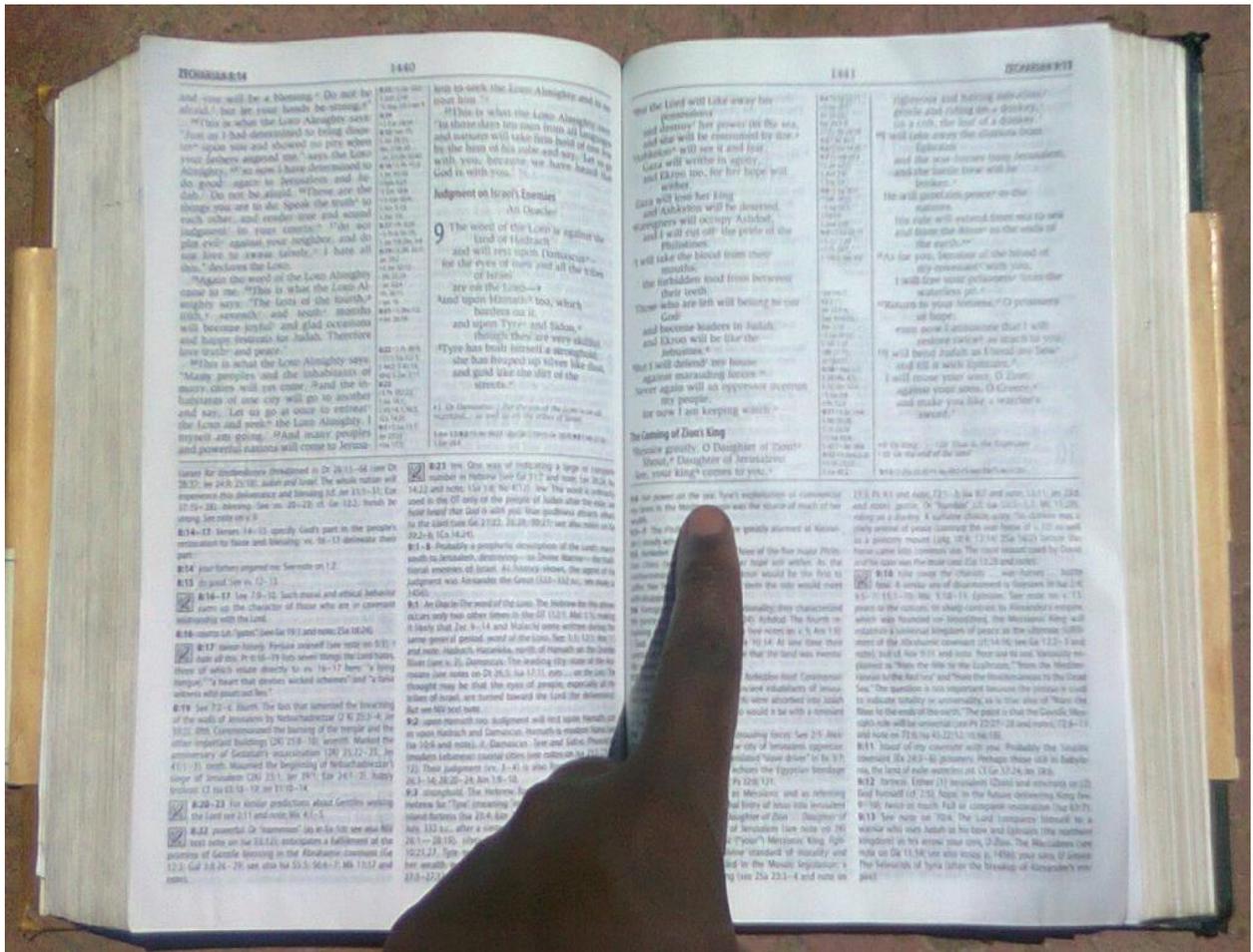


# QUITE TIMES

## A HOLIDAY WITH GOD

(1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2014 – 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015)

<sup>1</sup>"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers. <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. (Psalms 1:1-2. NIV 1984)"



BY:

NAIROBI CHRISTIAN CHURCH STAFF MEMBERS

WEEK 1 (1<sup>ST</sup> to 7<sup>TH</sup> December)

**BE PRAYERFUL AND IN THE WORD LIKE JESUS.**

**DAY 1: PRAY AND BE IN THE WORD**

**Hebrews 5:7 and Psalms 119:105**

During the days of Jesus days on earth, prayer was his habit and lifestyle. Is this going to be your habit and lifestyle during these festivities? As in *Psalms 119: 105*, the word of God illuminates our spiritual paths. Without it, we grope in spiritual darkness.

