

COVENANT<sup>EFC</sup>

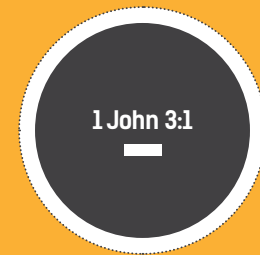
# devotional journal 2014

1 - 31 july

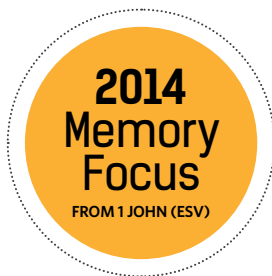


shine  
righteously

shine  
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COVENANT EFC




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## JANUARY

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

**1 John 1:5**

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### february

**1 JOHN 1:9**

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

### march

**1 JOHN 2:15**

*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

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### APRIL

**1 John 2:16**

*For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world.*

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### may

**And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.**

**1 John 2:17**

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### JUNE

**1 JOHN 2:29**

*If you know that He is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him.*

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### JULY

**1 John 3:1**

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.

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### AUGUST

**1 JOHN 4:4**

*Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

### SEPTEMBER

**1 JOHN 4:10**

*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

### OCTOBER

**1 JOHN 4:12**

*No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.*

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### november

***There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.***

**1 JOHN 4:18**

### december

***And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.***

**1 JOHN 5:11-12**

# foreword

## by senior pastors

### There must be something more in 2014!

**There must be something more every new year!  
We long for something deeper, something satisfying,  
something radical, something life-changing, something  
that would really make a difference every new year.  
What will that "something more" be for you?**

**S**t. Augustine once said, *"To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; to seek Him, the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement."* The deepest longing of the soul is for intimacy with God. It begins with God and is rooted IN HIM! *"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall 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 meditate in His temple."* (Ps 27:4)

#### 1. Intimacy as Our PURPOSE in Life:

***"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek..."***

The goal of every disciple of Christ is not merely to do things for God – although these are significant parts of God's redemptive order as seen in the Great Commission. Enjoying the intimacy with God is part of the creative order as seen in the Great Commandment. The ONE thing that is the most important in 2014 is our relationship with God! Everything revolves around this one defining purpose.

#### 2. Intimacy as Our PURSUIT in Life:

***"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek..."***

Someone once said, "We do not see things as they are. We see them as we are." In other words, who we are determines what we see and what we pursue, and we become what we pursue. "I shall seek" expresses a determination to pursue intimacy with God. What are you pursuing in 2014? What are you seeking?

There must be  
something more  
than this!

#### 3. Intimacy as Our PREOCCUPATION in Life:

***"That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life..."***

"All the days of my life" is not simply stating a period of time but a preoccupation of life! David declares "to dwell in the house of the Lord" as his prevailing desire, his grand preoccupation and his magnificent obsession. True spirituality stems not from some form of activity but from God's presence as the centre of his life. The dwelling place of God is in the quiet depths of our lives. May you experience and enjoy His presence throughout the year 2014!

#### 4. Intimacy as Our PASSION in Life:

***"To behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple."***

David made a decisive choice to not only see, but behold and be captivated by the beauty of the Lord. God is of ultimate importance in his life and God is the one who gives meaning to life. David committed himself to "meditate in His temple". A person is often defined by abilities, accomplishments, appearance, acquisitions and associations. But God defines us by our personal relationship with Him. May your passion for spiritual intimacy with God attract and fuel pre-believing friends to know God in 2014.

#### There Must be Something More Than This!

Psalm 27 was written in the context of fear and uncertainty. Fear is mentioned three times in two verses (vv. 1, 3). Yet, in spite of the anxieties and fears, David focused on God and saw God Almighty as his revelation, redemption and refuge (vv. 1-3).

May we like David say, *"When You said, 'Seek My face,' my heart said to You, 'Your face, O Lord, I shall seek.'" (v. 8).*

**In Christ,  
Ps Tony and Ps Kay Kiong**

# guide to using this journal



S.O.A.P.

## 1 Prepare your heart in God's presence

- Select a fixed time (preferably in the morning before you begin your day) and a quiet place where you can be alone and undisturbed.
- Observe a moment of silence as you acknowledge God's presence.
- Worship God with a song or hymn. (Refer to the list of worship songs provided.)
- Offer a prayer to God as you prepare to listen to His Word.

## 2 Allow God to S.O.A.P. you with His Word and Spirit

Each daily devotional entry is divided into four parts:

**Scripture** — Take your time to meditate on the Scripture passage for the day. Pause and mull over words and phrases that stand out to you.

**Observation** — Jot down significant insights and reflections from the passage you have read. Use the guiding questions provided.

**Application** — Note down a specific and practical commitment to God's Word for you. Is there a command to obey, a sin to avoid, an example to follow, or a principle to live out? Where appropriate, share your devotional entry with someone.

**Prayer** — Bring your response to God in prayer using the suggested prayer for the day.

# calendar

## july 2014

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2 CGL Training 1/4	3	4	5	6
7 IDT Semester 2 Commencement	8	9 CGL Training 2/4	10	11	12	13 Missions Week
14 Missions Week	15 Missions Week	16 Missions Week	17 Missions Week	18 Missions Week	19 Missions Family Night	20 Missions Week
21	22	23 CGL Training 3/4	24	25	26	27 Baptism Service
28 Hari Raya Puasa	29	30 CGL Training 4/4	31			

Strongly Encouraged

## august 2014

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Women's GLOW	9 National Day	10
11	12	13	14	15 Men's Summit	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 ZM Training
25	26	27	28	29 Prayer & Praise	30	31

Strongly Encouraged



# Love: Where We Start

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 3:16-17; Matthew 10:42

John shows the pinnacle of true love – sacrificial love, in which “we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” just as Jesus has done for us (v. 16). Jesus Himself says there is no love greater than this kind of love (Jn 15:13). Are we all ready to love with sacrificial love? On one hand, we really won’t know if we are ready until we face a situation that calls for it; on the other hand, there is a way to prepare ourselves. We don’t go into sacrificial love; we grow into it. The principle of love is simply giving. We grow into sacrificial love by practising the principle of giving. And where do we start? With simple love – meeting a practical need of someone (v. 17a). Jesus says, “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much, and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much” (Lk 16:10). We start by loving others through very little things.

