

### KINGDOM THAT GANNOT BESHAKEN

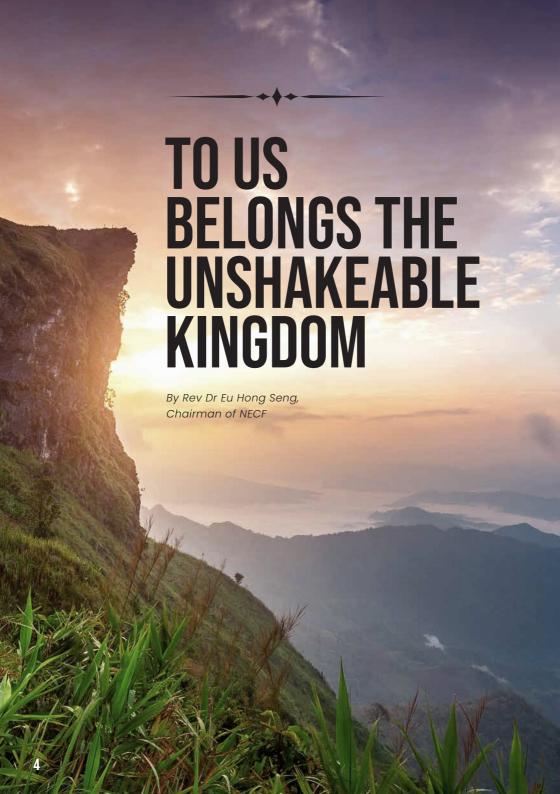
Hebrews 12:26-29

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One longing we all share is to rest securely in an unshakable life. We all want the good things we enjoy to last forever.

But life has a tendency to fling various hardships our way, leaving us insecure and fearful. Some of these adversities shake us to the core. We then find ourselves scrambling to build security, desperately trying to remove every ounce of uncertainty. Pretty soon, we discover that it does not work because we lack the power. resources, and foreknowledge to insulate ourselves from calamities.

The broken world keeps punching us in the face. Governments disappoint. Employers downsize. Economies crash. Bodies weaken. Relationships fall apart. Thieves steal. Loved ones die.

So we are left shaken, longing for real security. That longing exists because sin separated us from the true security found in God's presence alone. Apart from God, the kingdoms of this world remain "shakeable", uncertain, insecure, and fragile. It's only with God that anyone finds real security in an unshakeable kingdom.

Jesus wants to give us an unshakeable kingdom. Hebrews 12:18-29 motivates Christians not to abandon Jesus. To abandon Jesus is to give up an unshakeable kingdom.

Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians who were wavering in their commitment to Jesus. This was due to their own passivity and persecution. The Jewish Christians may have considered abandoning their faith since following Jesus meant so much sacrifice. This may also be the situation that we as believers experience today.

Hebrews 12:18-29 exhorts the Jewish believers to rejoice in the glories of Mount Zion over Mount Sinai, and to put their hope in God's unshakeable kingdom.

Sinai represents the old order passing away. Sinai exposes our separation from God. Sinai is filled with fear of God's imposing holiness and swift judgment on anyone who crosses Him. Under the Law, what the children of Israel could feel was God's righteous judgment, guilt, and separation from Him, and no assurance to approach His throne freely.

But, thanks be to God, that is not the mountain we have come to. In union with Christ, the writer of Hebrews says, we have come to a far better mountain. It is Mount Zion (see verse 22).

In Zion, God is still the same God whose holiness will not tolerate sin.

But what changed was that God took away our sins through Jesus. Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant (see verse 24).

So, this reality leads the writer of Hebrews into exhorting the people about God's kingdom.

In verse 25, he tells us not to refuse to listen to the warnings of God. Why? Because the shaking of the earth at Sinai is nothing compared to the shaking that will occur on the Last Day.

Warning after warning comes to us in Hebrews:

"We must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away." (2:1 NKJ)

"Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;" (3:12 NKJ)

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame." (6:4-6 NKJ)

"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries." (10:26-27 NKJ)

God has warned us from heaven. Believers, let us listen!

Let us take heed of the warnings so that we can take hold of the unshakeable Kingdom.

May we always give thanks that we have received a kingdom that cannot be shaken and may we persevere to "serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear for our God is a consuming fire." (12:28-29 NKJ)

May this great truth of His unshakeable Kingdom penetrate the innermost fabric of our beings that, even though shocked by circumstances, we will not be shaken by them but instead continue to be ambassadors of the unshakeable kingdom. Even though things may rumble, rattle and rupture around us, there will be stability in us - not because of anything in our own being but because of an unwavering conviction and hope that has filled our lives through the promise and power of God.







The Kingdom of God was inaugurated at the first coming of Jesus and it will be the only kingdom that will remain when He returns to consummate all things (see Heb.9:28). In His return, He will fulfill God's pledge to shake both the heavens and the earth. When this is done, only those things that cannot be shaken will remain (see Heb.12:26-27).

The kingdoms of this world and their economies are shaking. Whether it is due to war, diseases, pestilence, mass shootings, political corruption, or poverty; nations have become vulnerable and tossed around by events beyond their control. It is a world that has rapidly become unstable and is without hope.

People struggle with identity crises and have difficulty adjusting to such uncertainties and challenging situations. Christians are not exempted. End-time prophecies, irrespective of whether they are true or false, create anxiety, and often contribute to the weakening of faith.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us that we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken. This is a profound statement. It means that God's kingdom is not subject to change or instability. It's not like the kingdoms of this world, which rise and fall and are subject to the whims of rulers and the tides of history. God's kingdom is unchanging and unshakeable for it stands firm, no matter what happens. What then does that mean for us?

First, it means that we can have confidence in God's rule. We don't have to worry that God will change His mind or that His plans will fail. His kingdom is secure, and so are His promises. This gives us a firm foundation for our faith. We can trust in God, knowing that He is in control and that His kingdom will prevail. We can strive for righteousness, love, and peace. We can seek to do God's will in all things. And we can be thankful, worshipping God with reverence and awe.

Next, God's kingdom gives us hope. In a world that is chaotic and uncertain, we can find comfort in the fact that God's kingdom is unshakeable. We can look forward to the day when God's kingdom will be fully realized, when all things will be made new, and when God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. This hope gives us strength to persevere, even amid trials and tribulations

Finally, the stability of God's kingdom calls us to a life of faithfulness and should inspire us to share the good news with others because we want them to know about it. We want them to experience the peace, joy and hope that come from being part of God's kingdom. So let's be bold in sharing our faith, knowing that the message we proclaim is not just a nice idea or a comforting thought, but a reality that can transform lives.

Our prayer is that you will gain by listening to Jesus (see Heb.12:25) through the devotional content available to hear and heed our unchanging Saviour's call to a total commitment. Just as Jesus freely gave himself, we too will freely give ourselves to worship and serve him until God's holiness is displayed.

Remember, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Heb.13:8).





# A DETERMINED RE-ORIENTATION OF SPIRITUAL LIFESTYLE





he outward form of religiosity is the defining mark of a compromised spirituality. inner spirituality is absent, there is an absence of the presence of God. Everything is reduced to external rituals and habits. It is having a form and not an inner life of spiritual conviction and knowing God. Hence, unwittingly this leads to people trying to please people instead of pleasing God. The lack of spiritual vitality and authenticity speaks of an inner spiritual emptiness and vacuum. We live in pretense and spiritual indifference. These are shakeable foundations in any vulnerable circumstance.

How are we to cultivate an unshakeable foundation? There are two practical ways to work thus far. Through this 40-day of fast and prayer journey, practise the presence of God in your personal spiritual journey and eventually continue it as a lifestyle.

a) "In Silence": The spiritual lifestyle is a daily disciplined life of reading the word of God in big portions (e.g. 3 chapters daily), a practice before God. It is not a task. It is a passion for wanting to know God in an inward journey to allow the Holy Spirit to speak while we remain

- silent whether in good or bad times. It is a life lived before God to establish an unshakeable kingdom - living. The Heavenly Father meets us as we seek Him in silence
- b) "In Submission and Obedience to God": To be spiritual is to live in a right and close relationship with God. It is pointless to be engaged in external rituals without a corresponding change of heart. The mark of spiritual maturity is when, as an inner disposition rather than outward habit, we are still strong and unshakeable in faith in spite of shakeable circumstances.

Here are three practical things you can do during the 40-day fast and prayer.

- Checklist of our motives the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life are deadly desires of the flesh. Pay careful attention to the Holy Spirit when your life is shaken by the above.
- The love of doing When we love to serve for recognition, glamour, or favours, it is time to take one step back to examine our spirit. Who are we trying to please?