**Application:** Beginning today, do surrender your life to God through prayer during this festive season. Do not forget to light your path with the word every day.

**DAY 2: START YOUR DAY WITH PRAYER AND THE WORD**

**Mark 1: 35.** Christ Jesus would start his day with prayers early in the morning. He put his praises, gratitude and requests before God in the morning.

**Psalms 119:97- 104.** The highest level of wisdom is attained by meditation in God's law. Become wiser by meditating upon the word.

**Application:** Venture in a new time of prayer as you adequately study and cogitate on the scriptures.

**DAY 3: PRAY ABOUT TEMPTATIONS AND FIGHT SATAN WITH GODS WORD**

**Mathew 26:36-41.** Jesus prayed about every temptation that he would face in his daily life. How do you face challenges, trials, worries and anxieties?

**Mathew 4:1-11.** Jesus committed scriptures to memory and was able to beat the tempter by quoting ... "it is written". How much scripture do I remember? Read the scriptures and equip yourself to wade off the tricks of the devil.

**Application;** List the temptations you are going through and commit them to prayer. And, commit some scriptures to memory this festive season and use them as weapons whenever it is necessary.

**Further study:** Ephesians 4:6-7 and James 4:13-16.

**DAY 4: PRAY IN FAITH AND PRACTISE GODS WORD**

**Mark 11:23-24.** Prayers offered in faith, effective are effective. Such prayers move mountains in our lives. Doubt not when you offer prayers to God. The answer may be delayed but do not waver in being faithful.

**James 1:22-25.** Put into practice what the word says. There is freedom to be what we were created for if we put into practice the word

**Application:** List the mountains in your life that need to be moved by faithful prayer. Go for a "never-done before" prayer. Which part of scripture are you not putting into practice and is causing you to miss God's blessings?

**Further study:** James 5:17-18 and James 1:19-27

**DAY 5: PRAY FOR BELIEVERS UNITY AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS WITH GODS WORD**

**John 17:20-23.** Jesus prayed for the unity of all the believers (disciples), all over the world. Remember to pray for fellow disciples and all their involvements.

**Colossians 3:16-17.** Allow the word to richly dwell in you so that you may be of encouragement to believers and everyone around you this festive season.

**Application:** Draw a list of people you want to pray for and encourage two people today. They may be sick or in grief and or on a spiritual downward roll.

**Further Study:** Ephesians 4:3-6 and 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

#### DAY 6: PRAY FOR YOUR PLANS AND UNDERSTAND GODS WORD

**Luke 6:12-13.** Jesus prayed over his plans before executing them. Do you consider putting your plans, both physical and spiritual to God in prayer? Look for prayer places and commit to pray.

**Daniel 9:1-3.** Daniel understood from the word of the Lord, the impending desolation of Jerusalem. It caused him to pray and confess. The word causes us to understand why we are who we are. Read and understand it.

**Application:** Consider having an all-night of prayer by yourself or with others during these merriments. Let the word cause you to turn to the Lord.

#### DAY 7: PRAY FOR ENEMIES AND BELIEVE THE CERTAINTY OF GODS WORD

**Luke 6:27-31.** Jesus offered prayers for his enemies. He instructed his disciples to do likewise. Have you thought of reaching out to those who have wronged you?

**2Timothy3:16.** The word of God is more certain. Its usefulness is beyond our imagination. It trains our behavior and forms our character. Tell it out to others.

**Application:** Specifically pray for your adversaries. Share with others the things you are learning.

WEEK 2 (8<sup>TH</sup> to 14<sup>TH</sup> December)

**OVERCOMING TEMPTATION LIKE JESUS.**

Day 8: INTRODUCTION.

Temptation is an act of enticement to evil through argument, flattery or offer of some real or apparent good.

**James 1:13-15:** Our human weaknesses lead us to temptations. Is Temptation sin?

Jesus was tempted in every way, just like we all are, yet was without sin. We can overcome, just like Jesus.

**Q:** Why does Satan tempt us? To undermine God's plan and will, to stray man from God's ways, to deny God's authority and seek our independence from him.

