

## REVIVE US AGAIN

Dear Friends,

It is the desire of the Lord for our hearts to be fully captured by the beauty of Jesus. There are several things vying for our attention and devotion. Their obsession is to ensure we surrender to inferior lovers. We consume them only for us to realize they have consumed us .

God's heart is that we will be burning hearts. Men and women who are fascinated by the beauty of Jesus and set ablaze for Him and His mission. There are several believers, though saved but have lost their passion and zeal. They are living off the stories and experiences of past years. Their love for the master is no longer fresh. Unlike Jesus who mentioned that the zeal of the Father's House has consumed His heart, other things have consumed their hearts. This ought not be so!

'Revive Us Again' is God's invitation for us to re-surrender our cold hearts in the furnace of Christ refining fire and allow Him to sit upon our desires and recapture Him as our one thing.

We should say like David:

Psalms 27:4 One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.

David had a longing and focused desire for the beauty of Jesus. So should we!

The beauty of Jesus ought to be recaptured in our hearts and in our churches. Stony hearts ought to be set ablaze again and dead pulpits need the resurrection life. We need the Lord to Revive Us again!

Revive our Passion and Desire for Him.

**Psalms 85:6-8** Wilt thou not **revive us again**: that thy people may rejoice in thee? **7** Shew us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation.**8** **I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.**

My prayer is that this devotional would set your heart ablaze and serve as guide in your cry for Revival.

May the Lord encounter your heart afresh.

Prayerfully yours,  
Mo Obayomi  
Pastor, H3 Church,  
Murfreesboro, TN.

## DAY 1

# Sharpen The Blunt Axe Head.

**If an iron axehead is blunt and a workman does not sharpen its edge, he must exert a great deal of effort; so wisdom has the advantage of giving success.**

**Ecclesiastes 10:10 NET**

The iron axehead is the cutting edge of an axe, perhaps the most significant part of it. However, due to consistent use without re-sharpening, the axe can lose its sharpness and effectiveness. This is a metaphor for a believer's life, sometimes as we engage in the busyness of life - demands of career and academics, weightiness of ministry, responsibility of taking care of our households, the discouragement, and disappointments of life. Due to these, we may very slowly begin to lose our sharpness. Our thirst and drive for intimacy begin to wane off, the spiritual impact of our words, prayers and service begin to lose its cutting edge. While there may be a lot of activity, there is very minimal spiritual alertness and awareness. In days like this, the believer needs to be revived!

The wisdom that brings the advantage is simply to stop and allow the Lord to sharpen the axe head again. The Lord is gracious, he will never cast away his own. The starting point is a heartfelt outcry to the Lord, to restore back that which has gone blunt. It is a cry of repentance. Jesus said to the church in Ephesus.:

"Nevertheless, I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place—unless you repent. Revelation 2:4-5"

There are two things He asked them to do; Firstly to "Remember"; Cast your mind back to the days of fiery love and passion for the Lord. The Christian life is meant to be an upward way, growing, and abounding in the Lord. If this is not the case, the Lord invites us into Revival, and this begins by "remembering."

Then He mentioned to the Church "Repent." Repentance is not a mere confession; it is truly a changed heart with very practical steps to change one's ways by the grace of God. What are the non-life-giving activities, relationships, engagements that have sucked life out of you rather than sharpen you?

Friend, if your axe is blunt, you will burn out, but the Lord revives us again by His Spirit when we are willing.

## DAY 2

# The Joy Of Salvation

Restore to me the  
joy of Your salvation  
and uphold me by  
Your generous Spirit.

Psalm 51:12

Life's greatest transformation is not external but rather internal. Salvation is the internal work of the Lord in our Spirit. The helpless Soul that has been overcome by the nature of sin, far away from God and at the mercy of the devil is brought into fellowship by the sacrifice of Jesus. What a miracle!

“But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-11”

Salvation is not just an internal work but also an eternal work that the Lord does. It transcends time and last till eternity - it is the Lord's doing, it is marvelous in our eyes. While other things in life can be lost, this is the believer's only possession that cannot be lost because What the Lord does is forever (Ecclesiastes 3:14). Jobs may be lost, economies crash, health fails, children eventually leave their parents, even sometimes marriages struggle but the Lord's work of salvation is as stable as God in our lives. This is the source and strength of our true joy - the Joy of Salvation. We have been rescued once and for all from the dominion of darkness, redeemed by the blood of the lamb, reconciled to God and God's Family forever.

