



mamlaka hill chapel
Empowered to Transform

RUAKA

FAITH & FAMILY *Prayer Guide*

MID-YEAR
Prayers & Fasting
JUNE 2023

Ephesians 6:18^{NIV}

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

The Scriptures know of no prayerless church or people of God. What we see is men and women exhorted to pray to God in calamity and joy, in pain and pleasure in mourning or rejoicing, in all occasions, and with all kinds of prayers because this is the will of God for us His people. While fasting is mostly associated with times of great distress and pain, so that the people turn to the Lord from a place of need and strain, there are many others who go to the Lord out of a sincere desire to communion with Him and still others who go because the Lord calls them to come to Him in isolation. Jesus, our Lord, fasted and prayed setting an example for us to follow.

Philippians 4:6-7^{NIV}

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



MID-YEAR

Prayer for Faith & Family

Jeremiah 33:2-3^{NIV}

2 “This is what the Lord says, He who made the earth, the Lord who formed it and established it—the Lord is His name: 3 ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’

As we journey through the family series as a church, we desire that our prayer time would help us solidify some of the convictions we have been challenged about as a church this season. We also hope to respond in faith to the God who calls us to draw nearer to Him, as we ask Him for healing and restoration for our families.

In addition, we hope that our frustrations from failure and the fallen world around us will find a proper audience with God during this time of prayer and fasting. That which you find too hard or impossible to bear will be met by Jesus words in

Matthew 11:28-30^{NIV};

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

This is the testimony of David concerning prayer to God:

Psalms 34:15-18^{NIV}

15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry;

16 but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth.

17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

2 Chronicles 20:4-13^{NIV}

4 The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard 6 and said:

“Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you...

12 Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

13 All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord.

HELPFUL GUIDELINES:

The Prayer Guide: As provided, this guide is full of verses and helpful reflections to aid your time of prayer. Use them as references during your time with God. You are not constrained to pray for what is provided but it would be of great benefit to join in with the rest of the church in unity of prayer.

Journal: Find a journal that can allow you to honestly reflect on the answers to some of the questions asked in order to more meaningfully interact with God in Prayer.

Time: Plan ahead of time an ideal time and place where you will interact with God in prayer without disruption for at least 45 minutes daily. You can break that in two, do half the time in the morning and the other during the day. If you do not plan, chances are you will not do it.

One another: Consider syncing your time of prayer with a friend or fellow REAL group member so that you can encourage one another and keep each other accountable.

Go beyond: The guide is a helpful aid in your interaction with God but can also be limiting. Faithfully pray through the guide and if you get some more time to pray, go beyond and cry out to God for other issues not herein captured.

Other aids: Music, sermons and podcasts can be helpful tools to keep you engaged all day. When the hunger begins to bite, you can use them as tools to help you persevere.

Beginning your fast: In the morning, before you start your day, find a quiet place (preferably out of bed) for at least 10 mins to commit the fast to God and ask for strength to pray.

Breaking the fast: If possible, take a few minutes in thanksgiving to God every day before you break your fast as a reminder that it is he who sustains you. Then take some water and a light snack before you can have a heavy meal.

Full day Fast: While the corporate fast we are involved in as a church is partial (6 am-6 pm), should you find you have the ability or are convicted to do a full (Day and Night) fast during this time, go ahead and do so but with the knowledge of someone you trust.



FORMED AND FATHERED

Genesis 1:26-29^{NIV}

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female, He created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food."

First, we see that God created man to be a reflection of His image. We are not a random chance but the products of an intentional, intelligent designer who planned for us to be just as we are. We may struggle with our looks, social class, or even vocation, but we must never forget that our identity and our value are directly given to us by our Creator in whose likeness we are.

The Lord clearly had a great plan for man. Having planted a garden, He furnished it with everything for His sustenance, comfort, delight, filling, and productivity. It was perfectly sufficient for Adam. He lacked NOTHING. Even now, though our world is not what the Garden of Eden was, we still see the blessings of God in Eden trickled down for us from the hand of a

good, kind, and loving Father.