**Additional scriptures: 1 Peter 5:8, Hebrews 4:15.**

**APPLICATION:** Today, pray that God will give you wisdom to realize Satan's hidden reasons for temptation in your life. That it's not to give you true happiness but a trap.

Day 9: THE THREE DEVICES THAT SATAN USES TO TEMPT US.

**1 John 2:16.** Every instance, Satan uses lust of the body, lust of the eyes, and pride of life, to lure us.

**Genesis 3:1-6.**

**Q:** Can you identify the three levels in this account? Eve fell into the temptation because the Devil used the three devices on her. She became ungrateful of all the LORD had given them. She allowed the sight of the forbidden fruit to entice her. She wanted to get the greatest achievement of being like God in the wrong way. She wanted to be a god.

**Q:** Identify how the Devil has used these devices on you this week?

**NB:** Be aware of these devices in your gatherings and any other encounters during these festivities.

**APPLICATION:** Study Matthew 4:1-11 and identify the same tricks the devil used on our Lord Jesus. Practice the response of Jesus in the actual moments of temptations. You could also use this to do a devotional with your family or group of friends.

Day 10: THE POWER OF TEMPTATION. PART 1: THE FALL.

We cannot underestimate the power of temptation.

**1 Corinthians 10:12: David's profile:** As a boy, he killed a bear and a lion. 1 Samuel 17:36. As a youth, he brought down Goliath. 1 Samuel 17:50. He was a poet and wrote most of the Psalms. He was hired in the king's palace to play the harp. He was the king of Israel. This man with such great achievements, still became a target for the devil. Temptation has no boundaries or respect for anyone, whether old, young, male female, saved, not saved, single or married.

**2 Samuel 11:1-27**

**Q:** When you read the story of David, what choices did he make that caused him to fall?

**Q:** Is this a familiar path in our struggle against sin? Sin begins with a thought, the longer we harbor, the stronger the temptation. Lust always excludes God from our thinking, and soon we pay no attention to the watchful eye of God, nor scriptures and the people God has put in our lives. Sin has a way of taking us beyond where we initially expected or anticipated. Do not underestimate the power of temptation.

**Q:** What are your temptations today?

**APPLICATION:** Take some time today to identify where you are at along the path of temptation. Remember James 1:13. Sin when fully grown, gives birth to death.

### Day 11: THE POWER OF TEMPTATION. PART 2: THE RESCUE

**2 Samuel 12:1-20.** Gods rescue plan for David through his servant Nathan.

Nathan Speaking the truth in love to David about his sin. David Facing and admitting the sins he had committed, repenting and accepting to live with the Consequences. The Lord will always come to our rescue by sending us Nathans. It takes humility to admit our sin and repent.

**Additional scriptures: Galatians 6:7-8, 1 Corinthians 10:13.**

**APPLICATION:** Spend sometime today with God in prayer thanking him for his faithfulness, the many times he's rescued you through the servants he has sent to you in the past. Write a note of appreciation to someone he has used to help you stand.

### Day 12: CONFESSION OF SIN

If we are going to overcome temptation, then confession of sin is a practice we cannot NEGLECT. Confession of sin involves talking, admitting and taking responsibility over our sins. It's not done after interrogation or when caught red handed.

**Proverbs 28:13** We cannot grow spiritually if we have a lifestyle of concealing sin.

**Q:** To whom do we confess sin, God or people? **Psalms 32:1-6 and James 5:16**

Confess both to God and one another. God forgives our sins. But healing comes when we talk to each other about our struggles and pray for each other. We get support, advice, assurance and acceptance.

**Q:** When did you last confess your sins? Are there hidden areas of your life that no one knows about?

**Additional scriptures: Matthew 5:23 and Luke 17:4**

**APPLICATION:** Examine your heart in the past one week and write down some habitual sins. Take some time to acknowledge them before God (Psalms 51:3-4), then talk to a spiritual disciple about them today.

### Day 13: ENVIROMENT OF CONFESSION

**Romans 3:23-24.** All of us sin and fall short of God's glory and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. We go through the same sinful struggles. Therefore, let us find security in God when confessing sin and practice God's grace when helping others through their sin. Confession and confidentiality go hand in hand. The purpose of confession is not Disgrace but Grace.

**Case Study: John 8:3-11. The Woman Caught in Adultery.**

She found condemnation in the hands of the Pharisees but Grace, Acceptance, Forgiveness and good warning from the Lord. Provide such an environment to one another as we help others overcome temptation.

