples said, "... they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." So, you're in this world, but not of this world.

The Lord Jesus beautifully exemplified this when he referred to Himself as the Son of man who is in heaven, even while physically present on earth: "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven" (John 3:13). He lived by the principles of the Kingdom of heaven while dwelling here among men, and He was victorious on every count.

As Christians, you're to navigate this earthly life, guided by the spiritual principles and values of God's Kingdom. This Kingdom-consciousness empowers you to live with a heavenly perspective here on earth. In fact, if you read our opening verse in context, it reveals that you're meant to live from the inside out—from your spirit—and heaven is in your spirit. The Bible says, *"...He has also set eternity* in the human heart..." (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV).

Live from heaven. This consciousness will impact everything about your life, including your health. This is important, because oftentimes, there're those who wonder why certain "faithful" and committed Christians suffer terrible calamities. Some even get sick and die sick. Well, you have to understand that health isn't a "reward" for serving God; the Bible doesn't promise that.

Instead, the reward of your faithful service is reserved for you in heaven. When we get there, the rewards for our service will be announced, and we'll return to the new earth to enjoy them. However, here on earth, it's your responsibility to apply Kingdom principles—use the Word of God—to live transcendently and keep your physical body in health. So, keep your focus on the Word; speak it forth always. Be a doer of the Word and refuse to be moved by sensory perceptions.

PRAYER

Dear Father, I thank you for the privilege to live by your Word and apply Kingdom principles. I refuse to be moved by the challenges of this world, but I align my entire being—spirit, soul, and body—with your will and purposes. Thank you for the victory I have in Christ Jesus. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

James 1:22-25; Colossians 3:1-2

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Corinthians 15:35-58 & Proverbs 8-9

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Thessalonians 2:10-20 & Jeremiah 18



MONDAY 2

DON'T SAY IT'S NOT WORKING



A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh (Luke 6:45).

When you speak, things happen. Your words are powerful; they create or destroy. The Bible says death and life are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21). This is the reason we emphasize speaking right; affirming God's Word on all occasions. What you say is what you get.

Ponder again what we read in our opening scripture; through the words you speak, you bring forth good or evil, life or death, sickness or health, poverty or wealth. It's up to you. It's about what you say. You may say, "I've been speaking, but nothing has been happening." Who told you nothing has been happening? That's like planting your seeds and digging them out of the ground before they grow. Seeds don't germinate overnight; but once they're planted in the right environment, they most certainly will grow. Words are seeds.

Therefore, you have to keep speaking the Word. Like we often say, "Keep saying it; don't stop talking it!" When

you affirm the Word, it works. In Isaiah 55:10-11, the Lord said, "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

This shows the power, immutability, impregnability and infallibility of the Word of God. Are you aware that your words hold the same power? Remember, you're like Him; you're created in His image and in His likeness. As He is, so are you in this world (1 John 4:17). The Word of God in your mouth is God talking. Quit thinking it's not working. Don't allow Satan to get you into the sense-realm of trying to observe lying vanities. The Bible says, *"They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy"* (Jonah 2:8).

CONFESSION

When I speak, it comes to pass, because my words are powerful; they produce what I say, because I speak from God and speak His Word. My life is a testimony of God's goodness, love, mercy and grace; I'm the proof of His equity, and I walk in His righteousness, in divine health, prosperity, peace and joy. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

Mark 11:23; Proverbs 18:21; Matthew 12:37

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Corinthians 16:1-24 & Proverbs 10-11

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 & Jeremiah 19-20



TUESDAY 3 MAKE KNOWN HIS WONDERFUL DEEDS



O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people (Psalm 105:1).

There're people who always share testimonies. When they're in church and the Pastor asks if anyone has a testimony to share, they're always the first to respond. How is it that some people are so blessed that they always have testimonies? The answer is in Isaiah 12:3-4, *"Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD...."*

Did you see that? Their hearts are usually full of praise. What's praise? Praise is the fruit of our lips—giving thanks to the Lord. This is even clearer in the English Standard Version: "And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted" (Isaiah 12:4 ESV).

Notice that it says, "make known his deeds"; in other words, testify! Grateful people always testify; they always have something to say that God has done for them. They're always bubbling with joy. What kind of a person are you? Be sure that you're a testifier. Always share your testimonies of what the Lord has done in your life.

1 Peter 2:9 tells us something beautiful; it says, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; <u>that ye should shew forth</u> <u>the praises of him</u> who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." Notice the underlined part; you were called, that is, ordained to show forth His praise; to declare His mighty works. Hallelujah!

Therefore, always testify of His love, His grace, His faithfulness and loving kindness that you enjoy every day. Be grateful to Him that He causes you to triumph always and in every place through Christ Jesus. Remember, winners are always full of joy and thanksgiving.

PRAYER

Dear Father, you're great and glorious; you're righteous, holy, just, true and pure. Your works are eternal, and so are your tender mercies and grace. I worship you for your faithfulness and goodness that are evident in my life. You're exalted above all, the great King of all, the Creator of all things. Thank you, for not only have you conferred your Kingdom on me, you've expanded the Kingdom in me. Hallelujah!

FURTHER STUDY:

Isaiah 12:4 NIV; 1 Chronicles 16:8-9; Psalm 96:2-3; Psalm 106:1

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Corinthians 1-2:1-4 & Proverbs 12-13

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 & Jeremiah 21



WEDNESDAY 4

IT'S A GOOD FIGHT



Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses (1 Timothy 6:12).

Whether you know it or not, as a Christian, you're in a fight. Some people don't like to hear this because they're just not willing to fight. Instead, they hope that things will somehow just fall into place. No! You've got to fight. Why? Because there's an adversary working to ensure that things don't fall into place for you.

Understand that the world is hostile to your faith; it's hostile to the Kingdom of God. Jesus, however, said, "Cheer up; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). So, we're not trying to overcome the world; we already did in Christ Jesus and keep it in that position with our faith. The Bible says our faith is the victory that triumphs over the world: *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith"* (1 John 5:4).



Now you can understand why He tells us to fight the good fight of faith. Faith is the victory, so always see with the eyes of faith. See the end from the beginning and stay focused on the Word, knowing that no matter what happens, your victory is guaranteed. It's called the good fight of faith because you always win.

Here are three important things to note as you fight the good fight of faith: refuse to consider sensory perceptions and focus on the Word. Secondly, keep renewing your mind with the Word, and let it be your motivation (Romans 12:2; James 1:25). Then, meditate on the Word to deepen its impact in your life (Joshua 1:8). Hallelujah!

PRAYER

Dear Father, I thank you for the victory you've given me in Jesus Christ. I stand firm in the authority you've given me, knowing that no weapon formed against me shall prosper. Thank you for the divine life in me, working in every fibre of my being. I'm victorious in every situation, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

1 John 4:4; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4; Ephesians 6:10-11

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Corinthians 2:5-3:1-6 & Proverbs 14-15

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Thessalonians 4:9-18 & Jeremiah 22



THURSDAY 5

YOU GIVE LIGHT TO THE WORLD

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world (John 9:5).