## OBSERVATION

*What does Jesus teach about simple love in Matthew 10:42?*

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## APPLICATION

Where am I now in the continuum between simple love on one end and sacrificial love on the other end?

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## PRAYER

Lord, I thank You that You love me to the end with an everlasting love.<sup>1</sup> I can love others only just as You have loved me.<sup>2</sup> I meditate on the cross of Your sacrificial love. Fill my eyes and my heart, Lord, with a vision of this divine love; for this is where I begin to learn to love. Help me to grow from simple love to sacrificial love for others.

Amen.

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>1</sup> John 13:1; Jeremiah 31:3  
<sup>2</sup> John 13:34













**REFLECT:**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

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**RESPONSE:**

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

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b. Journal your prayer.

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**STAY CLEAN**

When we have God in our lives, we will continue to stay away from sin.

**Scripture - 1 John 3:4-6**

**1. ACTIVITY BITE**

**Props:** A cup, drinking water, fruit juice, soya sauce, flour, vinegar, salt, ketchup and other condiments. Pour some fruit juice into the cup. Everyone can have a sip. Now add some of the other items like soya sauce and flour. Ask if anyone wants to taste it now.

**2. CHAT TIME**

**Q1:** Do you like the juice now that other things have been added to it?

**Q2:** Why is it not drinkable now?

**Q3:** Why do you think God wants us to keep our lives pure from sin?

**3. LEARNING POINT**

When we receive Jesus in our lives, He forgives us of all our sins. But that doesn't mean that we will never sin again. We need to continue to stay away from doing things that do not please God. Just like the fruit juice - we must prevent other stuff from being added in. If not, it will taste bad or become undrinkable.

**4. ACTION POINT**

Talk about the things that you feel you have done wrong. Ask God to forgive you and help you not to do it again.

**5. PRAYER POWER**

(Ask your children to pray after you.)

Dear God, please forgive me if I have wronged You. Help me to stay clean for You so that it will be pleasing to You. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

july

family devotional week one



# Blessing of the Nations: Nineveh

## SCRIPTURE

### **Jonah 1:1-2; 3:10**

In the Old Testament, when God deals with the nations, He has in mind His ultimate purpose in the covenant He made with Abraham, that through him and his descendants (Israel) “all the nations of the earth shall be blessed” (Ge 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14). So, we must view God’s word of judgment on Nineveh, the capital of Assyria (vv. 1-2), against this global redemptive purpose of God. Assyria was “one of the cruellest, vilest, most powerful, and most idolatrous empires in the world”<sup>25</sup>. An example of Assyria’s wickedness (v. 2) is King Ashurnasirpal II (883-859 BC) boasting of his conquest: “In the midst of the mighty mountain I slaughtered them; with their blood I dyed the mountain red like wool... The heads of their warriors I cut off, and I formed them into a pillar over against their city; their young men and their maidens I burned in the fire.”<sup>26</sup> But when Nineveh repented, God “changed His mind” and did not destroy the city as He had threatened (Jnh 3:10). This is God’s blessing on Nineveh.

## OBSERVATION

*What is your understanding of God’s will and purpose to bless the nations in light of His dealings with Nineveh?*

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## APPLICATION

What change(s) do I want to make in my thoughts and attitudes towards the very wicked people in the world and around me?

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## PRAYER

Sovereign God, I confess how I often wish You will quickly pour out fire from heaven and consume the very wicked people in the world.<sup>27</sup> But God, even though You have the right to show Your wrath and Your power, You endure with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction;<sup>28</sup> and also You do not wish for any to perish but for all to repent.<sup>29</sup> Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>25</sup> Elliot E. Johnson, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament* (Victor, 1985), 1494

<sup>26</sup> Elliot E. Johnson, 1494 - citing Daniel David Luckenbill’s *Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia* (1:148)

<sup>27</sup> Luke 9:54

<sup>28</sup> Romans 9:22

<sup>29</sup> 2 Peter 3:9





# God's Presence Running after Us

## SCRIPTURE

### **Jonah 1:3-5; Judges 16:21-30**

Jonah "went down...and went down...from the presence of the Lord" (v. 3). And next we read, "The Lord hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea" (v. 4). What was that? It was God's presence running after Jonah! And God's presence stopped as "the ship was about to break up" (v. 4). By now Jonah "had gone down" (the same Hebrew word for "went down") "into the hold of the ship" (v. 5) - much further away from God's presence. But God's presence running after Jonah had gotten nearer! However, Jonah wasn't aware of this. He had "lain down and fallen sound asleep" (v. 5), totally oblivious to God's presence in "the great storm on the sea" hitting the ship. Watch out for the danger of falling sound asleep spiritually, that we become insensitive and numb in our hearts towards God. Yet God pursues us even as we are running away from Him. That pursuit of grace can be in many forms as God deems best. Even in the great storm breaking up our ship, God is there with us and for us.

## OBSERVATION

*What can you learn about God's presence with His people in the story of Samson in Judges 16:21-30?*

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## APPLICATION

What is my understanding of God's presence with me?

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## PRAYER

O infinite God, I can never escape from Your Spirit! I can never get away from Your presence! If I go up to heaven, You are there; if I go down to the grave You are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there Your hand will guide me, and Your strength will support me.<sup>30</sup> Such is Your gracious redemptive presence with me!  
Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>30</sup> Psalm 139:7-10 (NLT)





# Surprising Ironies: What's God Saying?

## SCRIPTURE

### **Jonah 1:4-10; 2 Chronicles 35:20-24**

The "great storm on the sea" crisis in Jonah 1:4-10 is filled with surprising ironies. When the storm was breaking up the ship, the immediate instinctive response of the pagan sailors was "every man cried to his god" (v. 5a). Then it is followed by "but Jonah" (v. 5b) - an ironical contrast. Jonah was sound asleep. It shocked the sailors ("How is it that you are sleeping?", v. 6). Unbelievable incongruence! Next came a godly counsel from ungodly people to a prophet who knew the true God: "Get up, call on your god." (v. 6). It should have been God's people telling the pagans, "Call on our God!" When Jonah revealed his identity and that he was running away from his God, the pagans' response was, "How could you do this?" (vv. 9-10). It should be that God speaks to the world through His people, but God also speaks to His people through the world. These surprising ironies show us the possibility of the latter scenario.

## OBSERVATION

*What does the tragedy of King Josiah in 2 Chronicles 35:20-24 teach us about God speaking to His people?*

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## APPLICATION

How is the tragedy of King Josiah instructive to me personally?