**Additional scriptures: 1 Peter 5:9, 1 John 1:8.**

**APPLICATION:** How do you feel about your environment? Share with the people God has put in your life. If you disciple someone, please ask them about how they feel in regard to the environment they get. And remember, effective conversations are achieved in an environment of Grace, Acceptance, and Forgiveness.

### Day 14: THE BELIEVER'S ARMOUR, THE ROAD TO REPENTANCE.

**Ephesians 6:10-18.** The Christian life is a battle. Jesus' ministry began with a battle. The battle lasted 40 days in the wilderness. (Matthew 4:1-11). The epitome was in the garden of Gethsemane. Satan hit Jesus with such a force that the sweat of Jesus were like drops of blood. (Luke 22:44) The Devil lost. As disciples of Jesus, we are not only children of God but his soldiers. And a soldier's job is to fight the enemy.

**Additional scriptures: James 4:7-10,**

**APPLICATION:** Are you in the full armor of God? Which parts of the armor are missing? Ask your discipling partner, a friend, spouse, if they can help you identify the weak spots. Have the courage to dress up the full armor since the battle waits.

WEEK 3: (15<sup>TH</sup> to 21<sup>ST</sup> December)

**GIVING AND SERVING LIKE JESUS.**

**Introduction:** Our Lord Jesus Christ boldly declared that He came to serve and not to be served. With many acts of service, He left us a lasting legacy of service for us to imitate. As we enter into the holiday and festive season, it will be imperative to imitate our Lord in both our serving and giving. Here are some of the ways we can imitate our Lord Jesus:

DAY 15: GIVING AS A WAY OF SERVING

**LUKE 14:12-14.** This being a festive season, there will be plenty of purchasing and spending. It is important for us to be aware of the less fortunate around us and be deliberate in serving them like Jesus would, unlike the world around us who will be overindulging and overspending in treating themselves and their friends, but as Jesus encourages us from the above scripture, we are to serve those who will thank God rather than those who will invite us and treat us in return.

**Further reading: 2 Corinthians 8:1-7; Luke 6:38; Romans 12:13.**

**Application:** Identify either two or three individuals/families that are less fortunate who you will bless today.

DAY 16: SERVING THROUGH EVANGELISM

**MATTHEW 9:35-38.** As Christians, we should not be blinded by the joyous occasions of celebrations and festivities to the fact that the people around us, even our families, are harassed and helpless without God! We need to keep focus of our purpose, which is to seek and to save the lost. **Further study: Proverbs 11:30; Mark 1:38.**

**Application:** Aim to hold a bible talk with family and friends, or plan and organize for a family devotional, or hold a Sunday family service and invite someone to a bible study as well!!

DAY 17: SERVING THROUGH PRAYER

**1 TIMOTHY 2 :1-4.** We may not be physically present to meet needs, but we are alert to notice needs around us and pray specifically for different people, institutions and situations, as scripture exhorts us. This is a way of serving those around us.

**Further study: 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:18; Romans 12:12.**

**Application:** Come up with a prayer list and prayer time and pray specifically for people.

DAY 18: SERVING THROUGH STRENGTHENING THE WEAK & BINDING THE INJURED

**EZEKIEL 34:1-10.** In every church, community or family, it is not unusual to find persons who are weak in their faith and commitment to God or who are hurting or injured emotionally or physically. We are to serve such people in their time of need through acts of service, kindness, compassion and listening to them with a keen ear, ready to meet them at their point of need.

**Further study: Luke 10:30-37.**

**Application:** Reach out to a sick, lonely or hurting person and encourage anyone whose faith is faltering or weak.

#### DAY 19: SERVING THROUGH HOSPITALITY AND GENEROSITY

##### **ROMANS 12:9-; HEBREWS 13:2**

Many have entertained angels without knowing. Jesus mentioned that anything you do to these little ones of mine you do for me. This requires planning. If you only show hospitality to those you know will pay you back hence no heavenly reward.

**Further study: Proverbs 11:25**

**Application:** Invite your neighbor for lunch or dinner.

#### DAY 20: SERVING IS NEVER EASY

##### **MATHEW 5:43-48; ROMANS 5:8**

Serving our enemy, especially those who oppose, criticize and publicly humiliate us is not the normal world will not be easy. But when we focus on Jesus and how he gave himself for us while we were still sinners and his enemies, only then can we give ourselves to serving those we consider as enemies, Jesus served and willingly chose to die serving

**Further study: Romans 12:20; Proverbs 25:22.**

**Application:** Decide to talk to anyone you would consider your enemy/difficult to deal with.

#### DAY 21: GREATNESS IN SERVING MARK 10:35-45

The concept of greatness in the world today is twisted and totally different from the greatness Jesus models for us. Greatness is about being the servant, not about being served! Serving reserves for us a place of honor both in heaven and in the hearts of those we serve.