On a certain day as Jesus passed by, he saw a man who was blind from birth. His disciples, who were with Him, asked if the man's blindness was a result of his sin or his parents' sins. But Jesus replied that it had nothing to do with either the man's or his parent's sin (John 9:3). But then He made a remarkable statement in the fifth verse: "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

After saying this, Jesus did something mind-blowing: He spat on the ground, made clay with the spittle, and rubbed it into the man's eyes. Historians tell us the man wasn't just blind; he had no eyeballs but empty sockets. Jesus performed a miracle by turning clay into eyes, having said, **"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."** Do you know what this means?

Every time Jesus used that expression, "I AM", He was reiterating what God said to Moses when he asked, "What is your name?" and God said, "I AM." God was saying to Moses, "I am whatever you need me to be. If you need deliverance, I am your deliverance. If you need salvation, I am your salvation. If you need healing, I am your healing. What is it you need? I AM."

So, when Jesus said, "I AM ...," He was saying the

same thing God said: "I am what you need." He saw a man who didn't have eyes and said, "I am the light of the world." Remember what the Bible says, *"The light of the body is the eye..."* (Matthew 6:22, Luke 11:34). So, Jesus was saying, "I am the eyes of the world. Without me, the world can't see." Right away, He proved it and gave the man eyes.

Now, here's the most intriguing part: the same Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world..." (Matthew 5:14). That means, just like Him, you give "eyes"—sight—to the world! Without you, the world can't see. You give direction, clarity, and vision to the world. Even now, boldly declare, "I am the light of the world!" It means that when you go out and meet someone who is down, you can lift such a person up. Someone can have his eyes restored just because you showed up; someone who was sick can get healed. Hallelujah!

PRAYER

Dear Father, you've made me a light in this world; equipped and empowered to bring hope, healing, and deliverance to those around me. Your light in me dispels darkness. Thank you for making me an oasis of love and a haven of peace, joy, hope and faith in a troubled world; what a privilege! Thank you Father, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

Matthew 5:14-16; Ephesians 5:8; Philippians 2:15

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Corinthians 3:7-4:1-18 & Proverbs 16-17

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 & Jeremiah 23



FRIDAY 6

THE GLORY IN SUBMISSION



And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified (John 12:23).

Sometimes, when we tell people the Lord has glorified them, they expect to see something outwardly, like a ray of light glowing from their skin. But that's not what the Bible teaches. The glory of God isn't necessarily felt or perceived by the senses. It's something you recognize with your spirit.

Look at Jesus. The Bible tells us in John 12 of some Greeks who sought an audience with Him. When He was told that they had come to see Him, He knew this was a sign: It was time for the salvation of the Gentiles. This also signified that He was about to die. Jesus responded by saying, "...The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit" (John 12:23-24).

When Jesus said, "The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified," the Bible didn't record that any spectacular event transpired. The heavens didn't open up, and there was no earthquake. In the next chapter, while Jesus was sitting with His disciples at passover, Judas got up after supper and went away hurriedly. Jesus then said, *"...Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him"* (John 13:31).

The Bible didn't say lights started beaming everywhere because He was glorified. No. The glory was in His submission. Here's what the Master did: He submitted Himself totally to the will of the Father and declared, "Now is the Son of man glorified." The submission of one's life to the Spirit is where the glory is.

The more yielded you are to Him, the more your glory increases. The less yielded you are, the less of God's glory is manifested in your life. So, what would you rather do? Be yielded to Him! Do the Word, walking in the Spirit, and you'll experience greater manifestations of His glory in your life. Hallelujah!

PRAYER

Dear Father, I thank you for your glory in my life. Thank you for the privilege and blessing to experience everincreasing glory as I do your Word and carry out every instruction of the Spirit that I receive, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

John 12:23-24 NIV; John 13:31; John 17:22; Philippians 2:8-9

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Corinthians 5:1-6:1-2 & Proverbs 18-19

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 & Jeremiah 24



THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS THE WORLD



And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8).

The Lord Jesus made the statement above in one of the last meetings He had with His disciples before He was crucified. During the long teaching, which started in the 13th chapter, He told them He was going away and the disciples were puzzled. Then, He said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive..." (John 14:16-17).

In subsequent verses, He told them who the Comforter is: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost..." (John 14:26). This was the same person He was referring to in chapter 16 when He said, "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8). What did He mean by this statement?

The word "reprove" is translated from the Greek word "elegcho", which means "to convict" or "to convince." This is the work of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus preached, many didn't believe. Even though certain individuals believed and received miracles, the people generally didn't believe.

The Bible says, **"But though he had done so many** *miracles before them, yet they believed not on him"* (John 12:37). They weren't convicted. Why? Because the Holy Spirit hadn't been poured out on the people. But Jesus said when the Holy Spirit comes, He will convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

Today, men can be convicted in their hearts convinced—when they hear the Word of God because the Holy Spirit has been poured out. The reason you're convinced that Jesus is the Son of God even though you haven't seen Him is because the Holy Spirit brought that revelation to your Spirit. It wasn't a man that convinced you; the Holy Spirit did that in your heart. You believe because He helped you to believe.

That's why when you go out to win souls, it's important to do so by the power of the Holy Spirit. He's the one who convicts the people; He convinces those listening to you and makes them believe. Glory to God!

PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for the ministry of the Holy Spirit around the world today as your children proclaim the Gospel everywhere; our listeners are convinced and converted. There's a great harvest of souls into the Kingdom today, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

John 14:16-17; John 14:26; John 16:8 AMPC

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Corinthians 6:3-7:1 & Proverbs 20-21

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 & Jeremiah 25

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HE KNOWS THE TRUTH ABOUT EVERYTHING



Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come (John 16:13).

Oftentimes, when people get sick, many aren't aware of the reason for their trouble. They try all kinds of drugs, some of which even cause more problems than they realize. When nothing changes, they begin to wonder, "Why am I going through these difficulties? Why am I feeling so sick? Why is this happening to me?"

Well, the Holy Spirit was sent to guide you into all truth, including the truth about your health. He can help you know the problem and also the solution. Did you know the Holy Spirit is a healer? Yes, He is. The Bible says, "if He lives in you, He will vitalize your physical body." It doesn't matter that you've been diagnosed with some disease; now that He lives in you, there's the guarantee for a change. Glory to God!

Maybe you're a student or you're carrying out research for a project; the Holy Spirit is the Teacher inside you. You need to listen to Him because He knows everything. He's the Spirit of wisdom, knowledge and understanding. He can fill you with the knowledge of God's will, with all wisdom and spiritual understanding concerning anything. Just ask Him.

The Holy Spirit has come to help you in all aspects of life, whether in business, in family, or in your finances. He's come to help you gain the mastery, to make you a wonder. Your greatest asset while you're here in this world is the Holy Spirit. He'll teach you the Word of God and remind you of things you've learned.

The Holy Spirit guides you in prayer and shows you the future. So, with Him, you can never lose or fail. Encourage His work and ministry in your life by acknowledging that He's in you and with you always. You can speak with Him more than you do anyone else. Thank Him for being your ever-present teacher, helper and guide.

PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for the ministry of the Holy Spirit in my life. I'm always attentive to His guidance, as He leads me in victory in every aspect of my life: in my finances, health, job, family, relationships, and ministry. I walk in wisdom and discernment, always knowing the steps to take as I fulfil my destiny in Christ, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

John 16:13 AMPC; John 14:26; Romans 8:26-27 AMPC

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Corinthians 7:2-16 & Proverbs 22-23

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Thessalonians 2:1-10 & Jeremiah 26



MONDAY 9

THE COUNSELLOR IN YOU



Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety (Proverbs 11:14).