■ Red alerts - Be careful about living a life of unforgiveness and bondage to the world's pleasures. Are we choosing temporal things over eternal security? Remember sin hurts people.

Who is the true master of your life? Would you give Him your complete allegiance? Build your inner life on an unshakeable foundation.





### SUPPORT NECF'S GENERAL FUND

By Pr Samuel Ang, Secretary General NECF



he Lord is great and almighty, and His mercies endure forever.

We have witnessed the goodness and provision of the Lord every year and we should never take that for granted. This letter is a great opportunity to express our thanks for your generous support and partnership toward the 40-Day Fast and Prayer, our annual flagship event.

Ever since the pandemic started in 2020, we have opened the door for you who have been blessed by the devotional resources to sow into the kingdom. We praise the Lord for your faithful contributions in the last four years as well as for your participation in our prayer programmes.

NECF's tagline has always been nation-building through the local church. The church is not the building but the people called by God who have the passion and compassion to intercede for both the church and the nation. Beside you are the many faceless donors who desire to see the Lord's work prosper and bear fruit.

Though the cost of printing and courier services has increased significantly through the years, NECE has decided not to increase the price of our booklets so that we can all reap the Lord's blessings together.

The theme for the year 2024, "Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken". truly requires each of us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. As Jesus emphasized in Matthew 5:16, "that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

It is a challenging theme that requires us to keep our eyes upon the Lord Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Let us not be distracted by the issues of the world but run with endurance the race that is set before us.

We pray you will be richly blessed in this year's event and witness the sovereign hand of our Lord upon Malaysia.



If you are prompted to give to our General Fund, you may do so by:

• Banking directly/transferring online to NECF's general fund account:

Bank: Public Bank

Account Name: National Evangelical Christian

Fellowship AC3

**Account No:** 3218284529

 Scanning the Touch' n Go barcode given in this booklet, NECF website, Facebook pages, App, etc.

Please send your bank-in slip to prayer@necf.org.my if you do an online transfer or bank in your cash/cheque. Receipts will only be given if requested.



**DAY 1-5** 

# THE UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM

Hebrews 12:26-29

### TESTED FAITH IN A SHAKEABLE WORLD

We live in a "shakeable world" where it often takes a crisis, usually a painful one, for people to realise their real self. Our world is disoriented and highly vulnerable, and security can be removed at any moment. What will the future be like? We do not know what the financial or political situation will be like in the next week, month or even days. But we do know that it is a time to test and know our own "evil" or the weaknesses of our inner being.

How then can we handle and overcome our "shakeable" inner being in response to vulnerable and "sudden" circumstances? We are reminded in Hebrews 12:1-2, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

The pursuit of our "inner being" in building up our spiritual muscles will do well to focus on the following: -

- The joy of looking to Jesus who endured suffering and shame at the cross. Despite our personal struggles, financial crisis, or illnesses, do not let every weight and sin affect your spiritual life. Seek peace and joy through knowing God.
- Overcome them with the discipline of reading the Word of God, pursuing worship, and engaging with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses (see Romans 8:26).

This lifestyle of a daily discipline in pursuing the inner being in our spiritual journey aims at knowing God the Perfecter and Finisher of our faith in a shakeable world.



- Dear Heavenly Father, You are the Perfecter and Finisher of our faith. I realise that, in a shakeable world, we are subjected to vulnerable and "sudden" circumstances that can test our trust in You. Help me commit to focusing on my spiritual life to build a strong foundation of biblical faith so that nothing will shake my trust in You. In Jesus' name, amen.
- Pray that God would grant good health to Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, and that he would exercise his discretionary power with wisdom and fear of God.
- Pray that the Church would honor Jesus Christ as Head over His Body and that she would allow the Spirit of God to flow freely as He acts according to the Father's will.

### DAY 2 Thu, 8 Aug 2024

### **KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON YOUR PERSONAL LIVES**

If we possess a stagnant spirit, it will contaminate true spirituality, often taking on a religious form and a worldly and materialistic mindset. It would also often be clouded with sensual, arrogant, greedy, and covetous desires. We might scoff at the thought of future judgment and live our lives as if the present would be the pattern for the future. That being so, we must be careful how we behave or live in a world that seeks external forms of contemporary worship rituals, glamour, comfort, recognition, and acceptance. These are "shakeable entities" we can be trapped in without realising it.

At times, God allows us to go through these experiences to teach us how to remain "unshakeable". Let us allow Him to prune our lives to get rid of all the religious junk as well as worldly and secular mindsets.

- Whenever we encounter discontentment, frustrations, and emptiness in our spiritual heart, seek and pursue a hunger to know God. Hebrews 3:7-8 (MSG) The Holy Spirit says, "Don't turn a deaf ear in "the bitter uprising," that time of wilderness testing!
- Wrestle with God for answers from scripture by having a non-negotiable prayer altar lifestyle that includes worship, prayer and Spirit-led reflections for understanding His Word.



- Dear Heavenly Father, I seek your forgiveness for not being consistent in reading the Word of God chronologically to understand You better. Lord, help me from this day forward to cultivate a consistent daily lifestyle of knowing You by reading Your Word and allowing the Holy Spirit to help me understand You. In Jesus' name, amen.
- Pray that the Conference of Rulers, which comprises the sultans of nine states and the governors of four states, would remain as an independent body and that they would act wisely in accordance with the constitutional functions vested in them.
- Pray that the men and women who serve in church councils and church boards in every local church would be people of integrity who use their power with discretion to facilitate the growth and expansion of His Kingdom on earth.

### FOCUSING ON THE WRONG THINGS VERSUS AN UNSHAKEABLE-DRIVEN LIFESTYLE

Hebrews 12:26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

The words "once more" indicate the removal of what can be shaken —that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

As we continue to reflect on the above verse today, we need to ask ourselves what are the things that can be shaken and removed, especially in our inner lives.

We are told in 1 John 2:15-17, "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. 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. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

We must be wary of these three carnal things that are wrong and which do not add value to our lives:

- Lust of the flesh for example, buying things beyond our means to feed our ego or flesh.
- Lust of the eyes for example, addiction to internet pornography; online games or gambling.
- Pride of life for example, living just to impress others, especially in the social media world.

Remember, these are the baits that Satan uses to trap us to stop us from living the abundant life God has for us. All these bad things not only consume our time but also drain our spirits and lead to negative thoughts and emotions, like guilt, remorse, and depression.

Instead of focusing on the wrong things, let us focus on our "unshakeable inner lives." The Christian life demands diligence in pursuing moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and selfless love.

If we are trapped, we need to repent for what we have allowed in our lives and ask the Holy Spirit to set us free.



- Dear God, I thank You for revealing the bad things Satan uses to trap me from living the abundant life You have planned for me. Forgive me for allowing myself to be trapped by him. I repent especially for my sinful habits that have grieved the Holy Spirit. Please help me make the right choices everyday. I pray all these in the precious Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.
- Pray that our Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, would possess the capabilities and fortitude to lead Malaysia towards reformation. Pray that he would have wisdom in striking a balance amid power demands, and in building a culture of trust and collaboration in His cabinet.
- Pray that your senior pastor would be a man or woman of great faith and accountability, with clear vision and concrete plans to lead his or her pastoral/ ministry team to achieve God's given task in the local church and beyond.

### DAY 4 Sat, 10 Aug 2024

### NOT HEARERS ONLY, BUT DOERS OF THE WORD

Yesterday we looked at the bad things that trap us and prevent us from moving forward towards the things of God's unshakeable Kingdom.

We may have repented, God may have forgiven us but, remember, the enemy will still want to make a comeback.

So how do we prevent him from making a comeback?

We need to completely change what we consistently do every day until it becomes a habit and, finally, a lifestyle that pleases God.

We need to do the following:

■ Saturate ourselves with His Word.
Jesus modeled it for us when He was
tempted by Satan – see Matthew
4:4, "But he answered, "It is written,
'Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from
the mouth of God.""

We need to "feed our spirits with His Word" just like how we feed our bodies with food Obey and do what God has commanded in His Word. Matthew 7:24 says, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Remember also Psalm 119:105 and Matthew 24:35 (NLT) that says, "Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear."

### Note:

We encourage you not to just read selected portions of the Bible every day but also to read through the Bible from cover to cover once a year to know our God better. Consider using the NECF Chronological Bible Reading Plan which can be found in the NECF Website or purchase the hardcopies from the NECF Office.



- Dear God and Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your written Word which strengthens my spirit, helps me during the darkest moments of my life, and helps me to know You better with the help of the Holy Spirit. Praying all these with a grateful heart in Jesus Christ's Name. Amen.
- Pray that the Deputy Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi, would be a supportive aid for the incumbent Prime Minister, and that he would execute his duties well as the Minister of Rural and Regional Development.
- Pray that the associate pastors, assistant pastors, or key leaders who serve under your senior pastor, would be good and effective team players, and that they would serve with excellent team spirit.