**Further study: Mathew 20:28; Philippians 2:5-11.**

**Application:** Today, serve someone that gives a challenge to your heart or complete or do a task that you have procrastinated about.

#### **PITFALLS TO SERVING:**

Selfishness, Pride, status, discrimination, worldliness, tribalism, aloofness, etc.

**Solution:** 1 John 4:19; 3:16 let us serve and love because He first loved and served us.

WEEK 4: (22<sup>ND</sup> to 28<sup>TH</sup> December)

**GIVING GRATITUDE LIKE JESUS**

Gratitude is the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness. This week we will learn how we can grow in gratitude in different aspects of our lives as Disciples. We have so much to be grateful for that even in our worst imaginable days; we can overflow with gratitude. The more grateful we are, the better our relationships become. Gratitude is also a powerful motivation to serve the Lord passionately. It is a Biblical expectation, God commands us to be grateful all the times.

**DAY 22: GRATEFUL LIKE JESUS**

**Hebrews 2:5-12**

(Vs. 6-8 But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet. Vs.12 He says (Jesus) "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises)

Despite Jesus being supreme he expressed gratitude to his Father by singing praises for the things he had done for him and for who he was.

**Application:** Ask those around you who know you, how thankful you are. Think through what God has done for you and let your life be one big thank you in return to what God has done.

**Further study:** Matthew 14:19, Colossians 2:7

**DAY 23: GRATITUDE IN PRAYER**

**Ephesians 1:16.** *(I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers).*

Being grateful to God for the people he has put in our lives is of paramount importance. The fact that we are living and alive this far is as a result of great people God has put in our lives. This includes our family members, relatives, friends, brothers and sisters in God's kingdom etc.

The best way to show our gratitude to God and to people he has put in our lives is by remembering them in our prayers always!

**Application:** List down the people God has placed in your life by their names ask them for prayer requests and pray for them from today.

**Further studies:** Colossians 1:3, 1Thessalonians 1:2

**DAY 24: GRATITUDE OUR LIFESTYLE**

**Colossians 3:17**

(And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him)

As Disciples our lives describe and demonstrate full measure of Mercy. The fact that we have been chosen amongst as many humans as those on this planet earth to enjoy God's Grace in his kingdom, gives us an opportunity to express gratitude to God! The only way to do this is by asking ourselves whether whatever we want to do or think of glorifies God. We should please God with our entire lives to show gratitude for calling us in his family.

**Application:** Before doing anything today whether in deed, word or thought, ask yourself whether it glorifies God!

**Further study:** Romans 6:12-14, Ephesians 5:20

## DAY 25: GRATITUDE IN GIVING

### **Romans 8:1-3**

Giving normally pokes our hearts and it also the clear measure of our gratitude. When a disciple gives or shares his money, time or expertise grudgingly and with complains and bitterness in his/her heart, it shows they are not grateful. Gratitude rejoices in giving and sharing.

**Application:** This week, identify a need around you either in your family, church or workplace and strive to fulfill it. This could be in appreciation, financially, gifts etc.

**Further study:** Mark 12:41-44

## DAY 26: RETURN AND GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### **Luke 17:11-19**

*(Vs. 17-18. "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner? ... "Rise and go; your faith has made you well.")* Gratitude is to acknowledge the good that has been done to you. God always does good for us every day. How often do you go back to thank him? Are you taking the things you have in life, like good health for granted?

**Application:** Identify the areas in your life that God has blessed you with. List them down and thank him! Identify also areas in your life that God has used people to bless you and go back and thank those people.

**Further study:** Colossians 4:2

## DAY 27: GRATITUDE THROUGH LOVE

### **Psalms 107:1**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever. God's love for us never fails and so every single day we have more than enough reasons to be grateful to him.

**Application:** Let your love for others portray God's love for you. Do something today for someone to show them that you love them.

**Further study:** Ephesians 5:20

## DAY 28: GRATITUDE IN WORSHIP

### **Hebrews 12:28**

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

Wherever you are, worship God in truth and in spirit as one way of showing him just how grateful you are.