However, several believers lose touch with this Joy. When we begin to place less value on the eternal work of Jesus and place more value on our natural accomplishments; we lose touch with the joy of our salvation. Thank God for the promotion at work, academic success, seeing kids grow but herein lies our Chief Joy- Salvation.

Does the thought of salvation still stir Joy in your heart, or you have reduced the source of your joy to commodities and worldly possessions. If so, there is a need to cry out to appraise higher than all, embrace closer than all and behold greater than all- Christ richest blessing of Salvation till it stirs Joy again.

## DAY 3

# Joy Unspeakable, Full of Glory!

The trajectory of our lives are marked out by very pivotal moments of great Joy accompanied by deep emotions; wedding day, college graduation, first job, having your first child et al. However, how quickly do we switch from those deep joyful moments into another deep sorrowful moments.

For many of us, our lives seem to be marked by constant discontent, apathy, and depression. Our goals seem to be further away than our victories, our mistakes seem to be more apparent than our consistency. The Trials of life grieve our souls and chisel the expression of our Joy.

The Lord is reminding us today that your true joy is deeper than your trials, it is full of glory.

Peter reminded us of the “why” of this level of unspeakable joy -

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 1 Peter 1:3-4”*

This Joy is linked up to two things; Firstly, it is linked to our “Living Hope” that we have in Christ Jesus. This hope is the confident expectation of something good from the Lord and as long as you are joined to the Living, there is hope for you in Christ. This is a Living hope and not a dead hope. Dead hope is mere optimism and not built on anything eternal, but our hope is built on Christ. He is able!

This is the Hope that does not disappoint, and it does not fail.

Secondly this Joy is because of the “inheritance” that we have in Christ. Inheritance is what you have that you never labored for. There is an inheritance we have because of Christ’ labor on the cross. This inheritance is described as “incorruptible, undefiled and does not fade.” What Christ has purchased for us is incorruptible - meaning it is not subject to decay. Everything on earth will perish but we have joy because of this imperishable inheritance. It also cannot be defiled; our inheritance is hidden with Christ in God. Sin cannot touch it; nothing can defile it and lastly it does not fade - It does not reduce in value. Properties reduce in value, our natural bodies even fade as we age but we have a possession that can never Fade - The believer’s inheritance is like none your eyes have beheld on the earth, they are reserved in Heaven beyond the reach of earthly corruption.

Hence, our Joy can truly be unspeakable and full of Glory.

May you be truly revived back to this Joy.

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 1 Peter 1:6-8



## DAY 4

# Jesus: The Treasure in the Field

**"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.**

**Matthew 13:44**

There is no one who has ever truly found a treasure and did not rejoice over it. The discovery of a treasure is always accompanied by deep Joy. The greatest treasure ever is Jesus Christ himself. Paul wrote to the Christians at Corinth and said "I determined to know nothing among Him except Christ and Him alone crucified. Everything else is incomparable to this treasure. Is it not an irony, that we abandon the true treasure and give our energy to the meagre and the non-essentials of life?"

Sometimes, a church gathering may not be truly around this Treasure but around what the treasure can do.

The field of the Kingdom is wide and deep, but the treasure hidden within it is the person of Jesus. We ransack the field of the Bible looking for things, principles, stories, and we ignore the treasure of the person of Jesus. The joy of the Kingdom is only found in the person of Jesus and not in any book. The chief aim of the Bible is to point us to Jesus and when you have truly found Him, you will experience deep Joy.

"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. John 5: 39-40"

The deep joy of knowing and be fully known by a Person. Jesus indeed is our greatest treasure.

There are several people who religiously observe personal devotion, corporate Christian gatherings, but have not laid hold of the treasure in the field. In fact, we have several others who have tasted and seen that the Lord is good but in search of something more complex, they have abandoned the simplicity that is in the treasure of knowing and falling in love with the person of Jesus Christ.

This treasure is worth the sale of everything else in our lives. This may not necessarily mean selling any of our belongings, but this treasure would demand the sale of our affection, devotion, admiration above everything else. The field of our hearts belong to this great treasure, and we re-organize our lives to give us room for greater admiration of the one we treasure most - Jesus Christ.

Have you abandoned substance and pursuing shadows. Are activities camouflaging the privilege and joy of knowing the Lord. Today is a good day for reassessment. God is inviting you to sell everything else that has occupied the field of your heart and hand over these spaces to the greatest treasure- Jesus.