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## PRAYER

God, You speak to Your people through the Word that You have spoken in God-breathed Scripture. And You have shown in Scripture how, in Your sovereignty, You speak to Your people in diverse ways, and even in ways that surprise us, like through a donkey.<sup>31</sup> Grant me a humble and honest heart that is increasingly sensitive to You speaking to me. Amen.

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>31</sup> 2 Peter 2:15-16



# God is Sovereign over Conversion

## SCRIPTURE

### **Jonah 1:11-16**

The pagan sailors were fearful when the great storm was breaking up their ship (Jnh 1:4-5a). When they discovered Jonah's identity and why he was on their ship, they "became extremely fearful" (Jnh 1:9-10). Jonah asked them to throw him into the sea so that the sea would become calm (vv. 11-12). After Jonah was thrown into the sea, "the sea stopped its raging" (v. 15). Then the pagan sailors "feared the Lord greatly" and "offered a sacrifice" to Him (v. 16). What a redemptive movement of fear - from fear of calamity to fear of God! Ironically, Jonah who feared God (Jnh 1:9) was living in disobedience. There is also another redemptive movement - from the pagans ("cried to his god", Jnh 1:5) and their counsel to Jonah to call on his god (Jnh 1:6), to them calling on the Lord (v. 14). Jonah did not preach and point the pagans to the true God. Instead of being a shining light among them, he almost became a stumbling block. Yet the pagans came to know God. It was purely God's sovereign work.

## OBSERVATION

*What does God's sovereignty over the salvation of the pagan sailors teach us about evangelism and missions?*

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## APPLICATION

What does God's sovereignty over the salvation of the lost in this story mean to me personally?

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## PRAYER

Saviour of the world, there is no saviour besides You.<sup>32</sup>  
 Who can be saved, unless God has chosen them before the foundation of the world?<sup>33</sup>  
 For there is none who seeks for God;<sup>34</sup> and no one can come to You unless the Father draws him.<sup>35</sup> Salvation is from the Lord.<sup>36</sup> Help us to make disciples of all nations with confidence in this glory of God. Amen.

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>32</sup> John 4:42; Isaiah 43:11

<sup>33</sup> Ephesians 1:4

<sup>34</sup> Romans 3:11

<sup>35</sup> John 6:44

<sup>36</sup> Jonah 2:9

July 12,  
Saturday  
2014

# Spiral Backsliding into God's Will

## SCRIPTURE

### **Jonah 1:17 to 2:6; Psalm 32:1-5**

The Hebrew word, *yarad* ("go down"), occurs four times in the Book of Jonah. We have seen how Jonah "went down" to Joppa, and at Joppa he "went down" into the ship (Jnh 1:3), and in the ship he "went down" into its hold (Jnh 1:5) "from the presence of God". God used a great storm to force Jonah to be thrown into the sea (Jnh 1:15), and then used a great fish to swallow him (v. 17). Inside the great fish's stomach, Jonah "went down (*yarad*) into the roots of the mountain" (v. 6). This was where God wanted Jonah to end his spiral backsliding. Jonah "went down" and "went down" and "went down" "from the presence of God", and "went down" further, but this time towards the will of God. The theological picture is this: When we are getting further and further from God, God is getting nearer and nearer to us. Strange are the ways of God! How paradoxical! We see two profound mysterious realities - God's gracious presence with us and God's gracious pursuit of us.

## OBSERVATION

*How does the psalmist describe his experience of God's gracious presence with him and God's gracious pursuit of him in Psalm 32:1-5?*

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## APPLICATION

What area(s) in my life do I sense God graciously pursuing me and how do I want to respond to Him?

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## PRAYER

O Love of God that surpasses full understanding!<sup>37</sup> The love that speaks so tenderly to His rebellious people, "O, how can I give up, Israel? How can I let you go? How can I destroy you like Admah or demolish you like Zeboiim? My heart is torn within Me, and My compassion overflows"<sup>38</sup> I am overwhelmed with gratitude to You, O God is Love!<sup>39</sup> Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>37</sup> Ephesians 3:19 (NLT)

<sup>38</sup> Hosea 11:8

<sup>39</sup> 1 John 4:8,16



**REFLECT:**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

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**RESPONSE:**

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

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b. Journal your prayer.

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**STRAY AWAY**

Straying away from what is right will get us lost.

**Scripture - 1 John 3:7-9**

**1. ACTIVITY BITE**

**Props:** Pinocchio's story from a book or the internet  
Pinocchio got into trouble because he strayed away to do things he shouldn't have done. Briefly tell the story of Pinocchio to your children. After that, get them to change the story and retell it in their own way so that Pinocchio will not get into trouble.

**2. CHAT TIME**

**Q1:** What advice will you give Pinocchio so that he will not get lost?

**Q2:** What advice can you give yourself so that you will not get into trouble?

**Q3:** Why must we stop doing all the wrong things (read 1 Jn 3:7-9)?

**3. LEARNING POINT**

We know how to live rightly because God has shown us the right way in the Bible. But the devil will always want us to stray away so that we will go further away from God. The more we stray away, the deeper we will get ourselves into trouble until we are totally lost. Keep believing in God's Word and don't stray away.

**4. ACTION POINT**

Write/tell a short, imaginary fairy tale about your life in the coming week. Add in a villain who would want to trick you into doing wrong things. Using God's Word, share how you can prevent yourself from getting into trouble.

**5. PRAYER POWER**

(Ask your children to pray after you.)

God, I thank You for teaching me that if I stray away, I will get into trouble and not please You. Help me to keep doing what You say in the Bible. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

july

family devotional week two

July 14,  
Monday  
2014

# Running Back to God's Presence

## SCRIPTURE

### **Jonah 1:17 to 2:10; Jeremiah 30:23 to 31:6**

When we run away from God's presence, God's presence runs after us, so that we may run back to His presence ("I will look again toward Your holy temple", Jnh 2:4b). God's gracious pursuit of us can be a very painful experience. It is distressful ("my distress", v. 2). Jonah's distress was the result of his sinking through the deep waters of chaos (vv. 3, 5) towards "the depth of Sheol" (v. 2), the place of the dead. Sheol is the deepest and darkest pit. God's gracious pursuit of us is divine discipline ("I was buried under Your wild and stormy waves", v. 3b, NLT). We may feel distant from God ("I have been expelled from Your sight", v. 4a). Yet this sense of distance from God, even inside the great fish, is enveloped and encompassed by God who appointed the same fish to swallow us (v. 17) and to vomit us out in due time (v. 10). And God will deliver us: He who "cast me into the deep" (v. 3) is also He who has "brought up my life from the pit" (v. 6).