After the sin of Adam, God, in loving kindness towards us reached out to reconcile us (stray children) with Him so that we would be restored to Him, our Father.

John 1:12-13^{NIV}

12 Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

We are not without a Father. We have been received back to the family as children, sons; heirs together with Christ. While our sin should have left us like Cain, an aimless wanderer on the earth, we have been preserved and given the Spirit of God, and a right to cry to Him, "Abba, Father". And He who knows us hears us when we call and He answers.

1 John 3:7^{NIV}

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! What a comforting reality this is, to know that our Father has called us his own. Not only does He own us by virtue of being our creator, He has also redeemed us with the costly price of His son's blood on the cross.

Isaiah 43:7^{NIV}

But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine."

Romans 8:14-17^{NIV}

14 for those who are led by the spirit of God are the children of God. 15 the Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, father.” 16 the Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17 now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in His Glory.

REFLECTIONS

- *What has the Lord done for you so far in the year? What new year resolutions and prayer needs did you present to the Lord and how far has the Lord enabled you to achieve them? What amazing surprises has the Lord brought you that you didn’t even ask for? Write them down.*
- *Have there been straight out difficulties you’ve faced so far in the year? How has the Lord helped you through them? Are there some you are in right now, or still waiting for answers for? Note them.*
- *In the matter of God’s provision, how faithful and consistent has God been? In your safety and protection, have you been shielded? In your pain and sorrow, has he provided comfort?*
- *For you who is married, what could you say has been a joy in your home this half year? How has the Lord ministered to your wife or children? Is there a prayer you made for them that’s been answered?*



PRAYER POINTS

1. Let us begin this week by cultivating gratitude to God for what He has done. Begin with what you have journaled already and say to God what you are truly thankful to Him for.
2. Praise God for His comforting presence. If you know that for you God has been a comforter, and has stood by you when you needed help, thank Him for His abiding presence.
3. Praise God for His works of power, for the miracles He has done. For testimonies you have and you've heard from those you've prayed with. Thank God for His answers to you and others.
4. Praise God for who He is, not just to you but in His nature. He who upholds all things by His powerful hand, who gives rain in its proper time, who crowns us with beauty and compassion.
5. Have you been in doubt about your identity this year? Has someone said hurtful words or done something demeaning that left you feeling devalued or dejected? Take it to the Lord in prayer. He says you are known and valued by Him, ask Him to remind you who you are.

Psalm 103:1-6

- ¹ Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name.
 - ² Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all His benefits—
 - ³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
 - ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,
 - ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
 - ⁶ The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.
6. Have you faced difficulty this year, loss of a job, relationship, loved one, or property? Do you find it hard to accept the reality of things as is? Take it to the Lord, He is an ever-present help in our time of need.
 7. Are you without provision, is your supply feeling insufficient? Are you stuck in debt, have you been out of work, have you felt the shame of asking for help from others because of your need? Ask the Lord for relief. Our Father's supply is endless. He richly supplies.
 8. Is your need marriage? Or are you in one that lacks joy or purpose? Are you failing in your leadership as a husband? Are you failing in building your home with your hands as a wife? Have you been frustrated by the sin of your spouse or been disappointed at how your children have turned out? Call on God!
 9. Have you felt the sting of failed relationships or found no one godly to do marriage with? Ask the Lord who made family, who says it is not good for one to be alone, whose purposes and will is fulfilled in godly marriages and homes.

Genesis 3:1-7^{NIV}

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, **3** but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. **5** "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

No doubt that in Adam, all fell. Having listened to the strange deceitful voice of Satan, man was plunged into a world full of despair, grief, hardship, pain, toil, murder, and death. And while it is easy for us to point a finger at Adam and accuse him of our corruption, the fact remains that we fail to live as God requires because we are rebellious just as he and Eve were.

1 John 1:8-10^{NIV}

Reminds us that if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But

9 if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us.