**Application:** Dedicate today in worship to our father in heaven through songs, prayer and in any other way.

**Further study:** Psalm 50:23

WEEK 5: (29<sup>TH</sup> December to 4<sup>TH</sup> January)

**ATTITUDE LIKE THAT OF JESUS**

***Philippians 2:5.*** Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus

Attitude is an inward feeling expressed by behavior. That is why an attitude can be seen without a word being said. As Disciples our attitude must be like that of Christ who gives us a perfect example to follow. This week we would like to see the impact of our attitude in our relationship with God and other as we imitate the example of our **Lord Jesus**.

DAY 29: HE WAS SELFLESS:

**Phil 2:3-4** During this festive season it is important to consider the interest of other people: family, bible talk members, friends and relatives more than you. We need to consciously go an extra mile to consider how we can meet the specific needs of those around us.

**James 3:14, 16.** What kind of attitude do you have towards meeting the needs of others?

**Application:** Seek to selflessly meet needs around you this week.

**Further studies:** Proverbs 18:1, Psalms 119:36

DAY 30: HE WAS SECURE:

**Phil 2:6-7** Jesus had the nature of God but he chose to make himself nothing taking the nature of a servant because he was very secure. He was in no competition with anybody, he lived his life to fulfill and accomplish God's will and purpose for his life on earth. Are you secure in God, or do you feel that you need something else or someone else to make your life complete?

**Phil.3:7-11** Does knowing Christ give you satisfaction?

**NB:** Life is an exam and each one has a different paper, many people fail because they are doing someone else's paper.

**Application:** Are you in competition with anyone? Make a decision to live your life to fulfill God's will.

**Further studies:** Jer. 17:5-10, Prov.3:26

DAY 31: HE WAS SUBMISSIVE:

**Phil.2:8.** Jesus was obedient to death ...even death on a cross. Death on a cross was very humiliating but Jesus obeyed God.

How is your obedience to the scriptures? How far do you go to obey God?

**Eph. 5:21.** We should submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Submission goes hand in hand with respect, you will only submit to the people you respect.

Do you respect people around you enough to submit to them out of reverence for Christ? No matter who they are? Old and young alike?

**Application:** List two people or areas that you find most difficult to submit to, make a decision to submit to them this week out of your reverence for Christ.

**Further studies:** Rom: 13:1, 1Peter 2:18, 1Peter 5:5, Heb13:17

### DAY32: YOUR ATTITUDE DETERMINES YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PEOPLE.

**Matt: 7:12** Treat people the way you would love them treat you. Your effective influence on other people is based on your relationships.

**NB:** People are Frustrating at times. They show up at the wrong place at the wrong time for the wrong reasons. They are always interesting and not always charming. They are not always predictable because they have minds of their own. You can't get along with them and you can't do without them. That's why it is very important to build good relationship with others in this crowd world.

**Application:** For one week treat every person you meet without a single exception, as the most important person on earth. You will find that they will begin treating you the same way.

**Further studies:** John 10:3-5, John 13

### DAY 33: I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH CHRIST WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH

**Phil. 4:13** - We are always limited as human beings. We need God because he will always give us strength to do what we focus on, to the glory of his name.

**NB:** What is the difference between an obstacle and opportunity? What is your attitude towards it? Every opportunity has a difficulty, and ever difficulty has an opportunity. Your attitude can turn your problems to blessings.

#### **Application:**

List two situations that are presently a part of your life, write down your present reaction towards them. Are they positive? Discover at least three possible benefits from each situation and approach these situations with your eyes on the benefits not the barriers.

**Further studies: Rom. 8:28, Isaiah 40:28-31**

### DAY34: YOUR ATTITUDE IS OFTEN THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUCCESS AND FAILURE

**Phil. 4:4-9-** Paul is encouraging us that no matter what happens we should always look at life with positive lenses because our attitude will determine the far will go.

**Application:** There is very little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. That difference is attitude. Think of something that you desire. What attitude will you need to get or achieve it?

**Further studies: 1 Samuel 17**(David and Goliath). Note the attitude of David as he faced the Giant.

### DAY 35: ANSWER OR DISCUSS WITH A FRIEND THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

#### **Application:**

- a. What is an attitude and why is it important?
- b. What are the necessary ingredients for a high performance attitude?
- c. How does our attitude affect or influence the people around us?
- d. What cause an attitude to become negative or disappointing?
- e. How can I turn a wrong attitude that is working against me to work for me?