## DAY 5

*See, how much  
He loves you.*

35 Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"

John 11:35-36

The Love of Christ awakens us. It brings us from spiritual slumbering to alertness and life. A poor awareness of the love of God in Christ leads us to Spiritual apathy and lethargy. Jesus was at the tomb of Lazarus and overtly, His love for Lazarus was seen. While Jesus was there to raise Lazarus, His Love for Lazarus was what they saw first. When we behold God's love truly, we are revived from the grave of spiritual poverty and apathy. This apathy comes because we have shifted our gaze from the Love of Christ; we are no longer as aware of the Love of Christ. There is no one who truly and consistently set their gaze on Jesus, who does not experience spiritual vitality. The battle for our hearts is on our gaze.

Paul prayed for the Christians in Ephesus.

*may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:18-19*

God wants us to grow in the knowledge of this Love, it becomes the pursuit of our lives perpetually. This love is wide enough to cover the entire world. You will never meet a human being who is not loved by God or that Jesus never died for. Beyond our inconsistencies, our mistakes, and our failures, we are loved by God. The Love is long enough to outlast our moments of lukewarmness and rebellion. The Love of God is eternal. His love does not stop neither does it get terminated by our season of indifference towards Him. It is deep enough to resurrect and revive us from the pit of spiritual apathy. Yet, this Love is high enough to raise us back to the highest expression of our belovedness and calling as children of God.

The only condition is for you to “**see**”, for you to reposition your gaze, to surrender your Focus. The god of this age is constantly attempting to blind us to the glory of this love, he tries to redirect our vision to our errors, mistakes, and the brokenness of our humanity. When you look at yourself long enough, you will be acquainted with your brokenness but when you behold Jesus, you will be acquainted with the Love of God that surpasses Knowledge and this Love is the ignition of a fresh passion and zeal for Him and His House.

Where is the direction of your gaze? Are you able to see how much He loves you?

## DAY 5

# He is Calling for your Attention

**“3 Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn. 4 So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!”.”**

**Exodus 3:3 -4**

Everything in life is vying for our attention and devotion. The Lord is also seeking our attention. Moses was a great figure in the Old Testament, and he had been pre-destined by God to be used for the deliverance of His people from bondage and oppression of Slavery.

However, the Lord could not use Him unless the Lord grabbed His attention and awareness. Only hearts that have been captured can be truly used by the Lord for His purpose.

The battle for our attention is fierce, whatever we devote our time to takes us away from other things. In the midst of Moses attending to the flock of his father-in-law called Jethro, the Lord caught His attention. As we embark on our regular day to day, the Lord is vying for our attention. When was the last time you were alone with God? When was the last time you beheld the magnificence of his glory and the wonder of His majesty. For Moses, “He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.” How can that be? How can it burn and yet not consumed? When was the last time your heart stood still in awe of the wonder of God? His unsearchable riches. The one who dwell in unapproachable light that no man has never seen neither will see, yet He dwells in our hearts by Faith. How can this be?

A revived heart is a heart in awe, a heart that ponders on the awesomeness of God. A heart very comfortable with the mystery of God as it is with the understanding of it.

Moses' response is a lesson for us - He “turned aside to look.” While the Lord is knocking on our hearts, only very few take time to turn and look, to truly respond to this knock for our attention. How will you “turn aside and look” just as Moses did. If you will be used by God in your generation, the starting point is to give him your full attention and not a partial attention. The Lord will make demand from your life, to turn aside from the things that hinder your gaze. For many, it is pleasure, others it could be unwholesome friendship and relationship. A fight for your gaze is a fight of destiny.

Just as He called his name twice “Moses, Moses.” The calling of the Lord is audible in your heart. The one who loves you wholeheartedly is demanding to have your full attention again. May you heed and experience the joy of a revived heart again.

## DAY 7

# *Mercy changes the Story.*

Mark 10: 46

**And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside.**

The story of Bartimaeus is quite instructive. He was a blind beggar by the roadside. Whenever we are spiritually blind, we become spiritual beggars. We beg others for what God has already given to us, we have no direct revelation of Jesus, we live our lives at the mercy of crumbs we can gather from other people.

How many believers today are living as Spiritual beggars because they are spiritually blind. The solution to spiritual blindness is an honest and deep cry for revival.

Just as Bartimaeus was on the roadside begging, Spiritual blindness is also sometimes accompanied with spiritual homelessness where we lack rootedness within a sheepfold. Sometimes we are part of a Spiritual family, but we are not at home there, we are not rooted and planted. When this is the case, you don't need to pass the blame on the people around you. You need a heartfelt cry for revival.