Instead of responding like Adam and Eve did, when confronted by God, ours must be a repentant heart that is sorrow-filled for our disobedience. We must turn to Him for He richly pardons and is filled with unending love and goodness.

Exodus 34:6-7^{NIV}

6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, **7** maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin..."

We must then stay alert and not give in to the deception of the enemy. Since the Garden of Eden, he seeks to subvert the work of God, especially in believers. And though his end nears and his destruction is certain, he will not relent to cause the saint to stumble and in so doing rob God of His glory. We must be on guard then, putting no confidence in the flesh for we are not unaware of the devil's schemes.

As **1 Peter 5:8^{NIV}** says; **8** Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

And again

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.



The strategy for us is simple, the full armor of God, as Paul teaches in

Ephesians 6:10-17

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

REFLECTIONS

Isaiah 53:6^{NIV}

"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all"

- *How have you seen brokenness in your life in this season due to your own sin? In what areas do you regret actions that you did or decisions you made in disobedience to God's Word or disregard for His commandments? Write them down.*
- *Has the devil whispered to you thoughts that challenge what God says is true and righteous? Is there a matter with which you feel God is wrong and have challenged Him on it by way of living or in your thoughts? Journal it.*
- *Do you feel oppressed by the evil one? Has he been around and about you, pressuring you to give up on your faith, enticing you to sin, making the faith look illogical, showing you the joy in worldliness, or sending you strong discouragement or suffering? Write it down.*
- *Are you feeling stuck in a cycle of sinful habits or addictive behavior? Do you feel helplessly bound to certain desires, thoughts, or loves and you are not sure you even want to leave them? Have you been hurting people you love because of the things you do to them or yourself?*
- *Has the sin of others around you become a subject of much pain for you or for people you love dearly? Do you mourn for this world's brokenness and sinfulness?*

PRAYER POINTS

1. Which sin do you know in your heart remains unconfessed to God adequately or still not surrendered to Him fully? Confess it before God now.
2. Has someone else accused you of wronging them against your knowledge or misjudged your actions or words as ill-motives and broken fellowship with you? Have you broken fellowship with someone because of the same kind of issue? Ask God for forgiveness and reconciliation.
3. Are you in an addiction, pornography, masturbation, use of sex toys, gluttony, alcoholism, adultery, gambling, violence, hate, homosexuality, envy, laziness, anger, etc.? There is help sufficient for you to break free from them in Jesus. Call on Him!
4. Has your life lacked joy? Do you sometimes feel suicidal? Do you feel purposeless or like you are just going through life without hope? Have you doubted your identity or felt like you are not valuable to anyone? Do you have bouts of depression? Talk to God, He knows you truly.

I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

I need Thee, oh, I need Thee;

Every hour I need Thee;

Oh, bless me now, my Savior,

I come to Thee.

I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their pow'r when Thou art nigh.

I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain;

Come quickly and abide, or life is vain.

5. Have you been mistreated, insulted, or looked down on for being too dogmatic about your Christian beliefs? Have you lost good friendships, business, or even relationships because of what you believe in? Pray that the Lord would strengthen you this day.
6. Have you seen injustice done to you or those you care about and have helplessly stood by without any help? Has what is rightfully yours been denied you because you will not bribe or cut a deal and dishonor God? Call on the God of justice today.
7. Have fights, sin, and failures in your family caused a rift between you and your parents or siblings? Do you find strain in relating with your family members because of things that were done, said, not done, or expectations that were not met? If God did not destroy Cain even in His sin, He has mercy enough to pardon whomever the offender is. And He who also gave Eve another child, Seth, to balm her pain of loss, He is able to heal the heart of the offended.
8. Are you without an earthly father, maybe you never met him, maybe you lost him, maybe he disowned you or maybe you aren't in a relationship because of the hurt or wounds he gave you. Ask your heavenly Father to fill that void for you. Where healing is needed, He is able to heal.

Genesis 4:25-26^{NIV}

25 Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, "God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." **26** Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the Lord.