The term "multitude of counsellors" is an interesting one that's misunderstood by many to mean a multiplicity of counsellors. Even some Bible versions translate it this way. The NIV version, for instance, says, *"For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers."* It's actually not about a multiplicity of counsellors; the Hebrew word translated "multitude" also means "greatness", while the word translated counsellors is translated 'counsel' many more times in the 'Authorized version.'

Counsellors provide information. A "multitude of counsellors" therefore means that you're getting sufficient or accurate information to help you decide an appropriate course of action.

Back in those days when this verse was written, they didn't have access to as much information as we have today. They had what they called the "king's advisors." He depended on them for wise counsel. They were the "wise" men: the king's counsellors, such as Ahitophel in the days of king David; his counsel was said to be as though one had heard from God (2 Samuel 16:23).

But today, we have lots of materials that we can study

to get sufficient information on a subject that can help us make an informed decision. So, it's about quality of information, not about the number of people you're calling to counsel you.

However, you have the most dependable Counsellor who can give you the most accurate information you require, and that's the Holy Spirit. The Psalmist said, *"I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons"* (Psalm 16:7). The Holy Spirit is the one who instructs you in your inward man. He gives you instructions by which He guides your life. Some of these may not even be expressly dealt with in the Scriptures.

For example, you could require information concerning travelling or making some purchases. The Counsellor in you—the Holy Spirit—can provide you with necessary information to enable you make the right decisions.

PRAYER

Dear Father, I thank you for the Holy Spirit, my divine Counsellor, who lives in me, granting me insight into mysteries and secrets, and sufficient information to make wise and informed decisions and choices. I'm triumphant always and in every place because I'm guided and instructed by the Spirit in all my affairs, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

John 14:26; John 16:13; John 14:16 AMPC

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Corinthians 8-9 & Proverbs 24-26

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Thessalonians 2:11-17 & Jeremiah 27



TUESDAY 10

DON'T SEEK TO PLEASE GODLESS MEN



Be not envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them (Proverbs 24:1 RSV).

Sometimes, you find Christians who envy godless individuals and wish to be in their company. Some get really excited to identify with some "big names." If, for some reason, they get invited to be in the company of certain well-known people, they consider it a big deal. But that's not how God sees it. He doesn't want you to envy Godless men and women.

Remember what He said in Psalm 1:1, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." You're blessed for not hanging out with the wicked who despise the way of the Lord and the life of the Kingdom. Don't envy or seek to please them. Even if they're rich and influential, don't be enticed by their wealth.

I came across our opening verse when I was still very young and it gave me good instruction about human relationships: what's good for me and what's not good for me. So, right from a very young age, I've never been inspired by people who weren't living for Christ, irrespective of who they were or what they had. The next verse to our opening scripture shows why you shouldn't envy them or enjoy being in their company: *"For they spend their days plotting violence and cheating"* (Proverbs 24:2 TLB). They have a nature of darkness, but you are a child of light; in fact, you're light (Ephesians 5:8). Do you see why you should never seek to please them?

The only person you should want to please is the Lord Jesus. That's important because those who truly love Jesus Christ will be pleased with the things you do. But if those who don't love Jesus are pleased with the things you do, then there's a problem and you should be concerned. In Galatians 1:10 CEV, Paul said, *"I am not trying to please people. I want to please God. Do you think I am trying to please people? If I were doing that, I would not be a servant of Christ."*

CONFESSION

I don't envy Godless men or desire to be in their company. I walk as a child of light, for I am light in the Lord. My delight is in pleasing the Lord Jesus, and I seek to honour Him always. I'm guided by the Spirit of God who lives in me and guides me in the path of righteousness, to produce fruits and works of righteousness, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

Proverbs 24:1; Ephesians 5:8; Galatians 1:10

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Corinthians 10:1-18 & Proverbs 27-28

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Thessalonians 3:1-10 & Jeremiah 28



WEDNESDAY 11

GOD'S GRAND PLAN FOR REDEMPTION



For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous (Romans 5:19).

When Adam was created, he existed in innocence, knowing only good because everything God created was good (Genesis 1:31). God entrusted Adam with authority over His creation, effectively making him the steward of this world. Along with this authority, God provided Adam with specific instructions, of which notably, was to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which was in the midst of the garden.

God clearly warned Adam of the consequences of eating of the tree: "...for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Adam, nonetheless, disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden tree. This act of disobedience constituted treason against God, and as a result, Adam forfeited his authority to Satan, who then became the god of this world.

But God, in His infinite mercy and wisdom, had a plan for redemption. He sent another Adam—the second

and last Adam—Jesus Christ: "... The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven" (1 Corinthians 15:45 & 47). Recall what we read in our opening scripture; the Lord Jesus Christ, through His perfect obedience and sacrificial death on the cross, restored the broken relationship between God and humanity.

Jesus' obedience countered Adam's disobedience, offering justification and eternal life to all who believe in Him. Therefore, through Jesus Christ, God's plan for redemption and righteousness was fulfilled. No wonder He declared in John 14:6, "I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life: no man comes to the Father, but by me." He is the eternal salvation. Hallelujah!

PRAYER

Dear Father, I'm eternally grateful for the redemption you've provided through the obedience of Jesus Christ. Thank you for what His vicarious sacrifice and His glorious resurrection have ushered us into. I'm the expression of your grace, love, and righteousness, living out the incorruptible, imperishable, impregnable life in Christ. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 5:12-17; Hebrews 5:8-9

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Corinthians 11:1-15 & Proverbs 29-31

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Thessalonians 3:11-18 & Jeremiah 29



THURSDAY 12

THE MISSION CONTINUES



The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it (Psalm 68:11).

With so many English Bible versions available today, it's easy for many to erroneously believe that the Bible was originally given in English language. However, it was the translators who performed this crucial work, and the Holy Spirit continues to guide them even today to make the Bible and other Christian materials accessible to many more in their native languages.

Think about the fact that the sacred writings of the Scriptures were written in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. But it took dedicated individuals who loved the Lord and desired to spread His message to the entire world to make it available in various languages as we have today.

This mission continues through the work of modernday missionaries and evangelists who travel to distant lands, much like those early translators. They go into remote and often challenging environments to find those who have not yet heard the Gospel, and they bring it to them in the language they best understand. The Lord Jesus instructed us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). He sent us to find the lost, to seek them out in the byways and highways.



This directive is clear in the Scriptures, and it drives the mission of Christians today. We carry on the vision that He gave us. This vision is about actively reaching out to those who need to hear the message of salvation, and this involves going beyond our comfort zones, reaching out to speakers of all languages, thus ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel.

The work is far from over, and the vision of reaching every person with the Gospel remains as vital as ever. That's why we're grateful to the Lord to have those who are working with us in various nations to make it possible for this devotional to become accessible in all known languages and dialects of the world, and as a result, reaching the ends of the earth before the Lord's return.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." You too can be a part of this end-time global workforce by visiting: <u>https://tniglobal.org/about/join-us</u>

PRAYER

Dear Father, I pray for translators, missionaries, and evangelists of the message of the Gospel all over the world, that they continue to be effective witnesses for Christ, making your Word known without hindrance, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Romans 10:14-15

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Corinthians 11:16-33 & Ecclesiastes 1-2

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Timothy 1:1-7 & Jeremiah 30



FRIDAY 13

HIS FOCUS IS HUMAN SOULS



For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost (Matthew 18:11).