### DAY 5 Sun, 11 Aug 2024

### FUTURE UNKNOWN, BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR HELPER

Hebrews 12:26-27 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.

Not unlike our forefathers, we are living in a very challenging time. But, in the IT age, change is accelerating for us at a breakneck speed. With AI in our midst, we are increasingly perplexed, confused, and concerned about what the future will be like, especially for our youth and children.

The unlimited resources and information available in the online digital world today, especially in media and communications, can be overwhelming. It has become a real challenge to know what is true and what is false.

Thank God, He does not leave us alone. He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us navigate the unknown struggles ahead of us.

This promise is found in John 16:13, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."

We need not be shaken by such troubles. We can trust in His promise. Learn to listen to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit and learn to walk with Him. It is good to spend time in praise and worship.



- My Heavenly Father, I thank You for giving me the Holy Spirit who is there to help me navigate the difficulties of life ahead of me. Whenever I am afraid or worried about the future, help me to turn them into prayer with thanksgiving to You. At the same time, help me to be sensitive in hearing the still small voice of the Holy Spirit amidst all the other much louder voices of my flesh, the world, and Satan. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.
- Pray that the Deputy Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof, would serve as a good mediator in the affairs between East & West Malaysia, and that the Ministry of Energy Transition and Public Utilities would be managed well under his administration.
- Pray that the ministry teams in your church, e.g., worship team, Sunday school team, hospitality team, cell teams and so on would serve with great joy and thankfulness, humility and sweetness of spirit, knowing that they are not merely serving men, but Jesus, their King.

DAY 6-10

# THE UNSHAKEABLE MESSAGE

Hebrews 1-2:4

### DAY 6 Mon, 12 Aug 2024

### FROM "LONG AGO" TO THE "LAST DAYS"

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-2

Are you living in the "long ago" or the "last days"? Your answer depends on which voice you are listening to today. In the "long ago" of the Old Testament, God spoke to His people through the prophets. But the writer of Hebrews tells us that in these last days, God has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus. Christ is the unshakable message - the final and binding Word of God.

I believe every person who is born again has a desire to know what God is saying to them. Countless books have been written on the subject. As a pastor, one of the most asked questions you will get is, "How can I hear the voice of God?" Well, Hebrews 1:1–2 reminds us: Start with Jesus.

The implication here is that we need to immerse ourselves in the life and teachings of Christ - to abide in His

Word so that we may know His ways. Now, while this may sound simple, it can pose quite a challenge considering how susceptible our ears are to other external voices.

Today we have our modern-day "prophets" - religious leaders with their revelations, human-rights activists with their rhetoric, politicians with their policies, and content creators on every other social media platform. Each one calls for us to listen to them. But even as these voices grow louder with each passing day, let us not forget we are in the "last days." And the Father hath said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." (Matt 17:5b)



- Heavenly Father, let my faith be grounded in the unshakeable message of Christ. Let me leave the former things behind, tune my spiritual ears, and be attentive to the voice of the Good Shepherd. Grant me discernment in these last days. Amen.
- Pray that, under the Madani concept, Malaysians would seek to build a nation with concerted efforts to prevent leakages, and where resources are well-managed and used, and where developments are sustainable for future expansion.
- Pray that training programmes and activities in local churches would go beyond
  meeting existing needs to create room for future growth with sustainability,
  especially in the sphere of family, youth, and children discipleship for His glory.

### DAY 7 Tue, 13 Aug 2024

### WHO IS JESUS?

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 1:3-4

Who is Jesus?

Firstly, Jesus is "the radiance of the glory of God." If God were to be likened to the sun; Christ would be the rays that shine forth from it. Therefore take heart, the Light has come. Jesus is the Dawn from on High (see Lk. 1:78) and the people who walked in darkness have seen a areat light (see Is. 9:2).

Secondly, Jesus is the "exact imprint of God's nature". The invisible made visible: the mystery made clear. Therefore take heart, we no longer need to blindly guess what God is like. The myriad of questions about God are answered in Christ. "How does God feel when tragedy hits? When a loved one dies? Does he even care?" Jesus wept. In Christ, we see a God who is not distant nor detached but One who loves and cares deeply for humanity.

What did Jesus do?

Firstly, Jesus made "purification for our sins." Only the Sinless One could do this. But it came at the cost of His life, ie death on the cross. The blood that flowed from His hands and feet washed away our sins. It is finished - the penalty of sin paid in full. We now stand forgiven in the righteousness of Christ.

Secondly, Jesus "sat down at the right hand of God." The crucified Christ was buried only to rise again. Death never stood a chance against the Giver of Life. After night comes day; after dark comes dawn. And so, like the rising of the sun. Christ rose to the heavens to take His rightful place as ruler over all. Christ the Victor has triumphed over sin, death, and the devil.

This is the unshakable message we hold to: "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ is coming again."



- Dear God, thank you for the revelation of who You are through Your Son, Jesus Christ. May the unshakeable message of the life of Christ, His atoning death on the cross, and His resurrection be imprinted upon my heart that I too may live the victorious Christian life. Amen.
- Pray that the spirit of true prosperity would be captured by all Malaysians and that the poor, needy, and marginalised would be prioritised in economic development policies to minimise wealth distribution disparities among the people.
- Pray that Malaysian churches would be grounded in the Word of God, and that we would understand true prosperity through the lens of Christ.

### DAY 8 . Wed, 14 Aug 2024

### **ABOVE EVERY ANGEL**

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 1:5-14

Angels - those mysterious beings that show up throughout Scripture. An angel can wipe out an entire army of 185,000 in one night (see 2 Kings 19:35). An angel can take the life of every firstborn in an entire nation (see Ex. 12:29). An angelic appearance is so glorious that even the holiest of saints cannot help but fall down in worship (see Rev. 19:10). Angelic activity is so impactful it can influence the outcome of entire nations (see Dan.10).

All that to say angels are not to be trifled with. These are not little chubby cupids fluttering around as some would have us think. No, they are immensely powerful beings sent by God to deliver His messages.

These ministering spirits are God's flames of fire (see Heb. 1:8). And yet, the writer of Hebrews would have us know, compared to Christ, these flames are but candles to the Sun. The radiance of the Son is far brighter than anything in all creation.

After all, the highly-esteemed angel Gabriel was but a messenger to deliver the Unshakeable Message of "good news and great joy that will be for all people" - that unto us a Saviour has been born (Lk. 2:10-11). Undeserving as we may be, we are the recipients of this astonishing message.

But it doesn't end there. At the end of the age, Scripture says we who have inherited salvation shall one day judge even angels (see 1 Cor. 6:3). Consider again how powerful and majestic these angelic beings are. Consider also how small and weak we are. Nothing about this makes sense apart from the unshakeable message of Christ. For in Him the weak are made strong, the mortal made immortal, the sinner made righteous and the humble exalted. And so it is: We shall judge angels. Let that sink in.



- Dear Father God, "What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?" Our minds cannot even begin to fathom the love and favour You have lavished upon us. May that make us humble yet confident in the Unshakeable Message of Christ. Amen.
- Pray that Malaysians from all walks of life would be innovative in their spheres of expertise and professions so that we, as a nation, would progress rapidly with new ideas, simplified processes, better services and product quality.
- Pray that the Church would be innovative in delivering the Gospel message in this age of rapid change so that we can remain relevant and keep pace with the needs of the world without compromising any part of the Gospel message.

### DAY 9 Thu, 15 Aug 2024

### PAY ATTENTION!

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 2:1

A car runs off the road into a ditch killing the entire family inside. The driver wasn't paying attention. A hospital patient soon dies after being misdiagnosed. The doctor wasn't paying attention to the right thing. A marriage ends in divorce. The red flags were there but no one was paying attention. Paying attention is important; we pay dearly when we don't.

And here we are reminded again in Scripture that "we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard." At some point in your life, the Gospel was shared to you. You heard it, received it, believed it and began your new life in Christ. But the question here is simply this: Are you still paying attention to it? or have you drifted to something else?

Take heed because many out there are vying for your attention. The powers that be spend billions just to get a slice of your attention. They understand that your attention is valuable. Why? Because your attention is the doorway to your mind and your heart. And whatever captures your heart eventually directs your will. We cannot be too careful here. Your attention is a finite resource. Once given it is gone. Be wise to whom and to what you give it to.

So what is the filter? The word "drift" is crucial. If whatever you are paying attention to is causing you to drift further away from Christ, then it is of no good. "Cut it off," as Jesus once said (Mt. 5:30). A car drifting off a road into a ditch is a tragedy, but worse still is a life drifting off into an eternity without God.