Eventually, Bartimaeus heard Jesus was in the neighborhood, yet he could not see Him.

47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Sometimes, hearing is not enough, we need to behold God in the face of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are several who have heard about the goodness of God, they have been told of what God is doing in other people's lives and different places, they have heard well composed sermon, but the eyes of their hearts are yet to behold and become fascinated with the beauty of Jesus Christ. Hearing is never a replacement for "Seeing". What you've seen with your eyes is a more powerful witness than what you have heard. Bartimaeus was not comfortable with just hearing of Jesus, He wanted to See!

What did he do? He cried out for mercy. The bridge out of spiritual blindness to spiritual sight and awakening is a cry for mercy to the one who is rich in mercy. The crowd tried to shut down Bartimaeus but why allow those who cannot help you stop you from the one who can help you.

Do you feel you are Spiritually blind? Are you sensing you are void of continuous revelation of Jesus? Do you feel you are feeding just from the crumbs of others and no clear-cut personal contact with Jesus?

Can you cry out for mercy today and He will in no way cast you out.

## DAY 8

# *A Fresh Touch from Jesus*

We need a fresh touch of Jesus!

Spiritual blindness is a symptom of our need for a fresh revival from the Lord. When the word of God is no longer coming to us in a fresh way, the solution is not more human strength but the touch of Jesus. This blind man was brought to Jesus that He may touch him. We all need to be surrounded with a tribe that can connect us with the solution to the deepest needs of our lives - A fresh touch from Jesus.

The first response of Jesus was quite profound to this man - without even saying a word to him, Jesus took him out of that village. The omnipotent and sovereign Lord could have healed his blindness where he was, but He did not. Perhaps, so that his story would be an instruction and comfort to those of us who would be heirs of salvation.

The blind man's village reinforced his blindness. When we find ourselves in a spiritual desert, we need to review our "village." The people we have surrounded ourselves with. Our associations are very integral to our vitality- they can be either fire fighters or fire lighters.

Are the people around you lighting you up or quenching your fire?

Jesus then did the most unusual; he spat on his eyes and laid his hands on him. Our cry for revival may be messy; it may not come in the most premium package, it may not feel as organized as we love it, it may "spit" on our comfort level and denominational traditions. You can't have revival on your own terms, it must be on His own terms alone. We ask and He responds in His own way. As long as we secure a burning heart, we are satisfied, and He is satisfied. Are you seeking God on your terms? If so, you are not ready for a burning heart, it may be perpetual blindness.

After the first touch, he still did not see clearly and he said, "I see people as trees." Again, the Lord could have done it in full, but our Lord makes room for our "will." Do you want **"All"** of Him or **"Some"** of Him?

Have you settled for just an ankle-deep river of revival, or you want to be fully immersed? Sometimes, churches are satisfied with "partial sight" of Jesus rather than pressing in for more touch of Him to behold Him fully and clearly.

Mark 8:22-26 And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" 24 And he looked up and said, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking."

25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."

When we call, He answers. Jesus touched Him again, hence He can touch you again. Sometimes, we must press in further in prayers, hope and patience and not change our prayers until our sight is fully restored. This is the price.

As Jesus was done with restoring this man - He gave him fresh instructions, Go Home and don't enter the village.

I would have thought his home was in that village.

Revival fire is **intensified** at home - among the **right tribe** of people burning for Jesus and it is **quenched** by the **wrong village**; the group that is satisfied with religion, old stories, fables, and ashes of past revivals.

Your tender heart needs burning people around you.

Do you have a tribe? Are you well plugged into the tribe? Are you pursuing Jesus together passionately.

## DAY 9

# *When our Eyes become dim.*

**2 And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see,**

**1 Samuel 3:2**

This is perhaps one of the most painful stories in scriptures. The prophetic leadership of Israel was about to change, and the Lord was about to anoint another prophet in Israel - Samuel. God's encounter with Samuel, exposed to us what had gone wrong with Eli.

Our text for today introduced the physical condition of Eli - His eyes were becoming dim. This physical posture is also a reflection of his spiritual posture. A man who had walked with God for many years was now beginning to lose his cutting edge; His prophetic eyes were becoming dim. There is a need for revival whenever we observe our perception of God is losing its sharpness. It is the desire of the Lord that our walk with Him would be from glory to glory. God wants us as His children to make progress in our faith walk with Him. Eli lost his spiritual sharpness.

The Lord expounded to Samuel a little more about the heart of Eli in verse 13- For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.