The most important thing to God is human souls. It's the reason Jesus came and gave His life. The Bible says, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). He didn't come for the redemption of the mountains, hills and beautiful vegetation of the world. These creations, while majestic and valuable to God, were not the focus of His sacrificial mission. He came to save human beings men, women, boys and girls!

His life, death, and resurrection were all centred on the salvation of mankind. This act of love underscores the immense value God places on each person. We must have that in our hearts and live always with the consciousness that every human being is important to God.

If you live with this understanding, it'll shape your interactions, decisions, and priorities. It'll drive you to live purposefully, knowing that according to the Scriptures, there's a definite number of souls that must be won to the Lord before the Rapture of the Church. Therefore,

evangelism becomes your heartbeat and lifestyle.

Remain passionate and fervent in sharing the Gospel with others. Put your time, energy and resources into it. Recognize the intrinsic value of every soul and be determined to see them fulfil God's destiny for them. Pray earnestly for the salvation of souls around the world.

Remember, the Bible says, "God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). So, in addition to fervently and radically preaching the Gospel, intercede for those who haven't yet known the Lord that the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ will shine unto them for their salvation, prevailing over darkness, idolatry and deception. Hallelujah!

PRAYER

Dear Father, as your children around the world go forth preaching the Gospel today, men's hearts are open to receive the message for their salvation; they're delivered from Satan's dominion into God's Kingdom. I declare that in every nation in the earth, every resistance to the Gospel is broken, and the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ shines brightly into the hearts of men, women, boys and girls for a great harvest of souls into the Kingdom, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

John 3:16-17; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Timothy 2:1-4

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Corinthians 12:1-21 & Ecclesiastes 3-5

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Timothy 1:8-14 & Jeremiah 31



SATURDAY 14

UNDERSTANDING HELPS YOU APPLY THE WORD CORRECTLY



O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart (Proverbs 8:5).

Understanding God's Word is crucial to applying it effectively in our lives. The Bible says, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7). The Lord Jesus Himself emphasized the significance of understanding in Matthew 13:3-8 when He told the parable of the sower.

In His illustration, He explained that as the sower went forth to sow his seeds, they fell into different grounds. Some fell by the wayside and the birds of the air came and picked them up, and they had no chance to grow. The Lord Jesus however highlighted the problem of this group of people to be their lack of understanding of the Word they heard: "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side" (Matthew 13:19).

The practical application of God's Word hinges on your understanding of it. You can't put to work God's Word that you don't understand. Without understanding, it becomes challenging to implement biblical principles and teachings effectively in your daily life.

It's one of the reasons we encourage people to study this devotional, Rhapsody of Realities, every day. It serves as a powerful tool for enhancing your understanding of God's Word. In it, we present biblical truths in simple and clear communication, making it easier for readers to not only comprehend but also apply God's truths in practical ways. By breaking down scriptural thoughts into understandable terms, Rhapsody of Realities equips you to live out your faith confidently and purposefully each day.

2 Timothy 2:15 says, "Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth" (AMPC). Prioritize understanding God's Word so that you may confidently and faithfully apply it in your life, knowing that through understanding, you can fully embrace and act upon the truths of Scripture.

PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for the wisdom and understanding you grant me through your Word. Thank you for the Holy Spirit who grants me deep insight into the truths and mysteries of the Kingdom. Thank you for granting me a discerning heart to comprehend and rightly apply the principles of the Kingdom in my daily life, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

Psalm 119:130; James 1:22-25; 2 Timothy 2:15; Proverbs 4:7

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Corinthians 13:1-14 & Ecclesiastes 6-8

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Timothy 1:15-20 & Jeremiah 32

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SUNDAY 15

DON'T "CHICKEN" OUT



...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? (Luke 18:8).

n today's world, people tend to abandon their commitments easily. They get tired of their job and leave; they get tired of their marriage and walk out. They get tired of their children and distance themselves. They get tired of anything and just check out. This isn't the faithlifestyle we've been called to live; it indicates a problem.

Faith requires stability, doggedness, staying power and even patience. Faith never gives up. What such folks may not realize is that they're giving Satan the opportunity to hinder them from fulfilling the will and purpose of God for their lives. He disrupts their jobs, tries to ruin their business or destabilize their relationships, and they just give up. No; don't allow it. Resist the devil and he'll flee from you (James 4:7).

Faith isn't just for getting what you want from God; faith is for living for God and establishing His righteousness in the earth, irrespective and independent of circumstances. So, being tired of everything and "checking out" is not an 3

option for the child of God.

You can't just decide to abandon your ministry, job, business, or academics because you're facing challenges. Put your faith to work; become earnest and importunate in prayer and intercession; don't chicken out. The Bible says those who quit in the day of trouble are of a poor specimen (Proverbs 24:10).

The mind plays a crucial role in this process. It is often attacked by Satan with doubts and negative thoughts. You must actively reject those thoughts that do not align with God's truth and instead, let your eyes look straight on. Set your heart on the right course, on what God has said concerning you. Don't deviate from the vision; focus on His Word. Set your affections on Christ and His Word, and your faith will always prevail.

CONFESSION

My faith is strong and never wavers because it's founded on God's Word. I don't give room to doubt and fear. My thoughts, words and actions are in sync with God's eternal Word, bringing glory to Him, irrespective of circumstances, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

Matthew 17:20; Hebrews 11:1; James 1:6

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Galatians 1:1-24 & Ecclesiastes 9-12

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Timothy 2:1-15 & Jeremiah 33

39



MONDAY 16

TALK FROM GOD



But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).

n the New Testament, "Rhema" (Greek), translated "word," is not applied to God talking but to man talking from God. It's always about the Word that God gave to you to speak. It's that inspired Word of God uttered by you.

I began to practice this very early as a Christian; I knew that for any situation, I needed to talk from God. Whatever God says about the situation will not change the situation in the earth unless I speak. So, when you face challenges, the first thing is to be in sync with the Holy Spirit. This alignment allows you to speak exactly the words needed at that moment to effect a change.

As you pray in tongues, tune in with your spirit and have your spiritual antennae raised to receive divine insight. Maintain this posture until you receive the exact word needed for the situation, and the moment you do, speak it forth with confidence, knowing it's God talking through you. The Word of God in your mouth is God talking.

Remember what God said to Moses when He

appointed Aaron to assist him: "Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God" (Exodus 4:15-16 NKJV). The one who receives the Word will be as God because he has the Word. And the one who speaks it forth will be as the prophet.

But imagine when both roles are embodied in one person! That was God's original plan for Moses—to both receive and proclaim His Word—to talk from God. Practice this and use it to overcome every challenge, subdue adversaries and adversities, and live triumphantly every day.

PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for giving me a "now" word in every situation by which I triumph gloriously each day. As I pray in tongues, I receive divine insights; empowered to speak your Word with boldness and confidence, knowing it carries the power to alter circumstances and change situations to align with your perfect will, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

Romans 10:8; Ephesians 6:17; Isaiah 55:11; Hebrews 4:12

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Galatians 2:1-21 & Songs of Solomon 1-2

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Timothy 3:1-7 & Jeremiah 34

41



TUESDAY 17

THE "LALIA" OF CHRIST



Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word (John 8:43).

Two words used in our opening verse may seem synonymous, but they have striking differences. They're "speech" (Greek: "Lalia") and "word" (Greek: "Logos"). "Logos" is the general term for "Word." The Bible says, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* (John 1:1).

"Logos" encompasses speech, idea, thought, and message; it is the substance of a message. John 1:14 tells us that the Word or "Logos" of God became flesh, and that's Jesus Christ. All of God's thoughts, ideas, and opinions, are encapsulated in Him.

"Lalia," on the other hand, describes a mode of speech; it's the way you say what you say. This can be by gesticulations, semasiological communication, dialects or pronunciations. Jesus said to the pharisees and the Jews as they questioned His words, *"Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word"* (John 8:43). They didn't understand His communication ("Lalia") because they couldn't comprehend His message ("Logos").

An example is found in John 11:11-14 when He said to His disciples, *"...Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I*

go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead." A similar thing happened when Jesus went to the house of Jairus, whose little daughter had just died. The Bible says, "And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead" (Luke 8:52-53).

The people didn't understand His "Lalia" because they couldn't comprehend His message. If only they knew that His message stated who He was: *"...I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live"* (John 11:25). As a child of God, it's important for you to give attention to the ministry of the Word and the Holy Spirit in the house of God. That's how you're cultured, trained, and taught the message of Christ. That message gives you a language—the "Lalia" of Christ.

PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for your Word that cultures my spirit. As I grow in the Kingdom-culture of faith, it gives me a language that clearly communicates your truth and also forms in me a mindset of victory, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

James 1:22; Matthew 13:13; John 8:43 NKJV

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Galatians 3:1-14 & Songs of Solomon 3-5

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Timothy 3:8-16 & Jeremiah 35



WEDNESDAY 18

INTERCESSION IS FOR OTHERS



Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25).

ntercession involves standing in the gap between two parties or more. It's about pleading a case on behalf of someone else, often without their awareness of their predicament or their need for help. For instance, when you intercede for someone who isn't born again, they may not be conscious of their spiritual state or their need for salvation.

In such cases, you're presenting reasons to God on their behalf. You're bringing their ignorance and lack of understanding about their spiritual standing before the Lord. Consider how God described the Ninevites to Jonah—they didn't know right from wrong. But God sent Jonah to them to preach and get them to repent from their wickedness.

Remarkably, the Ninevites, from the king to the common people, took Jonah's message to heart and repented sincerely, fasting and wearing sackcloth as a sign of mourning and penitence. Their collective repentance moved God. In Jonah 4:11 (NIV), after sparing Nineveh, God explained His compassion to Jonah: "And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which

there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

Similarly, when we pray for sinners, we're telling God that they don't understand their situation and their need for salvation. We acknowledge that they deserve God's judgment due to sin, but we plead our case on Jesus' sacrifice for them. We're not persuading God to save them because salvation is already available through Jesus. Instead, we're asking that the Lord will arrange circumstances that will lead them to accept this salvation.

This type of intercession extends beyond the lost to those who, even though are already Christians, may still be ignorant or struggling with their faith. It's about selflessly praying for others; advocating for them in prayer before God, whether they are aware of their need or not.

PRAYER

Dear Father, I pray for those in my world who are yet to receive salvation, that their eyes and hearts be open to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I pray that you'll orchestrate circumstances, situations, materials, and people that'll cause the radiant light of your glorious Gospel to shine brightly in their hearts, dispelling darkness, and ushering them into the glorious liberty of the sons of God, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

1 Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 8:26-27 NIV; Colossians 4:3 NIV

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Galatians 3:15-25 & Songs of Solomon 6-8

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Timothy 4:1-8 & Jeremiah 36



THURSDAY 19

OUR LANGUAGE IS DIFFERENT



We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak (2 Corinthians 4:13).

When the Apostle Paul, in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, addressed the Christians at Corinth as being carnal, it was mostly because of their language. They talked like mere men and as a result, lived below their call. As a child of God, your communication must reflect the provisions of the Gospel and synchronize with the tenets and culture of our heavenly kingdom.

The carnal or ordinary man or woman speaks according to their senses. They speak fear and unbelief. But our language is different; we speak faith; we believe, and therefore we speak. What do we believe? We believe the Word and that's what we speak. Glory to God! The Word of God is truth, and truth is reality. Therefore, every time you utter the Word concerning any situation, you're speaking the reality about that situation.

For example, if you felt a headache, or a pain in your joints or any part of your body; don't say, "I have a headache, or I have arthritis." Instead, rebuke it and say, "I have the life of God in me; therefore, I'm forever healthy and strong. No sickness can thrive in my body, because my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit." When you say that, you're speaking truth; you're affirming what you have in Christ. Sickness, disease, infirmities, poverty, weakness and death aren't part of what God has given unto you; so never voice them. 1 Corinthians 2:12-13: "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

We have received the Holy Spirit to help us know and understand what God has freely given to us; these are the same things you're supposed to speak. So, what has God given you? He's given you eternal life (1 John 5:11-12); He's given you wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and riddance (1 Corinthians 1:30). He's given you ALL things that you require for life and for godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

These and more are the things you should speak. Every so often, boldly affirm who you are, what you have and what you can do in Christ. Speak the language of faith and power. Hallelujah!

CONFESSION

The Holy Spirit has trained my tongue to speak the language of the Kingdom. I speak words of faith, authority and power only; words that are consistent with the provisions of Christ in His Gospel and with the tenets and culture of our heavenly Kingdom. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Romans 8:6; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13 NKJV

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Galatians 3:26-4:1-20 & Isaiah 1-2

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Timothy 4:9-16 & Jeremiah 37



FRIDAY 20

PERFECT AND FULL-GROWN



Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you (Philippians 3:15).

Some people believe that spiritual maturity is only attainable when we get to heaven, and that on earth, we can only keep growing. But that's not true. God's Word encourages Christians to strive for maturity and full growth in their spiritual journey. In our opening verse, Paul uses the Greek word "teleos" to describe those who are spiritually mature and full-grown.

The goal is for every Christian to attain this level of spiritual maturity. Ephesians 4:11-12 emphasises this truth as Paul highlights the five-fold ministry offices or gifts within the Church and their distinct purposes. It says, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

The ensuing verse 13 tells us the purpose for all that we read in verses 11-12; it's for us all to come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, perfect and full-grown: *"…until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and*

accurate] knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him" (Ephesians 4:13 AMPC).

This is not in heaven but in the earth! He expects us to grow to the full measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ here on earth. It is about embodying Christ's fullness in every aspect of life, reflecting His glory through your words, actions, and character. Make this your vision of growth.

Make up your mind that this would be your experience. Be determined to walk in this light—to walk in the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Christ in you is the hope of glory, in reality, and in totality. Praise God!

PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for the assurance that spiritual maturity is attainable now. Through your Word, I'm being raised by the Spirit to be perfect and full-grown, walking in the fullness of your Spirit. Thank you for the leadership ministry gifts you have established in the Church so that we may be built up, edified, strengthened and nurtured unto maturity, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

Hebrews 5:12-14; James 1:4; Colossians 1:28; Ephesians 4:11-13

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Galatians 4:21-5:1-15 & Isaiah 3-5

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Timothy 5:1-10 & Jeremiah 38



SATURDAY 21

ANGER SERVES NO GOOD PURPOSE



For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God (James 1:20).

The wrath of man does not achieve, allow, produce, or exercise God's righteousness. Anger is often linked with pride. When you see someone in anger over what others said or did to them, you're seeing pride in display. If anger could hinder Moses, whom the Bible described as the meekest man on earth, from entering the Promised Land, then it's something you must guard against.

Numbers 20:2-13 gives an account of how Moses allowed anger to overshadow his obedience. The consequences were severe. God reproved Moses for failing to sanctify Him before the people: "And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them" (Numbers 20:12).

Moses' anger thwarted his lifelong vision. He later glimpsed the Promised Land from afar but couldn't go in with Israel as he had hoped (Deuteronomy 34:1-4). Let anger find no place within you. No one should cower because of your wrath. No matter what happens, restrain yourself from anger.

Ecclesiastes 7:9 says, "Be not hasty in thy spirit

to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools." Every so often, declare, "There's no anger in me; the love and compassion of Christ rules my heart." "But Pastor Chris, the Bible acknowledges that we could be angry but not sin in Ephesians 4:26." Yes, but it cautions against allowing anger to harden your heart.

Why harbour anger? It serves no good purpose. Instead, you can have holy anger. Holy anger causes you to respond in dealing with Satan and his evil works in the earth and in the lives of people. Holy anger makes you deliver people from trouble. When you see the work of Satan in someone's life and you say, "No, I'm not going to let this happen," and you deliver that soul, that's holy anger; it causes you to demonstrate your faith and the love of God.

Unlike human anger, which instils fear and intimidates, holy anger exalts the Lord and advances His Kingdom. So, let your life reflect the love of Christ. Don't allow anger to mar your witness or hinder God's work through you.

PRAYER

Dear Father, I thank you for your Word that guides me to serve you joyfully and spread your love and righteousness everywhere. Thank you for your grace at work in me to please you in all things and bring glory to your Name, as I manifest the character of peace and self-control, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

Proverbs 16:32; Ecclesiastes 7:9; Colossians 3:8

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Galatians 5:16-26 & Isaiah 6-8

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Timothy 5:11-18 & Jeremiah 39

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SUNDAY 22

FAITH CAN BE "SEEN"



Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).

There's something profound about faith that needs to be clearly understood. Faith can be "seen," howbeit, not with the optical eyes; it's seen in the spirit. The definition of faith as read in Hebrews 11:1 is an explanation as God, by the Spirit, presents it to man. In the spirit, it's not put in those words because faith is of the spirit and can be "seen" in the spirit.

Take for example in Mark chapter two when Jesus was in a house teaching and the Bible says the place became packed with people that there was no space left, not even near the door. Attempting to press through that crowd were four men, carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. But due to the large crowd, they couldn't get through the door to where Jesus was and so decided to go up to the roof, dug through it, and lowered the paralyzed man down on his mat, right in front of Jesus. The Bible says, **"When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee"** (Mark 2:5).

Jesus "saw" their faith; how? In their action! Paul had

a similar experience in Lystra with a certain man who was crippled from birth and had never walked. The Bible says, "The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked" (Acts 14:9-10).

Notice the Word "perceiving"; it actually means "seeing"; Paul "saw" the man's faith in the way he listened and received the Word. The Complete Jewish Bible actually says, Paul, "...looking at him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, "Stand up on your feet!" He jumped up and began to walk" (Acts 14:9-10 CJB).

Faith is seen in your words, actions, and even your disposition. Faith is not passive or docile; you prove your faith by your actions. That's why the Bible says, *"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone"* (James 2:17). Faith isn't a response of the brain or of the mind; it's the response of your spirit to God's Word. Hallelujah!

PRAYER

Dear Father, I anchor my faith firmly on your Word, regardless of the circumstances or reports around me. I see beyond the natural and perceive your will and purposes through the eyes of faith, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

Romans 10:17; James 2:17-18; Hebrews 11:6; Acts 14:8-10 AMPC

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Galatians 6:1-18 & Isaiah 9-10

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Timothy 5:19-25 & Jeremiah 40

55



MONDAY 23

THE KINGDOM AND HIS WILL



Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10).

When the Lord Jesus said, "Thy kingdom come...," this was because the world was being dominated by another kingdom at the time. This was before His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension to heaven. It was before the advent of the new creation.

But after His resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, which initiated the new creation, we no longer pray, "Thy kingdom come," because Jesus came to fulfil this prayer. We have now received the kingdom through salvation in Christ Jesus: *"Therefore, since we have received an unshakeable Kingdom, let us have grace, through which we may offer service that will please God, with reverence and fear"* (Hebrews 12:28 CJB).

Also, when He said, "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven," it indicates that God's will was not being done on earth at that time, but today, the perfection of God's will is through the Church. No wonder Paul tells us, "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God" (Ephesians 3:10).

This means we are tasked with establishing God's will in the earth; we actively carry out His will, implementing and manifesting it in our daily lives and actions. Just like Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you," He has given us that mandate; it is now your responsibility to enforce and establish His will in the earth and in the lives of men.

This is the reason we've remained on earth after we were born again; if the sole purpose of salvation was going to heaven, we would have been taken there immediately upon being born again. However, we are left here to fulfil a purpose. We carry the Kingdom within us. Wherever we go, the Kingdom goes with us.

2 Corinthians 5:20 says, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." As ambassadors for Christ, we represent our heavenly Kingdom; we're legal representatives of God's Kingdom. This consciousness empowers you to fulfil your divine mission, manifesting God's will and spreading the message of the Kingdom throughout the world.

PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for the privilege of being an ambassador of the Kingdom and establishing your will in the earth. I spread and manifest the glories, beauties, and excellencies of the Kingdom, proclaiming your truth so those who are yet to receive salvation will be saved and catapulted from darkness into the glorious liberty of the sons of God, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

Colossians 1:12-13; 1 Peter 2:9; Romans 12:1-2

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Ephesians 1:1-14 & Isaiah 11-12

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Timothy 6:1-16 & Jeremiah 41



TUESDAY 24

DIVINE WORSHIP



For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son (Romans 1:9).

What a remarkable statement Paul made in the verse above. It's amazing to serve God, not with the flesh, but with your spirit. This is true divine worship, where all you do—your whole life—is a life of worship. That's why God's people everywhere must be taught and trained to respond to Him with their spirits because faith is the response of the human spirit to the Word of God.

In the New Testament, there're several words translated into English as "worship." One of them is 'latreuo,' which means to serve God as seen in Romans 1:9. Another word that's more familiar to many is 'proskuneo,' which is often translated as worship and refers to an act of worship.

For example, in Matthew 4 during the temptation of Jesus, when the devil offered Him the kingdoms of the world, Jesus responded, "...Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship (proskuneo) the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:10). Here, worship is an act—a physical expression like lifting hands, singing, bowing, or prostrating oneself.