- Dear Heavenly Father, You call us to draw near to you even as we are so prone to drift away. Cleanse our hands, purify our hearts, and forgive our double-mindedness.
   We humble ourselves in Your presence. Keep our eyes upon You. Amen.
- Pray that all Malaysians would practise a culture of respect amid our racial diversity, honouring one another with our speech, behaviour, and attitude.
- Pray that churches and Christian organisations would cultivate a spirit of respect and honour towards one another, without any sense of rivalry, comparison, or criticism, knowing that each has been called to serve in their God-given roles and tasks.

### DAY 10 Fri, 16 Aug 2024

### **DECLARE AGAIN**

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 2:2-4

Hebrews 2:2 speaks of the "message declared by angels." Some bible scholars believe this to be referring to the Torah - the first five books of the Old Testament. Hebrew tradition has it that the Torah was delivered to Moses on Mount Sinai by angels. This message proved to be reliable. Every blessing for obedience and punishment for disobedience written in the Torah came to pass for the people of Israel. Although given the Promised Land, they gave it up through disobedience. They lost their inheritance. A "just retribution" befell them.

"But enough about them," the author of Hebrews seems to say. The spotlight is now upon the reader. We have been given a message far greater than them. A message declared not just by angels but by the Lord Jesus himself when He took on flesh. A message of forgiveness that in spite of our disobedience Christ died for us. A message of salvation that all who believe in Him shall have life eternal. A message of hope that all who endure with Him shall receive an inheritance imperishable. It is far greater than anything the people of Israel could even think or imagine.

And so it is here that the principle of stewardship is set into motion. Our Lord Jesus said, "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required." (Lk.12:48) What then is required of us? I believe it is to declare the Message courageously once more – in word and in deed. How? Hebrews 2:4 clues us in. It tells us of the crucial role of the Holy Spirit in bearing witness to the Unshakeable Message. As it was at the beginning, so shall it be at the end. Come, Holy Spirit!



- "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and kindle in them the fire of Thy love." May we be empowered by You to declare the unshakeable message of Christ to our cities, our nation, and to the nations of the world. Amen.
- Pray that trust between the people and our government as well as between people groups and races would be restored gradually under the Madani efforts so that there would be better cooperation among Malaysians.
- Pray that the trust of Malaysian churches in the Author and Perfecter of our faith would be unshakeable amid these troubled and challenging times.

DAY 11-15

# THE UNSHAKEABLE RELATIONSHIP

Hebrews 2:5-3:19

### DAY 11 Sat, 17 Aug 2024

### MINDFUL OF US

Today's Scripture: Hebrew 2:5-9

Humankind occupies a very special place in the heart of God. In comparison to angels, human beings are in many ways inferior in form and performance. Yet, God did not put the world to come in subjection to angels but to mankind.

Much later, God would give us an example in Jesus. Jesus became a man to show that God has not forgotten or given up on us. Jesus became a man that we might be redeemed through his suffering and death. And as a man, Jesus was crowned with glory and honour to show us that, despite our human inferiority and failures, we shall be made to reign together with Him in the world to come.

How envious the angels must have been. Instead of being called to rule the world, they were assigned to serve those who will inherit salvation. (see Heb. 1:14) How happy and grateful we ought to be. In spite of our disobedience and sins, God was ever mindful of us, even to the point of sacrificing His only begotten Son that we might be saved. The prophet Isaiah declared, "Can a woman forget her nursing child that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you."



- Lord Jesus, we know we are precious in Your sight as we are reminded of Your saving grace. Thank you for pouring Your love and life out for us so that we can be called heirs of God. Amen.
- Pray that needy and underprivileged Malaysians would receive substantial and concrete assistance from the existing government to enable them to come out from their plight permanently and not just temporarily.
- Pray that churches would emulate Christ who showed compassion to marginalised people, and serve our communities with the unreserved and unconditional love of Jesus.

### DAY 12 Sun, 18 Aug 2024

### NOT ASHAMED TO CALL US BROTHERS

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 2:10-18

What a privilege and honour that the eternal Lord and Saviour would receive us, mankind, as His kinsfolk. He is the eternal, incomparable, and matchless God. Yet He chose to be identified with fallen and weak men like us. More than just calling us brothers, He became one in the flesh, leaving His glory and taking upon Himself the form of a human being and living among men. In taking the form of a human, He became one with us and one like us.

What a humbling and great sacrifice it was when He took that path. He even went on to prove that He was a true brother. Who is a true brother? One who stands and supports his fellow brethren in adversity. In Proverbs 17:17, Solomon wrote, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." What it

simply means is that man becomes or proves that he is a true brother when he stands for and with his friends in times of adversity.

And that is exactly what Jesus did for us and more. When mankind was in their most desperate situation, Jesus left His glory and came to earth rescuing them with His very own life so that they would be set free. This is the highest expression of brotherhood - that one is willing to lay down his life for another for the sake of love. And that is the depth of love and relationship that He has for every one of us who has become His brethren!



- Lord Jesus, it is wonderful to know that we are considered Your brothers and sisters before the throne of God, the Father. Thank you that, through Your broken body, we can access God not only without shame and guilt but also with joy and peace. May this grace be extended to all my loved ones. Amen.
- Pray for the public, private, international, and home schools that offer different curriculums for our children. Pray that our children would be nurtured and groomed in an environment that builds strong character, good virtue, and sound intellect.
- Pray that education centres run by churches would have a sufficient number of committed and biblical faculties and teachers to respond to the call of disciplemaking. Pray that their impact would go beyond classrooms and infuse all aspects of their students' lives.

### DAY 13 Mon, 19 Aug 2024

### FAITHFUL ONE

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 3: 1-6

A person's reputation and character are derived from one's track record and consistency. It is the measurement for determining one's trustworthiness and dependability.

Jesus is called "Faithful and True" in Revelation 19:11. It is a reputation that He earned through His life of complete obedience to the Father as recorded in Hebrews 3:1-2. He ultimately proved His faithfulness when He was called to lay down His life on the cross for the sake of the Father's will and for love of mankind. There in the garden of Gethsemane where He could have chosen to walk away from the cross and certain death, He chose to remain and be obedient and faithful even unto death instead. Even death could not persuade Him to abandon the Father's will

Such is the Lord and Saviour that we are putting our trust in and following. Nothing could have shaken His resolve and determination. What He has declared, He will execute. What He has promised, He will keep. He is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? (see Numbers 23:19) Because of His proven faithfulness and care for us, we can rest in sweet assurance and peace that all will be well with us. Therefore, let us not be shaken by the chaos that surrounds us and be assured that the One we trust will see us through till the end for He is the Faithful One!



- Lord Jesus, You faithfully followed the will of God the Father, and have instructed us to follow in Your footsteps. Help us to faithfully take up our crosses and to accomplish whatever roles and tasks that You have entrusted to us too. Amen.
- Pray that the Ministry of Finance would formulate good, strategic, achievable, and sustainable fiscal policies for future development and that they would manage our public funds transparently, efficiently and effectively.
- Pray that Christians and churches would be faithful stewards and treasurers of God, and that churches would suffer no lack no matter how small they are. Pray that there would be no financial discrepancies and misappropriations in church accounts so that we can be living testimonials to the world.

### DAY 14 Tue, 20 Aug 2024

### **GREAT TRAGEDY**

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 3:7-19

This relationship that we have received in Christ is truly an amazing one. From creation to God's eternal plan, mankind was given an important place and role in His thoughts and plans. What an honour and privilege that we have been accorded with though we are far from deserving. This is what the Bible describes as God's "immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:7) It ought to fill us with deep gratitude and joy. Sadly, not all who are blessed are grateful.

The Hebrew writer warns us against unbelief and backsliding. He warns us against following the footsteps of the Israelites in the wilderness who chose to doubt, murmur, and complain against God even though He had given them great deliverance from slavery and the power of Pharaoh, and showed them numerous mighty acts of His care and kindness. This ultimately resulted in them failing to enter into the Promised Land. What a tragedy indeed. Let us learn and repent from the tragic mistakes of the Israelites and be mindful and grateful for all that He has done for us.



- Lord Jesus, You paid a big price for every one of us, to reconcile us to God. Help us to always be reminded of Your heart for us so that we will not go wayward, stumble, or fall. Keep us safe in Your hand, as we trust in Your guidance and power to restore us whenever we fall away. Amen.
- Pray that the Ministry of Health would implement creative ways to cultivate a strong health awareness among Malaysians through social media and programmes. Pray for a reformation of the healthcare system to meet the surging needs for medical care.
- Pray that Christians would take good care of their bodies which are the temples of God. Pray especially for pastors that they would be able to maintain their mental and physical health in addition to their spiritual wellness.