God always preserves a remnant for Himself. The death of Abel must have been a big blow to the family of Adam especially having been murdered by his brother who was now cursed by God to be an aimless wanderer on the earth. But the Lord blessed them with another child and from this child, God continued to pursue mankind. Unfortunately, men continued to sin throughout the ages, to the time of Noah and even after the flood.

Then the Lord set His love on Abraham, a moon worshipper, and called him out of his homeland to become a people set apart for Him. Abraham obeyed the Lord and responded in obedience by faith and God called that righteousness. God blessed him and all who were his descendants promising that his love would never depart from them; and not only his descendants but all else who will turn to Him by faith as Abraham did.

Galatians 3:6-9^{NIV}

6 So also Abraham "believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

7 Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. **8** Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be

blessed through you." **9** So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

But now the Lord calls us to be made separate, to live not like those who disobeyed Him in the desert of sin, but as those redeemed by His blood into a new life. Jesus called His disciples to carry their crosses and follow Him.

Matthew 16:24-27:

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **25** For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. **26** What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? **27** For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

Similarly, Paul calls upon them in Corinth to be separated as Holy to God

2 Corinthians 6:16b-18

...For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them and I will be their God, and they will be my people." **17** Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing and I will receive you." **18** And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

John in **1 John 3:6-10**^{NIV} in addition to this also says of believers:

6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. **8** The one who does what is sinful is of the devil because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. **9** No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. **10** This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

REFLECTIONS

Acts 2:17-21^{NIV}

17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.... **21** And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

- *Are you born again? Have you trusted in Jesus alone for the forgiveness of your sins and by faith received the Holy Spirit of God? From what are you drawing this confidence?*
- *What does it mean to you to have a personal relationship with God? How have you related with God this half of the year? Let's do an honest assessment, who has control, and whose agenda are you pursuing?*
- *How consistent is your Bible reading? Have you been attending Bible study or a REAL group? How about prayer? Would you say you have been protective of your time alone with God?*
- *Have you been obedient to God's Word? How quick are you to make resolves and implement some of the rebukes, corrections, or encouragements you receive on Sundays during the sermon? Who holds you accountable for the kind of life you live? Is there anyone who knows where you are at spiritually or is constantly checking up on you with regards to your faith?*
- *Are you actively fighting sin or are you just letting sin control you? This half-year what victories can you mention where you managed to resist temptation or exercise restraint from indulgence?*



PRAYER POINTS

1. Maybe there is something you know God is even now asking you to do but you have not gotten to it, are delaying it, or have outrightly refused to do; Raise it with Him.
2. Are you struggling with your Quiet Time: been too 'busy' to pray, been lax about fellowship, or have found no delight in reading the Scriptures? Has a pursuit for godliness been more cumbersome than it has been joyful? Ask the Lord for renewal.
3. Are you a seasonal believer, who loves the Lord in seasons of need but forgets Him when prosperity and success kick in? Do you only come to church or attend fellowship when it is convenient or when you feel like it? Ask for true devotion.
4. Have you kept the Christian community around you at arm's length? Never bringing anyone close enough to see your brokenness. Do you feel you have to put up a face for people to think you are more godly than you really are? Do you feel hypocritical? Let down your guard and come to God.

Psalm 51:10-12

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

5. Do you admire the love others have for God but never know how to get there? Do you make plans every year to read through the Bible but face the frustration of never getting done with it? Do you set apart time to be with God but more times than not end up failing to do so? Ask Him, He is able to make you faithful.
6. Have entertainment, pleasure, and indulgences kept you from loving the Lord with your time, constantly getting in the way of you being with God? Especially when you are in no need, no sin or pain, does God's company delight you more than Hollywood? Ask Him for a heart that delights in Him more than all else.
7. Is it easier for you to conform to the standards of the world in your office, neighborhood, or friendships than to stand out and break off from the fellowship of sin? Have people's approval and the sense of belonging had more importance to you than the honor of God? Tell him your struggle.
8. Do you live for yourself, to satisfy your own wants and needs primarily, or is the glory of God what you pursue? Have you fashioned your life around yourself, your ambitions, goals, desires, priorities, and dreams or have you oriented it around God's will and agenda? Ask Him to take His rightful place as your center.