Then there's another one, which is a state of mind, described by the word 'sebomai.' This denotes a religious disposition or mindset, where one might engage in certain religious practices out of tradition or reverence without

necessarily knowing or loving God deeply.

This was the case with the woman named Lydia in Thyatira, described in the Bible as one who worshipped God—a term indicating religious reverence rather than an actual relationship. Jesus addressed such practices, saying, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:8). But she gave heed to Paul's message and was converted (Acts 16:14).

When hearts are distant from God, worship becomes vain, as it substitutes doctrines of men for true spiritual connection. But true worship, however, involves serving God with your spirit—an intimate, heartfelt communion with Him—aligning your spirit with His in genuine devotion. Hallelujah!

PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for revealing to me the essence of true worship. I serve you with my spirit, to live in intimate communion with you every day. My life, resources, thoughts, words and actions are a continual offering of worship, reflecting your glory and purpose. I'm empowered by your Spirit to align my heart with your Word for my worship to be acceptable and pleasing to you as a sweet-smelling fragrance, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

John 4:22-24 NKJV; Philippians 3:3; Mark 7:6-8

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Ephesians 1:15-2:1-10 & Isaiah 13-14

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

1 Timothy 6:17-21 & Jeremiah 42

59



WORSHIP—A CALL TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT



For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh (Philippians 3:3).

As referenced in our previous study, true worship is of the spirit; a spirit-to-Spirit fellowship or communion. True worship has nothing to do with how you feel or how melodious a song might sound. And that's where some have missed it. An entire service or worship segment could go by without some Christians truly responding to God with their spirits. They may sing along and go through the motions of worship, but their minds are distracted, and their spirits aren't engaged.

This disconnect happens because they haven't learned how to discipline their spirits to respond to Him with their spirits. For example, singing to God is more than just singing songs or mouthing words with our lips. It's about engaging your heart and spirit in worship. Similarly, dancing in the flesh will never help. True worship goes beyond external gestures—it involves the inward attitude and posture of our hearts.

Whenever you're worshipping the Lord, whether on your own or with others in church, the first thing is to quickly withdraw your thoughts from distractions. Actively and immediately engage with your spirit, and focus on the Lord, worshipping Him in spirit and truth, and not controlled by the rhythm of the drums and instruments of music.

The Lord Jesus said, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24). So, consciously direct your heart to offer Him genuine praise, adoration, and thanksgiving from the depths of your heart.

Remember, we're called to walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16 says, *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."* Worshipping the Lord with your spirit should be your natural and habitual way of life. Always remember the call to "walk in the Spirit" whenever you worship the Lord; it removes worship from a superficial exercise. Rather, it becomes, for you, the recognition and appreciation of the goodness, blessings, kindness and righteousness of God. It is the thankful confession of His character, love and grace.

PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for the privilege of worshipping you in spirit and in truth. My worship is a profound expression of my love, gratitude, and reverence for you. My heart is filled with sincere adoration and praise to you for your greatness, your love, faithfulness and grace that endures forever, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

John 4:22-24 AMPC; Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16-17

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Ephesians 2:11-22 & Isaiah 15-18

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Timothy 1:1-18 & Jeremiah 43



THURSDAY 26

RESPOND SPIRITUALLY



For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace (Romans 8:6).

God's desire isn't just for us to be spiritual. That's because the forces of darkness are also spiritual; the people in evil cults and those who worship Satan are spiritual. What He wants is for us to be spiritual toward Him. He wants us to have our minds in the direction of His Spirit. Our spirituality, therefore, ought to be within the confines of what His Word describes for us. That's the environment within which He wants us to function—an environment of love.

Take, for example, in your place of work, or maybe even in church, if you were moved from one responsibility to another, which you consider to be a less preferable one, how would you respond to such an action? Don't respond carnally by complaining that you're being victimized; respond spiritually. Think spiritually; and to be spiritually minded, you must walk in love.

Love will help you set your mind on the spiritual implications, the blessings, and spiritual direction of such an action. So, in your life, always look at things from the position of faith, hope and love. These are the three permanent forces of the spirit; they never fail: *"Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and*

the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT).

We also find them in 1 Thessalonians 1:3: "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father." Use these three things to examine your mind and to respond to whatever actions are taken for or towards you.

Never see such actions as against you; otherwise, you're going to have trouble, because to be carnally minded is death. That means things will begin to go down: your happiness, your level of productivity, and every other index with which to measure one's success in life will start going down. Why? Because you brought death in through carnal reasoning. But the Bible says, *"...to be spiritually minded is life and peace"* (Romans 8:6). Always see and think spiritually if you want to enjoy life to the full and experience the peace of God that transcends human understanding.

PRAYER

Dear Father, I thank you for the gift of your Spirit who guides me into all truth. I am spiritually minded, and I respond to every situation with faith, hope, and love. I see every action and situation through the lens of your Word. I bring glory to your Name as I walk, think and respond spiritually in love always, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

Romans 12:2; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 2:14

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Ephesians 3:1-21 & Isaiah 19-22

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Timothy 2:1-10 & Jeremiah 44



FRIDAY 27

A NEW PERSPECTIVE TO PRAYER



Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son (John 14:12-13).

The apostle John detailed Jesus' teachings on prayer in a way that isn't found in the synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark and Luke. He records for us some of the things the Lord Jesus taught with respect to prayer in the New Testament, which would be after His death, burial, resurrection, and glorious ascension to the Father—a new dimension to prayer in a new dispensation.

Jesus said, in John 16:23-24, "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." Here is the new rule for prayer today: in the New Testament, we direct our prayers to the Father in the Name of Jesus; we pray in the Name of Jesus. This era, as described by John, is characterized by the new will or testament, certified and activated by the death of Jesus Christ, as affirmed in the book of Hebrews: **"For** where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth" (Hebrews 9:16-17). This new will is where we live now.

So, whatever you want today, whatever your desires may be, go ahead and ask the Father directly in the Name of Jesus. You don't need angels to pray for you. Some people ask angels to pray for them, but angels will never pray for you because the Name of Jesus was never given to them; it was given to men. You have the authority and direct access to the Father in the Name of Jesus Christ. Therefore, ask and receive, that your joy may be full. This is the power and efficacy of prayer in the New Testament. Praise God!

PRAYER

Dear Father, I thank you for the privilege of direct access to you, and the assurance that whatever I ask in the Name of Jesus is granted me. I walk in the depth of this authority and knowledge today; therefore, my joy is full as I receive answers to prayers, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

1 John 5:14-15; Ephesians 3:12; Hebrews 4:16

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Ephesians 4:1-16 & Isaiah 23-24

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Timothy 2:11-26 & Jeremiah 45

65



SATURDAY 28

HIS WILL FOR ASKING



And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us (1 John 5:14).

Oftentimes, many don't understand the verse we just oread. They think it means that before you ask God for anything, you first must be sure that God is willing to do it; it must be according to His will. But that's not what that verse is saying at all. Rather, what it says is that you ask according to His will for asking. What's His will for asking?

His will for asking is that you ask the Father in the Name of Jesus. This should bolster your faith and confidence to ask the Father anything in the Name of Jesus and receive answers. It's no use praying, "Father, grant my requests if they're in accordance to your will."