### DAY 15 • Wed, 21 Aug 2024

### HOLDING ON TO THE END

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 3:7-19

Despite being called and given the privilege of inheriting the Promised Land, all who came out of Egypt died in the wilderness, except for Joshua and Caleb. The Israelites forfeited their inheritance because they failed to hold fast to their confidence till the end and departed from the living God with an evil heart of unbelief hardened through the deceitfulness of sin (see Hebrews 3:12-14.)

The Hebrew writer referred to this because his Hebrew readers were making the same mistake in abandoning their faith in Christ and returning to their Judaistic roots. They were in danger of losing their salvation by doubting the complete work of the cross and returning to a means of righteousness based on the Mosaic Law that is but just a shadow and not the actual way.

Salvation is certain as long as we hold fast to our confidence till the end. However, it can be lost if we turn our backs on Him and abandon our faith. Therefore, if we want to retain this salvation and enter into our eternal destiny with Christ, we must hold on to this faith till the end. And if we have departed from the faith, the only way that can save us is to repent and return to Him. He will never turn away any who would repent and turn to Him for He is a Faithful God. How merciful and good is our Lord!



- Lord Jesus, as we look down at our frailty, we look up to Your perfection. We know that You are transforming us day by day with Your resurrection power and the renewing love of the Spirit. Lead us through the temptations and troubles in life so that we would hold onto Your name until our very last breath. Amen.
- Pray that issues of poverty among the rural farming communities such as shortage of manpower and low productivity and quality, would be rightly addressed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.
- Pray that God would grant wisdom to the many churches and Christian organisations involved in farming projects. Pray that they would be able to contribute to national growth in the agriculture and food industries with the experience and expertise they have gained.

DAY 16-20

# THE UNSHAKEABLE WALK

Hebrews 4 & 5

### DAY 16 Thu, 22 Aug 2024

### DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND

Today's Scripture: Hebrew 4:1-6

"Okay, I'll be there before 7 pm," replied a young man intending to catch a ride to church. Sadly, he never showed up. The church van waited till past the agreed time but was forced to leave without him as there were other passengers to pick up elsewhere.

The first verse of today's reading warns us not to be left behind, like the young man who missed the van because he did not keep his promise to turn up before 7pm. We too can fail to enter His rest. God promised the Israelites through Moses that He would lead them into the Promised Land or a place of rest (see verse 3). However, this good news no longer brought joy because their faith did not align with what they heard. Hebrews 4:2 states that, "... but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened."

The Israelites' disbelief was evident through their grumbling in various situations. When Pharaoh's army approached, they complained to Moses (see Exodus 14:11-12). At Marah, they grumbled about bitter water (see Exodus 15:22-24). In the Sinai desert, lacking food, they longed for the provisions of Egypt (see Exodus 16:2-3). At Rephidim, facing a water shortage, they grumbled again (see Exodus 17:1-4). Consequently, they missed entering the Promised Land

Life isn't always easy or beautiful. Challenges and circumstances might tempt us to grumble, but when we walk with Jesus, our Prince of Peace, we remain still. Our faith won't waver when it's rooted in Jesus instead of the world. Remember, grumbling and disbelief in God's promises will cause us to be left behind, even if the promise is to enter His rest



- Lord Jesus, align our hearts and faith to be fixed on You, not on this world. Instead of grumbling, help us to be grateful when problems and challenges arise. May our faith remain steadfast in You and not in the circumstances of this world or its tempting offers. Amen.
- Pray that the Ministry of Economy would be capable of heightening economic growth and also building resilience for any unforeseen future economic crises.
- Pray that churches that have suffered a decline in their tithes and offerings would find ways and means to pay their rentals, utilities and workers, and that their congregations would be touched by God to give faithfully.

### DAY 17 Fri, 23 Aug 2024

### SABBATH: PHYSICAL PICTURE OF GOD'S REST

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 4:7-12

Today's verses discuss the concept of rest as not being limited to weekly Sabbaths but also as a representation of a deeper rest attainable through faith and obedience to God.

John Calvin, a renowned Protestant Reformation theologian, argued that the physical Sabbath of the Old Testament has been fulfilled in Christ, and that Christians are no longer obliged to observe the Sabbath literally. Matthew 12:8 states, "For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath." Calvin taught that Christ is the perfect Sabbath, and when one has faith in Christ, they enter into true rest.

God wants us to enter into the rest He provides, just as He ceased from work on the seventh day. Why? Not because He needs rest, but because He was setting an example for us to rest from all worldly busyness and enter into His prepared rest. Work never ends, but our physical bodies will wear out without rest from work. Set aside time to rest with your family, and practice Sabbath in the presence of the Lord so that we won't fall into disobedience like the Israelites when they were led by Moses.

I believe that if we make it a habit to enter into God's rest, resting from our work and coming into the presence of the Lord, our faith journey will remain unshaken – The Unshakeable Walk. For the Word of God is a sword that guides our spiritual journey. Strive to enter into a deeper rest through faith and obedience to the Word of God, which has the power to delve into and understand the thoughts and hearts of people.



- Lord Jesus, teach us to truly understand the meaning of Your rest. Grant us obedience to Your Word, and find promised rest as we release our efforts to You. When faced with challenges, teach us to give thanks and remain anchored in You. Amen.
- Pray that the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development would continue to establish proper infrastructures and facilities in rural areas to enhance the overall living quality of rural communities.
- Pray that rural community churches would build a bridge for the works of the Gospel through their outreach efforts, and that they would be strong in children and youth disciple-making. Pray also that they would be financially sustainable.

### DAY 18 Sat, 24 Aug 2024

### NOTHING HIDDEN BEFORE GOD

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 4:13-16

These verses remind us that nothing is hidden before God. Our thoughts, feelings, and actions are open before Him. It is a call to live in obedience and honesty, acknowledging that everything is laid bare before Him.

However, we often fail to realise that God's omniscience should impact our daily behaviour. We should recognise that though Jesus, our High Priest, is in heaven, He understands the weaknesses and temptations that we constantly face on Earth. He experienced the world as we do (see verse 15). So hold fast to your faith in our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ. He will forgive us, provide comfort, and assure us.

The confession of our faith is a challenge not to alter or diminish the truth of our faith. It is a firm foundation for our lives, guiding us in obedience to God (see verse 14).

Draw near to His throne of grace with courage. We are invited to approach the throne of grace with boldness. The courage mentioned in this verse is synonymous with faith because a person of faith surely possesses courage. Throughout chapter 11 of Hebrews, we see how heroes of faith faced difficult and seemingly impossible situations, and yet overcame and triumphed with faith. You and I can also do the same, with faith. Approach His throne of grace with faith, for there sits our Great High Priest, from Whom we will receive mercy to lead an unshakeable walk of faith (see verse 16).



- Lord Jesus, teach us to live truthfully before You, the Great High Priest in our lives. We pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith and for us to remain faithful as we approach the throne of God in repentance. Let Your mercy overflow as we find security in You. Amen.
- Pray that the government would be efficient in helping minimise the costs of transformation and adoption, especially in the educational sector, as the Malaysia Digital initiative continues to drive digitalisation across all sectors of life.
- Pray that churches in Malaysia would maximise the use of technology to help us communicate the Gospel effectively in the digital age.

## DAY 19 Sun, 25 Aug 2024

# JESUS CHRIST, A BETTER HIGH PRIEST

Today's Scripture: *Hebrews 5:1-7*Reflection:

This passage invites us to understand the role of the high priest in the Old Testament and compare it to the role of Christ as the eternal High Priest. The high priest served as the mediator between humans and God, chosen from men and bound by weaknesses. On the other hand, Christ, as the perfect High Priest, did not exalt Himself but received this title from God.

The inadequacy of human high priests in dealing with their own sins and others demonstrates the need for a better High Priest. Christ is the answer to that need. He not only understands our weaknesses but has also conquered death through His righteousness and victory on the cross.

Let's reflect on how Christ's role as the eternal High Priest impacts us spiritually to transform us to be more Christ-like. Jesus as the eternal High Priest serves as a reminder that we cannot save ourselves, and that it's only through Him that we're saved from sin and death. Having an unshakeable walk does not mean a life without challenges and suffering, but it involves having Jesus as our Great High Priest who always listens to our cries and prayers (see verse 7). As children of God, we're not promised immunity from sin, but we're sustained by His abundant grace. When we realise our inability to navigate life in this world, we are invited to draw near to Him in intimacy and to enjoy His fullness.