## OBSERVATION

*What does God reveal about Himself in His retribution on His people for their rebellion against Him and His restoration of them to Himself in Jeremiah 30:23 to 31:6?*

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## APPLICATION

What does "God, as He revealed Himself in Jeremiah 30:23 to 31:6" mean to me personally?

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## PRAYER

I worship You, O God,  
You judge Your disobedient  
people in righteous wrath  
because You are holy. Yet in  
Your mercy, Your anger of  
justice will not diminish until  
You have fully accomplished  
all Your purposes. And those  
who turn back to You will find  
grace in the wilderness, and  
You will rebuild their lives,  
saying, "I have loved you with  
an everlasting love."<sup>40</sup> Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>40</sup> Jeremiah 30:23-24; 31:2-4

July 15,  
Tuesday  
2014

# Outer Change without Inner Change

## SCRIPTURE

**Jonah 3:1-4; 4:1-5; Matthew 6:1-4, 16-18**

God gave Jonah double grace. Despite his rebellious disobedience (Jnh 1:1-3), he was "saved from a watery grave by the totally undeserved grace of God"<sup>41</sup> (Jnh 2); and now God sent him to Nineveh "the second time" (Jnh 3:1). Jonah went to Nineveh "according to the word of the Lord" (Jnh 3:3). Upon hearing Jonah declaring God's coming judgment in 40 days, the whole city of Nineveh repented from their wicked ways (Jnh 3:4-9); and God in His compassion and mercy retracted His threatened judgment (Jnh 3:10). When Jonah saw what God had done, "it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry" (Jnh 4:1). He would rather die than see God withdraw His wrath from the repentant Nineveh (Jnh 4:2-3). He waited for 40 days (Jnh 3:4), hoping for the destruction of Nineveh (Jnh 4:5). The divine discipline inside the great fish's stomach brought about only an outer change in Jonah - obedience to God's second call, but a reluctant obedience. There was no inner change; his negative attitude towards Nineveh remained.

## OBSERVATION

*What does Jesus say about outward religiosity and inward reality in Matthew 6:1-4, 16-18?*

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## APPLICATION

How conscious am I about my self regarding outward religiosity and inward reality?

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## PRAYER

O God, it is so easy for me to seek things that are significant in appearance, to be noticed and honoured by humans, and delight in them. But God, You do not see as humans see, for humans look at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.<sup>42</sup> Only how You see me and what my heart truly is, is of ultimate reality. Help me to live only in ultimate reality.  
Amen.

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>41</sup> Elizabeth Achtemeier, *Minor Prophets I* (Hendrickson & Paternoster, 1996), 270

<sup>42</sup> 1 Samuel 16:7

July 16,  
Wednesday  
2014

# An Unbelievable "Believed in God"

## SCRIPTURE

### **Jonah 3:4-10**

"Yet 40 days and Nineveh will be overthrown" (v. 4). Jonah's proclamation consisted of only five Hebrew words – the shortest evangelistic message ever preached. And God is not even mentioned. But "the people of Nineveh believed in God" (v. 5a). Note the detailed description of Nineveh's response. The people in entirety, "from the greatest to the least", "called a fast and put on sackcloth" (v. 5b) – a sign of humility, brokenness and contriteness. And the wickedest of the wicked in Nineveh, the king, responded in a fourfold act to humble himself: "He arose from his throne", "laid aside his (royal) robe", "covered himself with sackcloth" and "sat on the ashes" (v. 6). And the king proclaimed a national covering with sackcloth and total fasting, including animals whether they were "beast, herd or flock" (vv. 7-8a), and issued a decree to "call on God earnestly" and to repent from their "wicked ways" (v. 8b) in humble surrender and submission to God's sovereign mercy (v. 9). An unbelievable "believed in God"!

## OBSERVATION

*What do you discover about God in the unbelievable "believed in God" of the wicked Ninevites?*

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## APPLICATION

What does the God in the unbelievable "believed in God" of the wicked Ninevites mean to me personally with regard to evangelism and missions?

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## PRAYER

Open our eyes that we can see the Lord sitting on His throne, lofty and exalted.<sup>43</sup> Grant us to see this reality in the present – "The earth is full of His glory"<sup>44</sup> – and this promise of the future – "The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as waters cover the sea"<sup>45</sup>. Help us to make disciples of all nations with confidence in this glory of God. Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>43</sup> Isaiah 6:1

<sup>44</sup> Isaiah 6:3

<sup>45</sup> Habakkuk 2:14





# God is Sovereign over Conversion

## SCRIPTURE

### **Jonah 3:4 - 4:2**

The kind of revival in Nineveh (vv. 5-9) was unheard of even among God's own people, Israel - that even animals were covered with sackcloth and fasting! Ironically, at this time, God's own people were committing persistent and pervasive idolatry and apostasy (2 Ki 14:23-27). Hosea and Amos were prophesying to Israel during this dark period (Hos 1:1; Am 1:1). God's calling and purpose for Israel was as per His covenant with Abraham, that in him and his descendants "all the nations of the earth shall be blessed" (Ge 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14). But Israel failed miserably to be "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (cf. Mt 5:13-16). And Jonah totally lacked commitment (evident in his rebellious disobedience and reluctant obedience to God's call) and compassion for the lost people of Nineveh (Jnh 4). But none of these great shortcomings of God's people can hinder the lost from believing in God. And an unbelievable "believed in God" at that! "Salvation is from the Lord" (v. 9).

## OBSERVATION

*What does God's sovereignty over the salvation of the wicked Ninevites teach us about evangelism and missions?*

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## APPLICATION

What does God's sovereignty over the salvation of the lost in this story mean to me personally?