First, you need to understand that the will of God is revealed through His Word and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit guides us in His will. Therefore, you'll always have the witness within yourself whether or not you're in the will of God. However, in this verse, the apostle John was saying we should pray according to God's will for prayer itself.

What is His will for prayer? What is God's will for asking? John 16:23 tells us, "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." So, His will for asking is that we pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus!

Can you see that He wasn't dealing with the content of what you're asking for, but rather, how you should ask, how we should pray? He wasn't imposing or introducing new conditions for prayer, like it must align with His will; He said, "Whatever you ask the Father in my Name, he'll give it to you" (John 16:23). No conditions are attached. Hallelujah!

You might ask, "But what if someone asks for something that isn't God's will?" A child of God doesn't ask for something outside of God's will. That's why we have the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. God's Word is God's will expressed. His will is unveiled to us in His Word; so as you live in and by His Word, you'll pray within the ambits of His perfect will.

And remember, the Bible says, **"For all the promises** of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" (2 Corinthians 1:20). Also, He says, "All things are yours" (1 Corinthians 3:21). Anchor your faith on these truths, and your faith will be strong. Your faith wavers when you debate if it's God's will or not to answer your prayers. Therefore, ask according to His will for asking.

PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for the assurance that you hear me always when I pray because I'm inspired and live according to the truth of your Word. Therefore, I'm always in sync with your perfect will. I know that your desire is for me to prosper and be in health even as my soul prospers. My joy is full today, as I receive answers to my prayers, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; James 4:3; Romans 8:26-27 ESV

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Ephesians 4:17-5:1-2 & Isaiah 25-26

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Timothy 3:1-17 & Jeremiah 46

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SUNDAY 29

THE MANIFESTATION OF TRUTH



The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth; For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever (2 John 1:1-2).

f you'd read the entire second epistle of John you'd observe something in the first four verses: the word "truth" is emphasized repeatedly with a total of five mentions. Clearly, there's a significance to this. Then in his third epistle, he continues with the same emphasis on "the truth." Why so much emphasis on "the truth"?

In John 18:37, Jesus told Pilate that He came to bear witness to the truth, and everyone that is of the truth hears His voice. Pilate then asked Him, "What is truth?" John must have really pondered the answer. He must have recalled what Jesus said in the fourteenth chapter, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life..." (John 14:6). He also would have recalled Jesus' prayer to the Father in John 17, when He said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17).

So, John wasn't merely captivated, intrigued or enthused by truth; he embraced it fully. He related and fellowshipped with "the Truth." In 1 John 1:1-2, he talked about seeing and handling the Word of life, and the Word is truth!

So, when Jesus walked the earth, He embodied God's truth. He was the manifestation of truth, the will of the Father unveiled to us. If you ever wanted to know the will of God, look at Jesus. If it's true that Jesus was the manifestation of the truth, what does that make you? Paul, in 2 Corinthians 4:2, said something profound about himself and his companions, declaring that by the manifestation of the truth they commended themselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

What Paul was saying in essence is, "This is our life we're the manifestation of the truth." Yes; you are! You were born to express the will of the Father to the world. This is God's vision and plan for you. Your life and your everyday walk is the manifestation of the truth. This is how He sees you, and this is the life that you must live. When you wake up every day, declare, "I'm the manifestation of the truth. I'm the manifestation of the will of God." Hallelujah!

CONFESSION

I'm the manifestation of the will of the Father; I live each day in alignment with God's truth and my life reflects the glory and realities of the Kingdom of God. I'm born of God's truth and uphold truth in every circumstance and situation, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

John 18:38; John 17:17; John 1:14

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Ephesians 5:3-21 & Isaiah 27-28

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Timothy 4:1-10 & Jeremiah 47



MONDAY 30

BY HIS POWER AND ENABLEMENT



And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you (John 16:23).

The Lord Jesus taught us to pray in His Name and not through His Name. To pray through His Name is to make Him a medium. To pray in His Name is to exercise the power of attorney He's given to us (John 16:23-24). Someone might ask, "What then does the Bible mean in Hebrews 13:15, where it says for us to offer to God a sacrifice of praise through Jesus Christ?"

That's a completely different thing and it doesn't also suggest making Jesus a medium. It says, *"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name"* (Hebrews 13:15 NIV). First, our understanding of the scripture must go beyond semantics. When it comes to offering praise to God "through" Jesus Christ, one option might be, "Oh Lord Jesus, give my praise to the Father for me." Another could be, "Oh Father, I praise you through Jesus Christ." While these phrases may seem viable to the senses, spiritually, they both are ridiculous.

For instance, in Hebrews 9:14, the Bible tells us how Jesus offered Himself to God through the Holy Spirit. This means He offered Himself by the power or the enablement

of the Holy Spirit. He did it through the agency of the Holy Spirit's power. In the same way, when we do whatever we do to the Father through Christ Jesus, it's not about Christ being a medium. It's us functioning in His power and enablement.

For example, when Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," (Philippians 4:13) he meant that it's through Christ's power and enablement that he accomplishes all things. That's our testimony. Our sufficiency is of Him (2 Corinthians 3:5), which means we function by and through His divine ability. Only sinners need a medium, which Jesus is to them (John 14:6); but once in Christ, you no longer need a medium; you're united with Christ in God. You're a member of His body, the church. He is in us, and we are in Him. We have become inseparably one with Him. He gave us His Name to live by, to pray, and to offer our praises.

PRAYER

Dear Father, thank you for the privilege of praying in the Name of Jesus. I recognize the power and authority you have given me to live and do all things in His Name. I consciously act in alignment with this divine authority, understanding that I am empowered by Christ to accomplish all things. My life continually reflects your will and brings glory to you, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY:

2 Corinthians 3:5 AMPC; Colossians 3:17; John 14:13-14; Acts 1:8 AMPC

1-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Ephesians 5:22-6:1-9 & Isaiah 29-30

2-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

2 Timothy 4:11-22 & Jeremiah 48

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PRAYER OF SALVATION

We invite you to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life by praying thus:

"O Lord God, I believe with all my heart in Jesus Christ, Son of the living God. I believe He died for me and God raised Him from the dead. I believe He's alive today. I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life from this day. Through Him and in His Name, I have eternal life; I'm born again. Thank you Lord for saving my soul! I'm now a child of God. Hallelujah!"

Congratulations! You are now a child of God. To receive more information on how you can grow as a Christian, please get in touch with us through any of the contacts below:



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pastor Chris Oyakhilome, the President of LoveWorld Inc., a dynamic, multifaceted, global ministry, is the author of Rhapsody of Realities, the world's #1 daily devotional, and more than 30 other books. He's a dedicated minister of God's Word whose message has brought the reality of the divine life to the hearts of many.

Billions have been affected by his television broadcasts such as "Atmosphere For Miracles," "Your LoveWorld Specials," and the "Healing Streams Live Healing Services." The scope of his television ministry extends throughout the world with LoveWorld satellite television networks, delivering qualitative Christian programming to a global audience.

At the world-renowned Healing School, he manifests the healing works of Jesus Christ and has helped many receive healing through the operation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Pastor Chris has a passion to reach the peoples of the world with God's presence—a divine commission he's fulfilled for over 40 years through various outreaches, crusades, as well as several other platforms that have helped billions experience a victorious and purposeful life in God's Word.



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