- Lord Jesus, thank you for becoming our Great High Priest. We commit to You those who have not accepted You as Lord and Saviour so that they will receive the grace of salvation through You. May You also grant us strength, comfort and unshakeable faith, especially for those serving in various ministries.
- Pray that the aid and welfare services provided by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development would widen to benefit more vulnerable sectors of the community such as children, the disabled, senior citizens, the destitute, NGOs and disaster victims.
- Pray that Malaysian churches that reach out to the underprivileged communities
  would be well-equipped to handle their challenges and that they would enable
  these communities to become self-sufficient.

#### DAY 20 Mon, 26 Aug 2024

# **LEARNING OBEDIENCE**

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 5:8-14

The term "learned obedience" used in Hebrews 5:8 does not imply that Jesus lacked obedience or submission to God. In this context, "learning" refers more to Jesus' human experience on earth and His sufferings during His mission as the Saviour.

Jesus, as God incarnate, chose to undergo human life with all its inclinations and sufferings. Through these experiences, He lived through every aspect of humanity, feeling temptations, trials, and sufferings just like humans. This wasn't a process of "learning" in the sense of lacking knowledge or obedience, but rather a part of His human experience.

What about us today? Often, various challenges, temptations, and sufferings make us disobedient and unfaithful. We fail to obey the teachings of the Word and the will of God. Thus, we become

unfaithful to God because of the allurements of this world. That's why the writer of Hebrews says that solid food is for the mature in faith. Only a spiritually mature person can continue to learn obedience and faithfulness.

Let's count and reflect on how many years we've been Christians by 2024. Have we been spiritually consuming milk or solid food? Considering the timeline, perhaps we should be teachers or spiritual examples to infant Christians by now. However, if we refuse to show obedience and faithfulness to the Word and will of God, we will remain "infant Christians". Let's think about how we can continue to grow in obedience to Christ through our life experiences.

Let us also reflect on our roles in teaching and receiving spiritual teachings, and how we can build and strengthen one another.



- Lord Jesus, thank You for Your Word today. Help us to grow stronger in obedience and to understand deeper spiritual truths through the Holy Spirit. We pray that this longing will help us mature in our faith as believers and to live unshakeable lives in our walk with You. Amen.
- Pray that as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability seeks to conserve our environment with the development in place, it will receive full support from all stakeholders for successful outcomes.
- Pray that, as God's agent on earth, the Church would learn to impart proper and ethical values and create an awareness about environmental conservation so that our current and future generations would care for our environment as a matter of daily practice.

DAY 21-25

# THE UNSHAKEABLE HOPE

Hebrews 6 & 7

#### DAY 21 Tue, 27 Aug 2024

# HOPE OF GROWTH IN JESUS

Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits. (Hebrews 6:1-3)

Many believers do not grow in Christ because they dwell only on basic doctrine. In fact, there is much more to learn and it is a process that takes time. Only in knowing Jesus deeper can we grow from glory to glory and live a victorious Christian life.

God has given us the Holy Spirit as our companion. The work of the Holy Spirit is to teach us, give revelation, guide and even convict us of our sins. We are to grow in the Spirit so that we will know what is of the Lord and what is not. The Holy Spirit is able to take us to higher levels and help us move beyond the elementary principles with His gifts of discernment, wisdom, and understanding.

In John 15:1-5, Jesus tells us that He is the vine and we are the branches. Our fruitfulness depends on our abiding in Him. He prunes us to bear more fruit. A young tree cannot bear fruit unless it grows to maturity.

Jesus said in John 14:12, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father." We will not be able to do greater works and fulfill his calling unless we mature in Him.

When we do mature in Him with the Holy Spirit's indwelling, we will not fall away due to sin.



- Dear Heavenly Father, You are the Vine Dresser, Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. Thank you for the life-giving experiences that we have had in Christ. As we remain in Christ, may His Word and Spirit strengthen us each day so that we would continue to grow, flourish, and bear fruit for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen!
- Pray that, under the leadership of the Ministry of Local Government and Development, urban housing and environmental issues, such as population density and pollution, would be addressed accordingly to attain a better quality of life for urban communities.
- Pray that a strong connection would be built between urban churches and their communities. Pray that local churches would be more engaged with and integrated into their communities as they reach out to unchurched individuals.

# INHERITANCE ACCOMPANIES SALVATION

Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Hebrews 6:9-12)

Because our salvation in Christ Jesus has restored our relationship with God, we can now call Him, Abba, Father. Romans 8:16 says we are children of God. Verse 17 says "and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."

Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Let us do good works and labor for His Name's sake as it is part of God's plan after salvation. Loving God and others is an integral part of our new nature in Christ Jesus.

God remembers our good works, love, and labors for His Kingdom as He is just. Let us continue to persevere even more diligently in the hope that we will inherit His promises in due time as we wait patiently. We persevere because of hope and that hope will never disappoint. Romans 5:5 says, "and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."



- Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for remembering our works, though insignificant when compared with the work of Your Son, Jesus. We can do good works because You have enabled us to do so, and we anticipate the Day to come when we shall inherit the Kingdom You have reserved for those who obey You! In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen!
- Pray that reforms carried out by the Ministry of Youth and Sports to shape youth and the culture of sports would continue to advance and that the spirit of love, excellence, and unity would be built strongly in Malaysian youth.
- Pray that churches in both urban and rural areas would be creative when reaching out to their youth communities, and that the programmes they design would be attractive to the youths and yet, at the same time, guide them to the Truth in Jesus.

#### DAY 23 Thu, 29 Aug 2024

# **UNSHAKEABLE PROMISES OF GOD**

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. (Hebrews 6:13-15)

God, in His nature, does not lie, and He is faithful to His promises. He promised that He would bless Abraham and multiply his descendants; sealing His oath by swearing upon Himself as there is none greater than Him. This promise is now sealed and guaranteed, and God will certainly fulfill it at any cost. Numbers 23:19-20 says, "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? Behold, I received a command to bless: he has blessed, and I cannot revoke it." God's blessings are irreversible, and so are His promises.

The lives of all the patriarchs, the nation of Israel, and the great men and women of God in the entire Bible were centered on the promises of God. God's unshakable promises have changed lives and are still changing lives, including ours.

God has many promises for those of us who seek His face, listen for His voice and read His Word daily. In Jeremiah 29:11, God made a promise to the Israelites when they were held in captivity in Babylon and they held onto it for 70 years until it came to pass.

We, our families, and the Church as a whole have the promise of hope that God will fulfill in His time. Let us hold fast to these promises, individually or corporately, as "He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it." (1 Thessalonians 5:24)



- Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for all Your good promises in Christ Jesus. We are assured that we have hope and a future, and we are more than conquerors of all the obstacles in this life. We trust in Your unfailing promises. In Jesus' name, Amen.
- Pray that the Legal Affairs Division under the Prime Minister's Department would achieve its three main focuses of getting more people out of bankruptcy, strengthening legal aid services, and taking action against scammers.
- Pray that Christian lawyers and legal workers would uphold both the country's laws and spiritual laws in the Bible while making full use of their expertise in defending the needy and the innocent and furthering the righteousness and justice of God on earth.

#### DAY 24 Fri, 30 Aug 2024

# **ANCHORED ON CHRIST**

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 6:19-20)

God's Word reminds us believers that our hope in Jesus Christ is firm and secure. It is the anchor for our soul. The foundation of this hope is grounded on the fact that God's nature does not change and that His promises are irreversible.

Life's storms, challenges, trials and uncertainties may cause our souls to wander away from Christ and His plans for us. In Apostle Paul's letter, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, he writes, "...may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless..." Psalm 23:3 says, "He restores (refreshes) my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Our souls should always

be anchored to the hope in Christ Jesus so that we will not fall away. Just as a ship's anchor keeps the ship from drifting away, so should our souls be anchored firmly to Him. We can be at peace even when life's storms hit us if our strength comes from Him.

This hope in Jesus is eminently firm and secure for He has entered the inner sanctuary and offered an atonement for our sins as our forever living High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Let us examine ourselves today to see if our souls are firmly anchored in Jesus Christ.

If you are in despair because of life's troubles, whatever it may be, do not give up. Establish your soul, body and spirit unto the unshakeable hope that we have in Christ Jesus our Lord.



- Dear Heavenly Father, as everything in this world is changing exponentially, we find security in the Promised Word and Work of Your Son. We can stand firm and remain unshakeable when we anchor our lives on the Giver of Life, Jesus Christ. We praise You and thank You for the Son, the Forerunner of our faith. In His precious name, we trust. Amen.
- Pray that the Ministry of Human Resources would play its role well in implementing the Progressive Wage Policy, and in helping Malaysians in matters such as maximising their skills, increasing job opportunities, and enhancing their occupational safety and health benefits.
- Pray that Malaysian churches would be faithful and skillful in managing their human resources. Pray that the five-fold ministry and all spiritual gifts would be fully exercised so that the people of God would be built up in faith and good works for the Lord.