Eli had lacked "restrain" in an area of responsibility and authority - His Children. For us as children of the Lord, this has been written for our encouragement, instruction, and correction. Is there an area where the Lord has been calling you to "restrain" yourself - It could be your appetite, a particular desire, an ambition. Is there an area of life where you are getting out of control? This is a solemn call from the Lord as the cost may be higher than what you bargained for.

Eli's eyes became dim.

One could wonder what created that loose end in the life of Eli. Was he afraid of his kids or he was just negligent. It takes courage and intentionality to bring ourselves to caution and the right order. Where is the Lord calling for a restrain in your life? If you do not oblige, the result could be a dim perception of Jesus.

## DAY 10

# *The danger of a Complacent heart.*

**2 And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see,**

**1 Samuel 3:2**

The heart of the matter is a matter of the heart. It is God's desire to deal with the real internal issues and not just the surface issues. Regarding Eli, there was another heart issue that made him stumble. When young Samuel eventually (& reluctantly) shared with him what the Lord had said. His response was quite alarming.

Then Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him." Verse 18.

What a response! There was no sense of remorse or repentance. He simply resigned to an attitude that appeared like "I do not care, let Him do whatever He wants to do." There was no deep cry for mercy with the one who is rich in mercy. Could it be that Eli had become too familiar with the Lord, could it be that the fire of His love had gone out. Eli's heart had become complacent. Later in scriptures, we will see men like David who were warned and corrected by the Lord, they put on sack cloth, broke down completely, repented and subsequently received mercy from the Lord.

Does your heart still get pricked at the correction of the Lord or you just resign to a false "sovereignty" of the Lord that He should do whatever He wants. This is a symptom of a heart that needs and should desperately cry out for revival.

Correction is a proof of Love.

For whom the Lord loves He chastens and scourges every son whom He receives." **7** If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? Hebrews 12: 6-7

Can you point to the last time the Lord corrected you and what was your response? Let the lord do whatever he wants to do? Or just sit down in that situation or sin as long as you wanted.

Our true response is repentance and a cry for the mercy of the Lord.



## DAY 11

# A Greater Awareness of Jesus

But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

- Jonah 1:3

The story of Jonah is perhaps one of the most fascinating stories in Scriptures- quite dramatic. The Lord had raised Jonah, to minister repentance to the people of Nineveh but out of rebellion he went in a different direction to Tarshish. Sometimes, the minister needs to be ministered to.

There are few lessons for us in this story.

This is a subtle reminder that consistent acts of disobedience restrains our hearts from experiencing the fullness of the presence of Jesus. Yes, in the new covenant we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and He himself has said that He will never leave us nor forsake. These are truths that can never be eliminated from our new creation realities. Howbeit, the scriptures instruct us not to grieve the Spirit

“**And** do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30”

Disobedience is an active way of grieving the Holy Spirit and the result is simply a reduced awareness of the presence of the Lord. Back to our story, Jonah disobeyed, and the scriptures reported “He arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.” Disobedience creates distance from **our awareness** of the presence of God.

A life in revival is a life that is in a great awareness of the presence of Jesus by the strength of the Holy Spirit. This awareness is always hindered by disobedience. Our lives ought to go through an honest audit of areas of disobedience - where the lord has made clear demands of our lives, but we have done completely otherwise. Where has the Lord sent you to Nineveh but you have gone to Tarshish. Where have you resisted the Spirit of truth? This could be a relationship that the Lord has resisted, it could be an occupation. Whatever that is, be reminded that the Lord loves to be obeyed and disobedience has a cost attached to it. There is a way that seems right to a person, but the end is destruction. The Holy Spirit will not violate your will and ability to make your choice because He is the God of love.

A call to revival will be a turn around and ask the Lord to search us thoroughly and realign us back to His will and desires.

Turn back from Tarshish.

## DAY 12

# *He is Jealous over you!*

**But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.**

**- Jonah 1:3**

This story of Jonah is laced with several insights very helpful for us- New Testament believers. Can you observe that everything Jonah needed to go in the wrong direction was provided. Provision is not always the proof of God's affirmation. Jonah found the ship available; He had the financial provision to pay the fare and he had the company of people to travel with. The path of disobedience is rarely lonely, there is always a provision for destruction because the enemy pays the fare.

The devil delights in our disobedience and ensures he places adequate provision in our paths not to do the will of the Lord. Jesus said, "I must do the will of Him that sent me ...." The obsession of a believer is to be and do the will of the Lord at all times. Hence, we must be aware when provisions are not from the Lord. Someone could have seen how aligned the path of Jonah was and confirmed that He was in the will of God. Provision is not always the proof of God's affirmation.