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## PRAYER

Sovereign God, from whom, through whom and to whom are all things,<sup>46</sup> You work all things according to the purpose and counsel of Your will<sup>47</sup> to the praise of Your glory. Truly, You can do all things, and no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.<sup>48</sup> Help us to make disciples of all nations with confidence in this glory of God. Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>46</sup> Romans 11:36

<sup>47</sup> Ephesians 1:11

<sup>48</sup> Job 42:2

July 18,  
Friday  
2014

# Missions from the Inside Out

## SCRIPTURE

### **Jonah 4:1-11; Matthew 5:1-16**

Jonah chapter 4 has two tales. The first is a tale of two angers: God's anger and Jonah's anger. The response of the holy and just God toward wickedness is "His burning anger" (Jnh 3:9). However, this God of "burning anger" is also "slow to anger" (v. 2). Ironically, when God retracted His "burning anger" that He threatened Nineveh with (Jnh 3:10), Jonah "became angry" (v. 1). The second is a tale of two compassions: God's compassion and Jonah's compassion. God "appointed a plant" to shield Jonah from "his discomfort", then He "appointed a worm" to kill the plant, and Jonah suffered from the sun's heat, leading him to anger (vv. 6-9). Jonah had compassion for a plant which "perished overnight" with no significant consequence, but not for people who can perish for eternity - in contrast to God's compassion (vv. 10-11). The Book of Jonah has more to do with the missionary than with missions. God can accomplish His work of missions without His missionary, but He is very concerned about His missionary - what he is. Missions is to be from the inside out, to have a heart like God's.

## OBSERVATION

*What does Jesus say about missions from the inside out in Matthew 5:1-16?*

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## APPLICATION

What change(s) do I need to make to become the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" in light of Matthew 5:1-12?

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## PRAYER

Blessed God, ten thousand snares are mine within and without. Deliver me! Help me to never be too busy to attend to my soul, never be so engrossed with time that I neglect eternity; thus may I not only live, but grow towards You. Form my mind to the right notions of religion that I may not judge Your grace and my spirituality by wrong conceptions.<sup>49</sup> Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>49</sup> Adapted from Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotion* (The Banner of Truth Trust, 1975, 2013), 108-109

July 19,  
Saturday  
2014

# Sovereign Movements of the Creator

## SCRIPTURE

### **Jonah 1:9; Matthew 28:16-20**

Overarching and undergirding the missionary and missions story of Jonah is God the Sovereign Creator – “the Lord God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land” (v. 9). We see the Creator’s sovereign control: He “hurled a great wind on the sea” (Jnh 1:4), “appointed a great fish” (Jnh 1:17), “commanded the fish” (Jnh 2:10), “appointed a plant” (Jnh 4:6), “appointed a worm” (Jnh 4:7), and “appointed a scorching east wind” (Jnh 4:8). The different objects and ways God uses to accomplish His purposes reflect His sovereign creativity. Don’t stereotype the infinitely creative sovereign God. Our Creator God brings to us power encounters with Him in the “great wind” and “great storm on the sea” (Jnh 1:4), or personal encounters with Him through the “plant”, “worm” and “scorching east wind” (Jnh 4:6-8). The Creator God changes lives through His sovereign movements, in the conversion of unbelievers (Jnh 1:13-16) and in the character of believers (Jnh 4:1-11).

## OBSERVATION

*How are the sovereign movements of the Creator God in missions reflected by the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:16-20?*

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## APPLICATION

How do the sovereign movements of the Creator God in missions challenge and encourage me to do my part in fulfilling the Great Commission with the Church (Mt 28:16-20)?

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## PRAYER

O Supreme Moving Cause,  
may I always be subordinate  
to Thee, be dependent on  
Thee, be found in the path  
where Thou dost walk, and  
where Thy Spirit moves; take  
heed of estrangement from  
Thee, of becoming insensible  
to Thy love. Thou dost not  
move men like stones but  
dost endue them with life, not  
enable them to move without  
Thee but in submission to  
Thee, the first mover.<sup>50</sup> Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>50</sup> Adapted from Arthur Bennett, 12



**REFLECT:**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

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**RESPONSE:**

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

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b. Journal your prayer.

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**GOD KNOWS THE TRUTH**

You can't hide anything from God. He knows the truth.

**Scripture - Jeremiah 23:24**

**1. ACTIVITY BITE**

**Props:** Pencils, slips of paper, small box

On a piece of paper, write a little secret. For example, "I ate the cookies that Mom says I can't." Don't reveal the secret. Put the papers in the box.

**2. CHAT TIME**

**Q1:** How long do you think you can keep your little secret from others?

**Q2:** How does God know my little secret when I don't tell Him (read Jeremiah 23:24)?

**Q3:** What must I do now that God knows my little secret?

**3. LEARNING POINT**

We have lots of secrets that no one knows. I may be smiling at you but in my mind I may be having bad thoughts about you. I can do that because you will not know what I am thinking. But God is so powerful that He knows what I am thinking - whether they are good or bad; He is not happy with all the bad thoughts I have. So I need to change the way I think. I need to let God's Word tell me how to think good thoughts.

**4. ACTION POINT**

Stop hiding (wrong) secrets from God. He knows the truth. Just be honest with Him. Think of a prayer now (instead of praying out loud). He hears you. You can also do this daily this week.

**5. PRAYER POWER**

(Ask your children to pray after you.)

Dear God, You know all my secret thoughts. Nothing is hidden from You. I want to have good thoughts about others. I don't want to have bad secrets. So please help me. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

july

family devotional week three



# When Feeling Condemned

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 3:19-20; Romans 8:31-34

In 1 John 3:19-24, John's pastoral concern is "our heart condemns us" (v. 20a) concerning how we live our lives. This experience is like "a trial", with an "inward debate", involving "three speakers" – "our heart as the accuser, ourselves as the defendant and God as the judge"<sup>51</sup>. The "heart" here is the "conscience", "the centre of man's responsible being"<sup>52</sup>. What causes our hearts to condemn us could be Satan the accuser (Rev 12:10), people or ourselves. "Often our conscience accuses us justly...But our conscience is by no means infallible; its condemnation may often be unjust."<sup>53</sup> When our hearts condemn us, we feel guilty; we feel lousy about ourselves; we feel we are not good enough. It is our hearts that condemn us, not God. And what we need is to "set our hearts at rest" in God's presence (v. 19b, NIV). Overarching and undergirding this reassurance is God, who "is greater than our heart and knows all things" (v. 20b).

## OBSERVATION

What does Paul say about condemnation in Romans 8:31-34?

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## APPLICATION

How should I deal with my heart when it condemns me?