# **EVERLASTING HIGH PRIEST'S INTERCESSION**

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:23-25)

The entire chapter of Hebrews 7 speaks of Jesus' priesthood as being in the order of Melchizedek and not of the Aaronic order. It is an Oath of God the Father who sent Him; Priests acted as an intermediary bridge between people and God but when an earthly priest dies, his priestly work to offer animal sacrifices for his sins and also the people's sins stops (see verses 23-24.) Jesus, on the other hand, only needed to offer Himself once and for all as the sacrifice for all men's sins. He died and rose again to live forever as High Priest.

We can only have the assurance of salvation if we come to God through Him (see John 14:6.)

We believers may seek prayers from pastors, prayer leaders, and friends for all our needs, health, relationships and for many other situations. We tend to forget that Jesus, our forever-living High Priest, continually saves and intercedes for us. Jesus prayed for His disciples in John 17, and in verse 20, He prayed for all of us who come to Him today.

He is constantly praying for us, His redeemed, that we would finish well the race set before us. Take comfort that we are consistently in His prayers. Psalm 121:3b-4 says God who keeps you does not slumber nor sleep. Do not look at your situations but know that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father, and is always interceding for us (see Romans 8:14).



- Dear Heavenly Father, may You enrich our lives in Christ Jesus with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The world cannot rob us of the joy, peace, and love we have in Christ Jesus when we anchor our faith in Him for He intercedes for us in our weaknesses. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.
- Pray that the Ministry of Higher Education would be receptive to the public's opinions and feedback, and that they would possess great wisdom and insight as they work to sustain a higher education ecosystem of quality in tertiary education.
- Pray that there would be more involvement of churches and Christians in tertiary education. Pray that God would raise more outstanding educators who are faithbased and that they would live out the course of truth in the education industry.

DAY 26-30

# THE UNSHAKEABLE LOVE

Hebrews 8 & 9

#### DAY 26 Sun, 1 Sept 2024

# THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

In the Jewish religious tradition, the High Priest (in Hebrew: kohen gadol) was responsible for mediating between humanity and God. This individual entered the Holy of Holies in the Jerusalem temple, offering annual sacrifices to carry out the atonement ceremony between God and the people.

Jesus brought a new light to His people. His priesthood is different from that of the Levites. In contrast. He only needed to make one sacrifice to fulfil the demands of God's law by offering Himself as a perfectly pure and unblemished redemption sacrifice (see Hebrews 7:26-27). Unlike the Levitical priests who had to continually offer sacrifices, Jesus became the sacrifice once and for all, obtaining eternal redemption for everyone who comes to

God through Him. He brought His own blood, not the blood of goats or calves (see Hebrews 9:12).

Because Jesus is greater than other priests, He is called the "Great High Priest" (Hebrews 4:14). He is the Great High Priest from heaven who can empathise with our weaknesses. In every way, though He faced temptations just like we do, yet He did not sin (see Hebrews 4:14-15). He gives us the courage to approach the throne of grace boldly so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (see Hebrews 4:16). Such is His great love, the unshakeable love for all who choose to believe!



- Heavenly Father, we are grateful for Jesus, our Great High Priest who deeply understands our weaknesses. We believe that, in Your unshakeable love, You will provide a way out for us in spite of our weaknesses. Strengthen us each time with Your Word and Your Spirit when we are vulnerable. In Jesus' name, Amen.
- Pray that the department and agencies for religious affairs under the Prime Minister's Department would successfully foster a better understanding of religions among the public with a moderate and balanced approach.
- Pray that the life and practices of the Malaysian churches would not fall into a form of religiosity but that we would be people with a vibrant worship who lead spiritfilled lives.

#### DAY 27 Mon, 2 Sept 2024

# THE ONE MEDIATOR

Jesus is referred to as the "One Mediator," translated from the Greek word "Mesites" (Hebrews 8:6, 9:15). God incarnate as Jesus Christ, serving as the sole Mediator between God and humanity.

Loving Jesus means loving His Father, for He and the Father are one (see John 10:30). In response to His love, we are obligated to obey Him. "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15). Jesus desires us to always pray to His Father and keep the commandments through Him, so that we may have peace, joy, and strength to do His will with love, patience, humility, and wisdom.

The Commercial Crime Investigation Department of the Royal Malaysian Police reported that online crime cases from January to September 2023 increased by 23% compared to 2022. Scam victims included not just the elderly and retirees but also professionals such as lecturers, teachers, engineers, and doctors. Fraud crimes not only cause financial losses to the country but also lead to depression and a decline in the overall well-being of the victims.

In a fallen world with increasing crimes and deceptions, people are losing trust in each other and mental problems have become one of the most challenging issues the Church has had to deal with. Yet we have faith to overcome, for Jesus once said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). All the problems we face can be resolved through His intervention. No matter how fierce the storm we face is, God will give us the power and strength to overcome it (see Psalm 68:35).



- Lord Jesus, we thank You that You are our faithful Mediator in times of trouble. May You grant us wisdom in handling our situations. Keep our hearts away from greed and our minds from deceptions. In Jesus' name, Amen.
- Pray that, as the Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development (MECD) strives to make Malaysia a superior entrepreneurial country, they would have the means, skills, wisdom, and knowledge to create an atmosphere that is united, prosperous, and dignified.
- Pray that the Church would possess an entrepreneurial spirit as she continues to explore the expansion of ministries in the marketplace. Pray that we would be a people who make good use of our gifts and knowledge, and who multiply the resources given to us for His glory.

#### DAY 28 Tue, 3 Sept 2024

# THE LIVING SACRIFICE

The death of Jesus on the cross holds the true meaning of sacrifice in the life of a Christian. As His followers, sacrifice means doing what God commands. whether it's giving our time, wealth, or efforts to do His work. The Lord commands, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). Our willingness to sacrifice is an indication of our dedication to Him

The core of true sacrifice is the love of Jesus. Jesus demonstrated His love by giving His life. This is true love-for the benefit of others, done willingly and unconditionally. This is Jesus' command. He commands us to love one another as He has loved us (see John 13:34-35). Love is not just a feeling but a decision to demonstrate love for others.

How do we present ourselves as a living sacrifice to the Lord? (see Romans 12:1) By living out the love of Christ, we become children of light in the midst of darkness. Every day, we have the opportunity to serve others and sow the Word of God. It's important for the church to rise from our comfort zones and reach out to those in need!

As a multicultural nation, we should pray and do our best to preserve unity and harmony in the country, just as Jesus is the Prince of Peace (see Isaiah 9:5). Let us get rid of bitterness, rage, and anger towards others even if we, as God's people, are tested, scorned, and hated (see Ephesians 4:31-32).



- Heavenly Father, teach us to have hearts that are willing to be living sacrifices. We pray that we would follow after Jesus with a spirit of self-denial, and a sacrificial love for others, and that we would be able to even love our enemies, for such is the love that You have demonstrated for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- Pray that when the Ministry of National Unity conducts campaigns that help foster the spirit of unity among Malaysians (such as Neighbourhood Watch Area, Nationalism Spirit, Unity Spirit, and Compassionate Community), we would respond well and support such endeavors in our personal and community lives.
- Pray that churches in Malaysia would take heed of the Word of God and endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

#### DAY 29 • Wed, 4 Sept 2024

## A NEW COVENANT

God often depicts His relationship with His people as a marriage. When God established a relationship with the people of Israel, He specifically chose them to be His exclusive possession. In this covenant relationship, God promised to be faithful and to bless His people. However, they turned away from Him and consistently betrayed Him.

The third chapter of Jeremiah states that God divorced Israel because of their unfaithfulness. Here, God's love may seem conditional. But it was not God's final decision even though He had the right to divorce Israel. God was merciful; He did not abandon them (see Isaiah 49:15). There was a dilemma here, and God's solution was to establish better promises to His people through a new covenant, a better one.

There are four promises in the New promise Covenant. First. the empowerment. God puts His law in the minds of His people and writes it on their hearts (see Hebrews 8:10). There must be a transformation from within, involving an inward and personal relationship with God. Second, the promise that He will not leave us. Third, the promise that we would know Him personally. If God works in our hearts and gives us a new heart, we will know who He is. Fourth, the promise of forgiveness of our sins.

Now that we belong to Christ, we should not take His priceless love for granted. This new covenant should lead us to become more obedient to the Lord and to hate sin even more.



- Lord Jesus, teach us to keep Your covenant faithfully. For in Your Covenant, we find strength, security, love and assurance of our salvation. May You bless us with faith that will enable us to hold on to Your promises even when circumstances in our lives appear the very opposite of what You have promised. Amen.
- Pray that the Ministry of Transport would be efficient in alleviating congested traffic in the cities, as well as improving the transportation infrastructure in the inland areas.
- Pray for people who are not able to access church services or activities because of transportation constraints. Pray that churches in these communities would have enough manpower and resources to overcome this problem.