This is the truth - The Holy Spirit will never leave us without an inner witness. While external parameters looked right for Jonah, there was an internal witness that He was aware of. When the crowded ship began to panic, oblivious of the internal tension in the heart of Jonah; he eventually blurted out that he was walking in rebellion to God. The path of rebellion never leads to life, it always leads to pain and regret.

Jonah paid the fare. What have you paid for? What are you planning to pay for? What provisions are you experiencing at the expense of God' divine instruction? What provisions are you making for your flesh? This is a clarion call from the one whose holy jealousy over you is burning.

## DAY 13

# *When the Lord searches thoroughly.*

**"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs."**

**- Jonah 2:8**

In the belly of the fish, Jonah began to cry out to the Lord, and He blurted out these words that are perhaps the most important words in the book of Jonah. These words revealed the condition of the heart of Jonah.

Idols have come into the heart of Jonah.

While our understanding of idols could be literal images that people bow down to, the real idols are beyond external and tangible objects, they are internal idols. In fact, internal idols produce the external idols that we see.

"The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?"  
Jeremiah 17:9

Our internal idols are countless, they are things that demand our devotion and worship. They are our addictions, many times hidden from the plain eyes of people. These idols are not necessarily bad things, they are good things that have become ultimate things in our lives. They have substituted brass for gold. They have consumed our affection and displaced the lofty seat of our exalted Lord.

They are many times things that started small & harmless, and we have built our lives around them. We can know these things by evaluating the things that would make us anxious if taken away from us. Things that could make our lives not worth living peradventure we lose them. Remember, they are not always bad things. Christ does not want to replace himself in our lives with anything that is perishable.

These idols sometime become a deep part of our lives that they have become second nature to us. Some of these idols are overtly seen and known but some would require us asking the Lord to search us thoroughly and truly. What kind of idol penetrated the heart of Jonah that He began to live in rebellion and resisted obedience towards the Lord. Idols!!!

We can pray like David -

Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

May the Lord expose the secret idols of your heart.

## DAY 14

# *Worthless idols of our hearts.*

**"Those who cling to  
worthless idols forfeit the  
grace that could be theirs."**

**- Jonah 2:8**

These idols are worthless. They worth less. They always give a short-term promise of pleasure but a long-term destruction. They give empty promises but do not have long term value. They can give a temporary satisfaction but on the long run, they are really worth nothing.

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. Hebrews 11:24-26

Moses was able to step into the destiny and promise of God for His life but there was an idol He had to say "no" to - The "passing pleasures of sin" and "the treasures of Egypt." Idols always look like pleasures and treasures. They always have an appearance of "worthiness" in the interim but on the long run, they are "worthless."

A good litmus test is simply what are your treasures and pleasures that deep within are competitors for the place and space of delight in the beauty of Jesus. It could be an hobby that has now become a master. This is the day to renounce and stop worshipping on these strange altars.

These worthless idols eventually rub us of our "worth". No idol leaves a person the same, they leave us empty, with shame, guilt and condemnation. Idols reduce and diminish us. They cut us short and do not make us live out Christ life fully.

Their idols *are* silver and gold, The work of men's hands. 5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; 6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell. 7 They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. 8 Those who make them are like them; *So is* everyone who trusts in them. Psalm 115:4-8

For Moses, he esteemed Christ greater riches above all. God wants you to esteem Him higher than everything else in your life. He wants to take the chief place of our hearts now and forever.

May the King of your heart truly be the Lord of your heart.  
These idols are worthless!

**DAY 15**

# *Worthless idols of our hearts.*

**“Those who cling to  
worthless idols forfeit  
the grace that could be  
theirs.”**

**- Jonah 2:8**

These idols are weights.

Whatever we are clinging to occupies a space in our lives. They are weights that slow us down. Everything is vying for our time, talents, and treasures. Idols are doing the same, they are demanding more time than they deserve, more energy than they deserve, more delight than they deserve. They are weights we carry that God has not placed on us.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. - Hebrews 12: 1-2

These weights are not ordinary, just as the writer of Hebrews wrote- these weights slow us down from the high calling of Jesus. Our potentials are not maximized and ultimately blur us from looking at Jesus. There is only one thing you can do to these weights; you lay them aside. The race of life requires that you travel “light.” Just as when you are about to catch a flight at the airport and you are encompassed with several luggage's, most of the time, they slow you down. That's what weights do to our lives, they are idols we have permitted when we ought to fiercely resist them in the fulfillment of God's plans and purpose in our lives.