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## PRAYER

Father, I have sinned against You, and I feel guilty and wretched. When Your Spirit convicts me of my sins, You do not intend to condemn me, but that I confess my sins to You that You may cleanse me by the blood of the Lamb. Forgive me and cleanse me of my manifold sins, free me from my heart's condemnation and fill my heart with Your grace. Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>51</sup> John Stott, 150

<sup>52</sup> Stephen S. Smalley, 202

<sup>53</sup> John Stott, 150



July 23,  
Wednesday  
2014

# Restoration to Confidence

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 3:19-21; John 21:15-19

Our father-and-child relationship with God (1 Jn 3:1) is marked by our “confidence before God” (v. 21). Thus, John is seeking to restore in us that confidence to “set our hearts at rest in His presence” (v. 19b, NIV), when “our heart condemns us” (v. 20). When John says “if our heart does not condemn us” (v. 21a), he is not talking about an ideal condition where “some Christians never have a condemning heart, so they can be confident before God”<sup>55</sup>; but rather, our hearts stop condemning us and we do not have to let our hearts condemn us. God “is greater than our heart” (v. 20); He is “more merciful than our heart”<sup>56</sup> and His “pardoning edict” overrules and silences the condemning voice of our heart.<sup>57</sup> “It is always true that God’s love is greater than our sin” (cf. 1 Jn 1:8-9; 4:4).<sup>58</sup> God “knows how weak we are; He remembers we are only dust” (Ps 103:14, NLT), and accepts us in Christ (cf. Ro 15:7).

## OBSERVATION

*How did Jesus restore Peter to confidence in his relationship with his Lord after he denied Him (John 21:15-19)?*

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## APPLICATION

What area(s) in my life do I need to have my confidence before God restored in Christ?

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## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd who has laid down Your life for Your sheep.<sup>59</sup> Indeed, if You have a hundred sheep and one of them strays away, You will leave the ninety-nine and go and search for the one that strayed.<sup>60</sup> I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.<sup>61</sup> Amen.

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>55</sup> David Jackman, 105

<sup>56</sup> John Stott, 151 – citing John H. A. Ebrard

<sup>57</sup> F. F. Bruce, 99

<sup>58</sup> Stephen S. Smalley, 203

<sup>59</sup> John 10:11

<sup>60</sup> Matthew 18:12

<sup>61</sup> Psalm 119:176



July 24,  
Thursday  
2014

# Relationship of Confidence

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 3:21-22; Matthew 7:7-11

"Confidence before God" (v. 21) is related to prayer - "dare we approach God with our requests if we feel guilty before Him?"<sup>62</sup> This confidence is expressed in "whatever we ask we receive from Him" (v. 22a). God answering our prayers is not based on the notion that "God repays us in accordance with what we give Him"<sup>63</sup> - namely, our obedience (v. 22b). "Such a thought is excluded by the fact that John is thinking of the relationship between the Father and His children (1 Jn 3:1), a relationship characterised by love in which all thoughts of our doing good simply to win advantages or God granting favours merely to those who please Him are excluded."<sup>64</sup> In 1 John, obedience to God is about a relationship with the Father. John seeks "to encourage us to enter more fully into the filial relationship in which God delights to hear and answer the requests of His children. The more fully we enter into that relationship, the more will our asking be in accordance to His will"<sup>65</sup> (cf. 1 Jn 5:14).

## OBSERVATION

*What should characterise our prayer life according to Matthew 7:7-11?*

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## APPLICATION

How conscious am I that when I pray to God I am relating with Him as my Father and me as His child?

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## PRAYER

Father, when I believed in Your Son, You gave me the right to become Your child.<sup>66</sup> The Spirit of Your Son dwelling in my heart enables me to call You "Father"<sup>67</sup>. No relationship can be greater than the Father-and-Son relationship between You and Jesus. And it is in this most sacred relationship that You are my Father and I Your child.<sup>68</sup> Thank You, My Father.

Amen.

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for leaders:
  
- Pray for significant people:
  
- Pray for those in need:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>62</sup> I. Howard Marshall, *The Epistles of John*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Eerdmans, 1978), 199

<sup>63</sup> I. Howard Marshall, 200

<sup>64</sup> I. Howard Marshall, 200

<sup>65</sup> I. Howard Marshall, 200

<sup>66</sup> John 1:12

<sup>67</sup> Galatians 4:6

<sup>68</sup> John 10:14-15

July 25,  
Friday  
2014

# Relationship of Consecration

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 3:22-24; John 15:7-10

Our confidence before God continues with our consecration to God. Our consecration is allegiance to God (“keep His commandments”, v. 22b). John “takes those many commands we need to obey and combines all that pleases God into the one great commandment”<sup>69</sup> – faith and love (“believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another”, v. 23; parallels Gal 5:6; Eph 1:15). This verse “provides both a summary of all his [John’s] teaching and a fulcrum for the whole letter”<sup>70</sup>. Faith and love must go together – “love is the constantly expressed evidence of that commitment of faith”<sup>71</sup>. Our consecration is abiding with God – a mutual abiding (v. 24). That is, a growing relationship and fellowship with God in which we see Him more clearly, love Him more dearly and walk with Him more nearly. True allegiance to God is tenacious abiding with God – “the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him and He in him” (v. 24). John puts it in another way: “Be faithful until death” (Rev 2:10).

## OBSERVATION

*What does Jesus intend our relationship with Him to be like according to John 15:7-10?*

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## APPLICATION

What area(s) do I need to pay attention to in my abiding in Christ and Him abiding in me?

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## PRAYER

My God, I am not my own but Yours. Take me for Your own, and help me in all things to do Your holy will. My God, I give myself to You, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, in success and in failure, in life and in death, in time and in eternity. Make me and keep me as Your own; through Jesus Christ my Lord.<sup>72</sup> Amen.

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for leaders:
- Pray for significant people:
- Pray for those in need:
- Pray for self:

<sup>69</sup> David Jackman, 107

<sup>70</sup> David Jackman, 107

<sup>71</sup> David Jackman, 107

<sup>72</sup> *The SPCK Book of Christian Prayer* (SPCK, 1995), 47





**REFLECT:**

What is one key thing that God said to me this week in light of what has happened?

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**RESPONSE:**

a. What is one thing I need to do in light of what God is saying?

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b. Journal your prayer.

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**SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE**

Speaking the truth in love helps encourage one another.

**Scripture - Ephesians 4:15-16**

**1. ACTIVITY BITE**

**Props:** Toothpicks and marbles/any small objects

Say: "Let's take turns saying good things about each other. Let's start with the person on your right. What is something good about him/her? For every good thing you say, you will receive one marble."