Galatians 5:22-26^{NIV}

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **24** Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

It is the Lord's will for us His children to bear fruit and fruit that will last. And greater than the fruit of service to Him, He yearns to find in us the true fruit that the Spirit gives. The fruit of the Spirit. It matters much to God that our faith is growing and that we are being conformed to the image of His son. And much as this is a work of the Holy Spirit in us, we have also been called to emulate Christ and work on our salvation with trembling and fear.

Philippians 2:12-13^{NIV}

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

In John 15:1-8^{NIV}

Jesus Says "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. **3** You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4** Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch

can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

In addition, He urges us to use our time on earth not merely to satisfy our own desires but to store treasure in heaven, which is the real treasure.

In Matthew 6:19-21^{NIV}

Jesus tells us,

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where ⁶your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

To God everything we have is from him and we have received from him as stewards who will be called to account.

The Preacher says, in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14^{NIV},

13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. **14** For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Work which was a primary role given to mankind by God through which their needs would be met is not exempt. God looks in to see what we are doing with our hands also and whether or not we are bringing Him glory from work.

All in all, our God is not a hard master, He has promised that every effort in honor of Him will not go unnoticed or unrewarded.

In **Matthew 24:46-47**^{NIV}, He says;

46 *It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so (the master's will) when he returns. **47** Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.*

And also, to the faithful He says in **Matthew 25:21**^{NIV}

21 *"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!*

REFLECTIONS

Col.3:23-24^{NIV}

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, **24** since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

- Which part of the fruit of the Spirit do you feel you are struggling to exercise fully in your life? Where have you felt the need for increased grace for you in your walk with God?
- If you were to judge purely out of your expenditures, what would you conclude to be the thing you love the most? Where do most of your money go by the end of the month?
- How faithfully have you used your resources, time, or energy in the service of God's work? When is the last time you made time to visit a sick relative or friend, when last did you attend a wake, burial, or memorial service of a congregant whom you didn't know well?
- Have you suffered, or had to give up some comfort or want because you made a sacrifice to support the Lord's work above your normal giving? Have you intended for instance to support the tent sanctuary we're working towards having?
- Is there a neighbor or colleague from work who'd say they have felt the love of God through your actions or words? Do you encourage the broken? Do you comfort the mourning? Do you pray for the sick?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Are you struggling to love, or to be patient? Do you desire joy or peace? Are you unkind or do you lack goodness? Are faithfulness and gentleness hard to come by, or is it self-control for you? Ask God who delights in finding fruit in us.
2. Does the lure of the world and its pleasures make you feel like you are missing out as a believer? Are most of your pursuits simply to accumulate stuff for yourself and then more? Ask Him to set you free from it.
3. Do you struggle to meet the needs of others especially the needy around you? Are you continuously cautious that you are not been taken advantage of when you give? Is generosity an honest struggle for you? Pray for a heart eager to give.
4. Do you make an effort to call your friends and find out their welfare? Are you faithful to pray for those who share with you their needs or what they are trusting God for? Ask God for faithfulness.

2 Peter 1:5-11 NIV

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

5. Are there some members of the church known to you who are in need, hurting, or sick and in need of your compassion? Raise them before God today.
6. Have you purposed to give to the tent project? Are you still unsure how much you should give? Pray that God would give you a figure and help you stay faithful to your commitment to him
7. Do you see a connection between what you do and God's glory or purpose? Does your 8 am-5 pm job leave you feeling that you are exactly where God wants you to be? If not, ask God to give you clarity on why He placed you where you are right now, and ask for strength to fulfill it.
8. While work is good and leaves us quite fulfilled, ask God to show you where you might have exalted it above Him or His other purposes and possibly become too busy to serve His agenda.