Especially, when you are still young, resist fiercely these idols - they are weights!

Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them”: Ecclesiastes 12:1

## DAY 16

# Worthless idols of our hearts.

**“Those who cling to  
worthless idols forfeit  
the grace that could  
be theirs.”**

**- Jonah 2:8**

These idols are wasters.

They are wasters because they make us trade what is greater for what is less. In this case, Jonah blurted that they make us forfeit the grace that could be ours. Grace is not a loose and light word in scriptures. It is the embodiment of the fullness of what Christ paid for in our lives. It is by Grace that we are saved (Ephesians 2:8) and it is by grace we become all that the Lord has called us to become (2 Corinthians 15:10). God's grace makes the believer. It is everything to us. Our lives are Grace-made.

Howbeit, when believers sleep, the enemy plants tares. These tares are idols, and their goal is to hinder us from living out the fullness of the Grace of God.

We cannot hold on to Grace and Idols at the same time.

Self-righteousness is the idol that rubs us of grace. Self-righteousness is very subtle. When we come before the Lord based on merit and not His mercy. It has the language of “God owes me.” It elevates our “works” above the “grace” of God. Self-righteousness is an enemy of the Grace of God.

Jesus puts it succinctly:

Also, He spoke this parable to some who *trusted in themselves* that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be [a]humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:9-14

Self-righteousness is trusting in “self”, it makes us despise and look down on others, it is constantly comparing self with other people, trying to feel better than, it is based on performance, merit and not mercy but ultimately, it makes us forfeit the grace that could be ours.

Are you quietly trying to merit Christ love and blessing? Have you plagued yourself with comparison forgetting scriptures warn that those who compare themselves with others are not wise?

Today, come before the Lord only on the platform of His mercy.

## DAY 17

# Jesus – Our One thing!

## Psalm 27:4

One *thing* I have desired  
of the Lord, that will I  
seek: That I may dwell 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.

The Lord had visited the home of His fiends Mary and Martha. While Martha was busy with many things and got jealous of Martha; the Lord gently corrected her - One thing is needful, and Mary had chosen the right path. David also said in his Psalms that “One thing have I desired from the Lord.”

It is natural for us to be encompassed with many things- busyness sometimes enhance our sense of importance and value. Howbeit, Jesus has invited us to “One thing.” A place of joyful beholding - where we linger around the presence of Jesus admiring Who He is and what He has done.

For many of us, this feels very strange- How can I linger around someone who I cannot see. We exert our energy on activities at the expense of intimacy. Only for us to get into zone of restlessness, apathy and discouragement. We are object of His love. God is more interested in your heart being available for Him than what you can do for Him. It is pride and idolatry for us to think we can offer something to the Lord when we have not “firstly” received from Him and allow Him to quiet us with His love.

In this fast-paced world, it is very easy to cheat on the cornerstone and the strength of our lives - sitting at His feet and enjoying His belovedness. We get consumed with what the world offers forgetting that what we consume eventually consume us. The one who created the ends of the earth is pursuing after you, He is beckoning for a richer and deeper intimacy with you.

The true measure of a life in revival and burning for the Lord is a joyful consistent sitting at His feet. Nothing more, nothing less. Our adversary is aware of this and would do anything to crowd our lives.

What will your day look like if you re-organize your life around slowing down your pace and setting your gaze. What are the non-essentials that have crowded out the most essential - gazing at Jesus.

Jesus is Calling!

## DAY 18

# *A beauty to behold.*

## Psalm 27:4

**One *thing* I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell 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.**

We all have our one thing - That primary thing that has taken the chief place of our obsession and fascination. We all do! David- the sweet psalmist of Israel penned down his own one thing. How beautiful it is when our “one thing” aligns with His own “one thing for us”?

Sometimes, there are gaps and many times a very wide distance between our desires and His own desires for us.

The Lord who has made us His “One thing” has invited us to make Him our “One thing”.

What is so glorious about the Lord that David wanted to see? What was so compelling about the Lord that He had things to inquire from the Lord?

The depth of relationship that our father desires to build with us transcends beyond receiving things to an utter amazement of Who He is. This is the utmost Christian call, our “deep” calling unto His deep.

Jesus becoming our fascination and obsession.

In the new covenant, the house of the Lord has moved from being a physical location. We are now the house of the Lord. Hence, the way we become obsessed and fascinated is by setting our meditation on the excellencies of the Lord - constantly thinking about His attributes and sacrifices.