**2. CHAT TIME**

**Q1:** How do you feel when someone says something nice about you?

**Q2:** How would you respond if someone says something truthful about you but it's not something nice to hear (e.g. "You like to complain a lot.")?

**Q3:** How does speaking the truth in love help you grow in the family of God (Eph 4:15-16)?

**3. LEARNING POINT**

By speaking the truth in love, we are showing love and respect for others. It will encourage them or help them realise the mistakes they are making. Do it with the love of Jesus. We also need to hear people telling us the truth about ourselves, even things that we may not want to hear. Only then can we grow to become better people.

**4. ACTION POINT**

Think of one good thing you can say to one another every morning. Keep doing it to encourage each other in the love of Christ.

**5. PRAYER POWER**

(Ask your children to pray after you.)

Dear Jesus, please forgive me for saying hurtful things to others. Help me to say good things from now on, and say it out of God's love. Amen.

july

family devotional week four

July 28,  
Monday  
2014

# Don't Believe Every Spirit

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

The context of John's call "do not believe every spirit" (v. 1) is "a situation in which 'prophecy' was prevalent"<sup>74</sup>. John is warning his flock who "were tending to accept uncritically all teaching which claimed to be inspired"<sup>75</sup>. Within the church there are those who claim to hear directly from God and we are drawn to them, especially when they claim to have a personal word from God for our lives, and we uncritically embrace it to be true. We tend to be "impressed by the novel or the unusual, and it is tempting to ascribe all such phenomena to the power of God"<sup>76</sup>. Fascinating "insights" in teaching the Scriptures by some teachers can be wrongly perceived as deep solid stuff. False teachers are "from the world" (1 Jn 4:5). There is "no form of 'worldliness' so inimical to Christianity" as a "re-statement" of the gospel according to "current secular philosophy" "in line with contemporary fashion"<sup>77</sup>, that appeals to "the lust of the flesh" and "the lust of the eyes" in us (cf. 1 Jn 2:15-16).

## OBSERVATION

*How should we respond to "prophetic utterances" according to 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22?*

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## APPLICATION

How do I gauge myself in the continuum between being naïve and gullible on one end, and being critical and discerning on the other end, regarding the call, "Do not believe every spirit"?

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## PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, and show me through Scripture what is true, in a world of great knowledge where many die of ignorance and every piece of information has a price in the marketplace, in a world of easy communication where words leap between continents and we expect to see a picture to illustrate each item of news. Come, Holy Spirit, and show me what is true.<sup>78</sup> Amen.

### Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
  
- Pray for family:
  
- Pray for bosses:
  
- Pray for peers and staff:
  
- Pray for self:

<sup>74</sup> John Stott, 155

<sup>75</sup> John Stott, 155

<sup>76</sup> David Jackman, 111

<sup>77</sup> F. F. Bruce, 106

<sup>78</sup> Adapted from a prayer in *The SPCK Book of Christian Prayer*, 232



# True Knowledge of Jesus

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 4:1-3; Matthew 7:15-27

There were “many false prophets” in John’s days (certainly no fewer today). Thus, John solemnly exhorted his flock, “Do not believe every spirit” but “test the spirits to see” (v. 1) and to “recognise” whether they are from God (vv. 2-3). We “test” and “recognise” the spirits in the teachings, and we do so by the Word of God. We detect error through the truth we know from Scripture. The false teachers in John’s time compromised “the fundamental doctrine [that] concerns the eternal divine-human person of Jesus Christ”<sup>79</sup> when they did not acknowledge that “Jesus Christ came in a real body” (v. 2, NLT). The acknowledgement of Jesus is “not merely a recognition of His identity, but a profession of faith in Him ‘openly and boldly’<sup>80</sup> as the incarnate Lord”<sup>81</sup>. Even evil spirits recognised the deity of Jesus during His ministry (cf. Mk 1:24; 3:11; 5:7), but they did not acknowledge Him. It is not enough that we believe and recognise who Jesus is, but acknowledge Him in submission to His lordship.

## OBSERVATION

What does Jesus say about works done in His name according to Matthew 7:15-27?

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## APPLICATION

How can I ensure that I grow in true knowledge of Jesus theologically and relationally?

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## PRAYER

My Shepherd Lord, teach me and help me to be a sheep that truly knows its shepherd, and thus be able to recognise Your voice when You speak to me through Scripture and in my spirit. Help me to follow You as You speak to me, and keep me from listening to the voice of strangers and be led astray by them.<sup>82</sup> Amen.

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks:
- Pray for family:
- Pray for bosses:
- Pray for peers and staff:
- Pray for self:

<sup>79</sup> John Stott, 158

<sup>80</sup> John Stott, 157 – citing B. F. Westcott

<sup>81</sup> John Stott, 157

<sup>82</sup> John 10:2-5







# Missions Prayer

## FOCUS OF THE MONTH

### The Workers are Few

#### PERSPECTIVE

When the disciples took over the work of Christ, they were commanded to ask “earnestly” or to give serious importance to this prayer, praying with genuine sincerity and intense conviction that the Lord of the harvest Himself would send labourers into His harvest. Christ has entrusted us with the power and the certainty of His answer to provide for the needs of the world and to secure the servants for God’s harvest field.

Therefore, let us steward this commissioning of prayer by setting aside time and give all of ourselves to this part of our intercessory work. It will lead us beyond ourselves into the intimate transformative fellowship of the compassionate heart of Christ for the lost. May we shine righteously as a house of prayer for the nations (Isa 56:7, Mt 21:13, Mk 11:17, Lk 19:46).

#### PRAYER

Blessed Lord, I humbly ask that you let me see these spiritual realities, that there is a large harvest which is perishing as it waits for sleepy disciples to give the signal for labourers to come. Lord, teach me to view it with a heart full of compassion and faith. There are so few labourers, Lord. Forgive me for my lack of prayer, considering there is a Lord of the harvest so able and ready to send forth the labourers. Lord, breathe Your Spirit into me, give me a heart of flesh, so that I may know You, the missionary God who has the lost in Your heart. Ignite a fire of Your passion and compassion for lost humanity that will rouse me and others to unceasing, prevailing prayer. Holy Spirit, ignite my heart and direct my feet in engaging God in missions. Amen.