Deuteronomy 6:7-9^{NIV}

1. These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 2 so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. 3 Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. 4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

The Lord had desired a godly generation from His people. He longs to be mirrored in His children and in the children born in their households. This is why He gives them the blessing to multiply and bear children. But the responsibility does not stop there, God desires that what He has revealed to His people would be passed down to future generations so that they too may learn to put their faith in Him as God. Parents therefore become agents of

God's agenda of raising the generation of faith, without which the danger of a godless generation like we see in Judges 2:10 looms.

Judges 2:10

10 ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.

It is not only biological children He desires, He has also asked us to go into our ailing world and snatch from the fire those who because of sin remain under bondage.

Matthew 9:35-38,

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Sometimes we imagine evangelism and discipleship as these big ideas that demand so much time and resource from us and it is hard to conceive how Jesus expects us to practically manage to do these tasks in our fast-paced 21st Century world. But in Christ, even a glass of water offered in His name is deserving of a reward as in Matthew 10:42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

In our daily labor therefore, we must be on the lookout for the opportunities God supplies to show love to a broken world in need of His healing. We must be the agents of God's compassion and shine like a light in a dark world, boldly proclaiming the message of truth that alone can save them and give them an inheritance among those who are being saved.

Psalms 78:1-8 NIV

My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old— things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. They would not be like their ancestors— a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

REFLECTIONS

- *Are you a parent raising children in this age? How do you think the culture today is influencing your children at home or outside of it? What safeguards have you put in place to stem the wave of worldliness about you and your home? Which doors have you intentionally closed off in order to preserve faith in your home?*
- *Do you have a plan for the discipleship of your children? Do you try to influence your nephews, nieces, or younger cousins with God's Word? How can you shape the perceptions of those younger than you, whom God has placed in your reach, within your family and friendships?*
- *Do you volunteer at our Children's Ministry as a parent to know what your children learn on Sunday? Have you tried to influence the children God has brought into Mamlaka by teaching Sunday school? Have you invited your neighbors or their children to come to where you go to church?*
- *Do people at your workplace know of your faith? How many of those who look up to you in the career world know you are a believer? Are you shy, is it fear, or is it an image that keeps you from telling people you are born again?*



PRAYER POINTS

1. Can your home be said to be a place where faith and godliness are nurtured? Could it be said by your children that you endeavor to bring them closer to God? Pray for faithfulness.
2. Has anyone ever witnessed that because of your direct influence in sharing God's Word with them, in how you live your life, or with your friendship, they have been pulled to the faith? Ask God to make you one who is bringing people to the kingdom.
3. Have you ever knocked at a neighbor's door, to congratulate them on a child born or encourage them due to an illness or death and while so doing pray for or share God's Word with them? Ask God to open your eyes to such opportunities and give you the courage for it.
4. Do your family members know you are born again? Do you invite them to church or church events? Are you fearful they might brand you a certain way? Pray that you love them beyond your fears or their perceptions of you.

Facing a task unfinished

1 Facing a task unfinished, that drives us to our knees, a need that, undiminished, rebukes our slothful ease, we who rejoice to know you, renew before your throne the solemn pledge we owe you, to go and make you known.

We go to all the world, with kingdom hope unfurled

No other name has power to save, But Jesus Christ The Lord

2 Where other lords beside you, hold their unhindered sway, where forces that defied you, defy you still today, with none to heed their crying, for life and love and light, unnumbered souls are dying, and pass into the night.

5. Have your kids become unruly, do they love the world more than they love God? Do you feel like you are losing grip of them to the world and are not sure what to do? God is not helpless too, talk to Him about them.
6. Do you have a relative, colleague, or friend you have been praying for to come to salvation but have not yet come? Have you shared the gospel with them but they seem hard hearted towards God? Pray for their salvation again, God knows them.
7. Is your spouse an unbeliever and you live with him/her conscious that they are in danger of eternal damnation? Pray for their salvation today, God hears!
8. Do you find yourself being paralyzed by the fear of man in your attempts at evangelism, do you give more weight to people's thoughts of you than you should? Ask God to increase your view of Him.



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