Colossians 3:1-3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

We have been invited to give the chief place of our imagination and meditation to the things above - The Love of Christ, His Holiness, Purity, Justice righteousness et al.

Paul wrote to the believers at Corinth-

1 Corinthians 2:1-2 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

This is where we start - Take our minds off our challenges, desires and gave only at Christ and Him alone crucified.



## DAY 19

# Look Away to Set your Gaze

### Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

We have been designed to be able to only gaze at one thing at a time. Our physical design speaks volume about God's desire for us. To only gaze at one thing. Hebrews 11 is a catalogue of those who had done great exploits for the Lord in the Old Testament. Men and women whose lives and faith in God delivered unimaginable exploits. They have become our cloud of witnesses of what the Lord can do with lives committed wholly to Him. While we are amazed at their victories, they are inferior to our master - Jesus!

"Looking unto Jesus" really means "Look away from these and set your gaze on Jesus. Sometimes our natural role models, past victories and blessings become the hinderance of fully beholding the Lord. The Lord invites us to look away from lesser things of the past that have become or growing to become to the object of our devotion.

Jesus is worthy of our gaze because He is the "author and perfecter" of our Faith. There is nothing I need for life and godliness that has not been fully supplied in Jesus. It is the continuous gaze at Him that strengthen our hearts and ignite our Joy.

2 Peter 1:3-4 as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the [a]corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

Today, what do you need to look away from? What are the cares of the world capturing your heart?

A revived heart is an obsessed heart with Jesus.

## DAY 20

# Jesus, The Voice of God!

## Hebrews 1:1-3

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of *His* person, and upholding all things by the word of *His* power, when He had by *Himself* purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

God is known in Christ!

Our endless quest for God is satisfied in one man - Jesus Christ.

Our passage today affirms that God spoke in the old covenant through the prophets. In the past, they had bits and pieces of revelation about God. The people of old - Abraham, David, Esther, Deborah, Moses, Elijah et al truly expressed dimensions of God to us but they had only partial expressions of God. Jesus is the True and Perfect revelation of the Father. He is the Voice of God. Anything that we believe about God that is not confirmed in Christ is an error. Jesus is the true voice of the Father to us.

Jesus is the brightness of His glory and the exact image of His person because Jesus is the Father revealed in Human flesh.

Our study of scriptures must land us to one place - beholding the majesty of the Father in the Son. Everything in Scriptures hold together as we choose to See Jesus from Genesis to Revelation. Sometimes a fiery heart burning for Jesus begin to lose its fervency because we moved away from beholding "substance" in scriptures to pursuing "shadows." We choose not to be satisfied with the simplicity of His person and pursuing endless principles for a satisfying life in thing which is an illusion.

Jesus Himself testified.

John 5:39-40 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of, Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

We stay revived not by looking for things but by beholding Him in the word. Scriptures have one chief aim - To point us to Jesus and Him alone who is our true satisfaction.

When we see Jesus in scriptures, we are hearing the voice of the Lord to us.

# *Behold and Become*

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

Revive us again!

Revival is beyond emotionalism; it is conformity to image and stature of Christ. A life that is truly being revived will look more like Jesus. While it is good to enjoy and experience in a moment, our emotions being stirred up. We must be fully reminded that our experiences and encounters with the Lord conforms us to look more like Him.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you.

This transformation is sustained as we behold the beauty of Jesus with an unveiled face. The law and legalism become veils that cover the eyes of our hearts from being able to see Jesus in all His beauty. When self-righteousness creep into our lives, transformation is hindered. While we have disciplines of grace to strengthen our lives, we must not allow our disciplines to serve as the sense of our righteousness before the Lord. That becomes a veil from being able to see Jesus clearly.

Some of us have grace for others except ourselves. We disdain and cut ourselves down for what we term as “slow growth.” Transformation into the image and stature of Jesus is eternal. It does not happen in a day but rather daily. We go from one glorious state to another glorious state, a little here and a little there. Our commitment is simply a daily pursuit of the Lord who has pursued us in His love and grace.

We must also be reminded that the Fullness of the Spirit is in us doing the work of transformation, keep your hearts ablaze and fervent in Him. We cannot achieve with human strength what only the Holy Spirit can achieve.

Zechariah 4:6..... 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts.

Also, we cannot complete in the flesh what the Holy Spirit began in our lives.

Revival is the work of the Spirit - It begins by the Spirit, and it is sustained by the Holy Spirit.

May your heart stay revived forever.