#### PRAYER POINTERS

##### 1. Engaging Missions in Prayer

- Begin to pray regularly for Missions Week in July 2014, that the Holy Spirit will awaken and arouse the hearts of the disciples with His irresistible love for the lost in Singapore and beyond.
- Earnestly ask the Lord of the harvest for the provision of 50 full-time and bivocational missionaries by 2015 who will go and make disciples of the nations.

##### 2. Engaging Missions in Person

Pray and ask the Lord to reveal His plan for YOU in missions. We are all called to be involved in missions because we are called to fulfill the Lord’s heartbeat. It could be as a missionary but it could also mean being actively involved in one of the 5+1 thrusts – Home Missions, Urban Missions, Business as Missions, E-Missions, The Next Generation Missions and Missions Prayer.

*And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.”*

**MATTHEW 9:35-38**

# worship songs

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## THRIVE

### Intro

Oh oh

### Verse 1

Here in this worn and weary land  
Where many a dream has died  
Like a tree planted by the water  
We will never run dry

### Pre-Chorus

So living water flowing through  
God we thirst for more of You  
Fill our hearts and flood our souls  
With one desire

### Chorus

Just to know You and to make You known  
We lift Your name on high  
Shine like the sun make darkness run and hide

We know we were made for so much more  
Than ordinary lives  
It's time for us to more than just survive  
We were made to thrive

### Verse 2

Into Your Word we're digging deep  
To know our Father's heart  
Into the world we're reaching out  
To show them who You are

## THRIVE (CONT'D)

### Bridge

Joy unspeakable  
Faith unsinkable  
Love unstoppable  
Anything is possible  
(Repeat 3X)

### Interlude

Oh oh  
Oh oh

### Ending

We were made to thrive

Words & Music: Mark Hall | Matthew West  
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## GOD OF AGES

God of ages bringing glory here  
 You are good  
 You are good  
 Son of righteousness  
 You are all I seek  
 With all my heart

### Pre-chorus

Giver of life  
 Hope for the lost is in You  
 All of the earth shines with Your light  
 Your glory

### Chorus

You are the God who lives  
 You are the God who heals  
 You are my hope, my everything  
 You brought salvation to us  
 Offered Your peace to the world  
 You are my Lord, my everything

### Verse 2

In Your promise and Your faithfulness  
 I will trust all my days  
 King forever, reign in majesty  
 Be glorified

Words & Music: Ben Fielding  
 Year & Publisher: © 2007 Hillsong Music Publishing  
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## GIVE ME JESUS

### Verse 1

In the morning when I rise  
 In the morning when I rise  
 In the morning when I rise  
 Give me Jesus

### Chorus 1

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus  
 You can have all this world  
 But give me Jesus

### Verse 2

And when I am alone  
 Oh and when I am alone  
 And when I am alone  
 Give me Jesus

### Verse 3

And when I come to die  
 Oh and when I come to die  
 And when I come to die  
 Give me Jesus

### Chorus 2

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus  
 You can have all this world  
 You can have all this world  
 You can have all this world but give me Jesus

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 Year & Publisher: © Words: Public Domain; Music: 2000  
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## COME HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit fall on me now  
 I need Your anointing  
 Come in Your power  
 I love You Holy Spirit  
 You're captivating my soul  
 And every day I grow to love You more

### Chorus

I'm reaching for Your heart  
 You hold my life in Your hand  
 Drawing me closer to You  
 I feel your power renew

Nothing compares to this place  
 Where I can see You face to face  
 I worship You in spirit and in truth

Year & Publisher: City Harvest Church

## HOLY SPIRIT RAIN DOWN

Holy Spirit rain down  
 Rain down  
 O Comforter and Friend  
 How we need Your touch again

Holy Spirit rain down  
 Rain down  
 Let Your power fall  
 Let Your voice be heard  
 Come and change our hearts  
 As we stand on Your Word  
 Holy Spirit  
 Rain down

No eye has seen, no ear has heard  
 No mind can know what God has in store  
 So open up heaven, open it wide  
 Over Your church  
 And over our lives

Words & Music: Russell Fragar  
 Year & Publishing: © 1997 Hillsong Music Publishing  
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## BE THOU MY VISION

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart  
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all

Words & Music: Eleanor Henrietta Hull | Mary Elizabeth Byrne  
Year & Publisher: © Words: Public Domain  
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## JUST AS I AM

### Verse 1

Just as I am without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God I come, I come

### Verse 2

Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot  
O Lamb of God I come, I come

### Chorus

I come broken to be mended  
I come wounded to be healed  
I come desperate to be rescued  
I come empty to be filled

I come guilty to be pardoned  
By the blood of Christ the Lamb  
And I'm welcomed with open arms praise God  
Just as I am

### Verse 3

Just as I am I would be lost  
But mercy and grace my freedom bought  
And now to glory in Your cross  
O Lamb of God I come, I come

### Ending

Praise God just as I am  
Just as I am

Words & Music: Charlotte Elliott | David Moffitt | Sue C. Smith | Travis Cottrell |  
William Batchelder Bradbury  
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## BREATHE

### Verse 1

This is the air I breathe  
 This is the air I breathe  
 Your holy presence living in me

This is my daily bread  
 This is my daily bread  
 Your very word spoken to me

### Chorus

And I, I'm desperate for You  
 And I, I'm lost without You

### Ending

This is the air I breathe  
 This is the air I breathe

Words & Music: Marie Barnett  
 Year & Publisher: © 1995 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by K I Publishing)  
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## HEART OF WORSHIP

### Verse 1

When the music fades and all is stripped away  
 And I simply come  
 Longing just to bring something that's of worth  
 That will bless Your heart

### Bridge

I'll bring You more than a song  
 For a song in itself is not what You have required  
 You search much deeper within  
 Through the way things appear  
 You're looking into my heart

### Chorus

I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
 And it's all about You  
 It's all about You, Jesus  
 I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it  
 When it's all about You  
 It's all about You, Jesus

### Verse 2

King of endless worth, no one could express  
 How much You deserve  
 Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours  
 Every single breath  
 (Repeat Bridge and Chorus)

### Tag

I'll bring You more than a song  
 I'll bring You more than a song  
 You're looking into my heart  
 Looking into my heart

Words & Music: Matt Redman  
 Year & Publisher: © 1997 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)  
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## AMAZING GRACE MY CHAINS ARE GONE

### Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind but now I see

### Verse 2

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

### Chorus

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love, Amazing Grace

### Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

### Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, who call'd me here below  
Will be forever mine

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