**Further studies:** Num. 13:16-33, Num. 14:1-24.

WEEK 6: (5<sup>TH</sup> to 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY)  
OF VISION LIKE JESUS

DAY 36: INTRODUCTION.

To have a vision simply means that you are able to picture something in your mind that you believe will come to happen either in the near or in the far future. In the bible seeing of visions is associated with impending change ... **Acts 2:16-17**; while a lack of vision is associated with spiritual decline as in **Isaiah 29:9-12**. Without a vision for our lives we will stagger and fall. But with a renewed spirit we can forge ahead in stride. We must have a vision for our Christianity.

**Application:** Take time to form a vision (not a daydream) for yourself and write it down. Do not be afraid to envision the impossible for he is able...Ephesians 3:20.

DAY 37: WHAT THE VISION WILL DO FOR YOU

The vision you write down will give you the desire to move forward. It will give you something to aim for. It will guide you when surrounded by unbelievers. It will give you direction when you begin to sway off the path. It will get you started, for "Nothing happens but first a dream", said Carl Sandburg. What really matters in your life?

**Application:** Take time today to list down things that matter to you. Be very honest with yourself. Our ultimate vision is to be like Christ...**Hebrews 3:1**. Is there any part of your vision that isn't in line with Christ? Align them and begin to enjoy a full life...**John 10:10!**

DAY 38: OBSTACLES OF VISION

**Isaiah 43:18-19.** Our past has a way of stopping us from living our present lives; if we are going to live our Christian vision then we have to forget the former things. These are things that eat our time as we think of them. Former things and especially unpleasant ones, have a way of stopping us from thinking ahead. We end up making excuses why it is hard to be what we are supposed to be. What are the wastelands in your life? God is able to make your life valuable again.

**Application:** Take time today and think about your past and how it affects you and decide to face it! Share your past with someone who can help you.

DAY 39: ENEMIES OF KEEPING A VISION

The number one enemy is Satan. He gets to use our weaknesses, people and difficult situations to pull us down. Some of the tools that he uses to keep us from always keeping a vision are:

- 1) Discouragement over past goals not achieved...This is very easy given the many challenges we face after making goals...instead keep your confidence to the end - **Hebrews 3:12-14**.
- 2) Unbelief in God's power to make it happen...Instead, commit your vision to God and go after it in expectation - **Proverbs 16:3, Psalm 5:3**.
- 3) Living by chance...Instead of waiting to see what happens in your life, decide to live purposefully like Jesus - **Luke 19:10, Matthew 5:17; 10:34** etc. When you are clear minded like Jesus, the enemy won't get you!

#### DAY 40: WHAT IT TAKES TO LIVE OUT THE VISION

**Hebrews 12:1-2.** To attain the vision, we must remove the sin that crowds us and blocks our vision and instead fix our eyes on Jesus. We must rid ourselves of distraction and addiction [addiction to Television, being busy and slothfulness or being idle]. **2Corinthians 4:16-18.** When we fix our eyes on Jesus and put to death our sinful nature every day, we shall get renewed into his likeness day by day.

**Application:** List down some of the sins that are hindering you from progressing in your life. Focus on how to get rid of them one by one. Pray to God through them to get a breakthrough!

#### DAY 41: FEAR WILL STOP YOUR VISION!

**Proverbs 29:25** fear will destroy our vision. As human beings we fear to fail. As such we end up not even trying out new things.

**Luke 13:31-33.** We learn from Jesus that he was not afraid of anything. Not even death could stop him from achieving his goal or vision.

**Joshua 1:9.** We should have courage to do godly things even when it's hard because we know that God has promised to be with us. What stops you from achieving your goal?

**Application:** Take time today to write down your fears and pray to God about them!

#### DAY 42: THE ADVANTAGES OF HAVING A VISION.

**Romans 8:18.** When you have a vision no circumstance will fog out your destiny. You see God's glory despite your situations. Paul went through much in life but he never gave up because God's glory far outweighs the suffering we might be going through. **John 10:10**...The devil has only one thing in mind and that is to kill your dream and make sure you lose your vision...but Christ has come for the very opposite. Don't let Satan kill your vision...he might scare and tempt you but he does not have the final say. Keep your eyes on the prize...**Philippians 3:10-14.**

**Application:** Make a decision to want to know Christ and persevere into attaining your goals. Challenges are only for a moment and God himself will deliver us.