#### DAY 30 Thu, 5 Sept 2024

# THE TRUE TABERNACLE

Jesus Christ is the true and perfect Tabernacle (see Hebrews 9:11). Many symbols within the Tabernacle are derived from prophecies and promises of God in the Old Testament concerning Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, the Tabernacle symbolises God's presence among the people of Israel, while in the New Testament, it symbolises the Lord Jesus Christ being with us (Matthew 1:23).

The Tabernacle had only one entrance on the east side for entering into the presence of the Lord. This symbolises Christ, who is the only way to obtain salvation. "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved." (John 10:9)

When we talk about the Tabernacle, we are also talking about holiness. God commands us to be holy because He is holy (see 1 Peter 1:15-16). The word holy, in Greek hagios means to be set apart.

Separated from sin and sanctified for God. It signifies the quality required to stand with God and to qualify to serve Him. As children of God, we should respond to God's holiness by practising holiness in our lives. We need to maintain an intimate relationship with Him, and fear and respect Him (see Hebrews 12:28).

Take time to study the Word of God. The living Word is very beneficial for teaching, pointing out errors, correcting behaviour, and educating us about the truth (see 2 Timothy 3:16). We need to renew our minds so that we can distinguish the will of God: "What is good, pleasing to God, and perfect" (Romans 12:2). We cannot live in holiness with our own strength and without the Holy Spirit's empowerment.



- Our Lord Jesus, sanctify our hearts through Your Holy Spirit. We pray that we will be wise and honest, and not fall into temptation. We also pray for a breakthrough in our lives so that we would live holy and righteous lives on earth, testifying to the world the power and love of God that enables us to do so. Amen.
- Pray that the Ministry of Tourism would successfully promote Malaysia as a multicultural country and highlight its uniqueness in the competitive tourism market so that our tourism industry will thrive.
- Pray for Christian tourism to pilgrimage sites and other places with historical Christian significance such as the Holy Land, Paul's Missionary Journey, and Camino de Santiago. Pray that God would reignite the fire of evangelism and missions as Christians visit, reminisce and marvel at the places where Jesus and the Apostles walked.

DAY 31-35

# THE UNSHAKEABLE FAITH

Hebrews 10 & 11

#### DAY 31 . Fri, 6 Sept 2024

## PERSEVERANCE IN SINCERITY AND FAITH

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 10:1-25

Jesus Christ offered Himself once and for all and became the eternal atonement for sins. He is now seated at the right hand of God, where He waits for His enemies to be made His footstool.

Sometimes, perhaps due to weaknesses in our lives, we hesitate to seek God. Be it as it may, what we need to know is that God does not remember our iniquities! In fact, He eagerly longs for us to seek Him. Through the precious blood of Jesus and His sacrifice, He has opened for us a new and living way, allowing us to confidently enter into His presence.

Let us then approach God with a sincere heart and a full confidence. Let us hold fast to the hope we profess without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. In times of difficulty, we need not be alarmed, for we can overcome the adversary through Jesus. Furthermore, let us care for one another, provoke love and good works, encourage each other, and maintain fellowship in the Lord, all the more as the day of Christ approaches.

No one can oppose the children of God, for Jesus sacrificed Himself for us. No one can accuse those whom God has chosen, for He has declared them righteous. No one can condemn the children of God, for Jesus has completed the great work of redemption. Hallelujah!



- Dear Lord, may we, with sincerity and faith, steadfastly seek Your face. We firmly believe that You will support and strengthen us, and enable us to triumph regardless of the circumstances we are in. Amen!
- Pray that the Ministry of Home Affairs would execute their roles effectively in securing public and social order. Pray that they would have good control over the foreign workers in our country.
- Pray for God's forgiveness for church splits that cause wounds and separation within the Body of Christ. Pray for reconciliation and restoration of good relationships and faith among the wounded.

# "DO NOT THROW AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE"

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 10:26-39

The author of the Book of Hebrews conveyed the message, "Do not throw away your confidence" to contemporary believers who were facing great trials and persecutions. In times of testing, some may shrink back while others may be weakened, some may remain steadfast relying on the Lord, while others may show compassion by accompanying those who suffer. Those who courageously rely on God and maintain such a firm mindset often have to exert more effort as well as pay a higher cost in facing the scrutiny, ridicule, and misunderstanding of others. It is through such believers that God accomplishes His beautiful work.

The once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic has been testing us. How willing are we to step forward to help others or be a blessing to them while trying to prevent getting infected? Can we also maintain valiant hearts while making the Gospel known by setting aside our pride and boldly engaging with people?

As we pray and ask for revival, God waits for His children to courageously share His Gospel. May He help us to see people not with our own eyes but through His. May we seize every opportunity to confidently share the good news with them. During this 40day fast and prayer journey, may we reach out to friends who haven't yet believed and let us share this wonderful gospel with them fearlessly! Remember: Everyone needs the Lord!



- Dear Lord, thank you for reminding us that, in addition to prayer, we must take action and contribute to Your work through sharing the Gospel with unwavering and courageous hearts. Please help us to boldly proclaim the good news with steadfastness. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen!
- Pray that the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living would possess good knowledge and skills in price regulation and control of goods, and that consumers' rights would be preserved and prioritised.
- Pray that God would touch the many believing entrepreneurs to see their businesses as a means to serve God and His Kinadom, and that they would be driven by soul-saving and disciple-making agendas. Pray that the quality of their products and services would testify to the greatness and goodness of God.

# DAY 33 Sun, 8 Sept 2024

# PEOPLE THAT THE WORLD DOES NOT DESERVE

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 11

Hebrews 11 has a long name list of faith-filled people whose lives shine with the brilliance of their convictions and whose victorious testimonies are declared in biblical history no less. Because of this, we must always remember, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

Some of the stories of these heroes of the faith might be familiar to us. We admire them and their remarkable lives no end. The author of Hebrews likens our lives in Christ to a race, with those who have entered heaven watching over us as we run. The witnesses, numerous as the clouds, will continue to testify to us until we reach the finish line that awaits us above.

By faith, are we willing to lay down various burdens and cast off the sins that easily entangle us? By faith, may we persevere and run the race that is set before us. By faith, are we willing to choose the narrow path that pleases God? Are we ready to submit to God's will, considering earthly pursuits as mere dust? Are we earnestly seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness?

"People that the world does not deserve" does not only include those who are listed in the Hall of Faith but also encompasses individuals of this age who are willing to set their own needs and wants aside, choosing to focus on God and committing to Christ. Blessings to you as you become one of these!



- Dear Lord, we pray that we may have more of You in our lives. May we catch a glimpse of Your glory. Let the radiance of Your love, Your sacrificial love, and the mission of the Gospel that You have entrusted to us, become the focus of our lives and plans. May we live out the destiny You have given us by following Your leading and guidance. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen!
- Pray that the Ministry of Plantation and Commodities would manage the plantation development of commodities like palm oil, rubber, timber and cocoa well.
- Pray that the Church would flourish like a palm tree, and grow like a cedar of Lebanon, and that, as plants in the house of the Lord, we would flourish, bear fruit, and stay fresh and green.

#### DAY 34 Mon, 9 Sept 2024

# **ASSURANCE OF FAITH**

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 11:1

We need faith before we can even hope to enter the kingdom of God. We also need to grow and progress in life. As Paul said, our faith is from faith and for faith. As such, how to live a life of faith is a lesson that we must keep learning throughout our lifetime.

Faith is a spiritual ability given to us by God. Just as the five senses we are endowed with allow us to perceive, faith is a spiritual organ bestowed by God that enables us to connect with Him. This faith requires continuous practice and growth for us to comprehend spiritual issues and to steadfastly journey through the path of faith. The radiant light of God's Word can indeed strengthen our faith, preventing us from groping in darkness. This allows our inner faith to be continually exercised, enabling it to function effectively. The world is filled with things that are mesmerizing and alluring and, without the guidance of God's Word, how can we have a heart that is liberated and obedient to the Holy Spirit?

As we practice and submit to fasting and prayer, may God enlarge our spiritual vision, enabling us to have a renewed breakthrough in our spiritual walk. May we be prepared to embrace the marvellous challenges that God still has in store for us.



- Dear Lord, help us walk in Your guidance by faith. May we draw upon the promises of Your Word, overcome all attacks of the enemy with faith, and emerge victorious! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen!
- Pray that the impartation and dissemination of information would be effective and satisfactory under the Ministry of Communications, and that fake and fraudulent news and communications will be curbed.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would empower every church as they communicate the Gospel so that it would be clear, timely, relevant and uncompromised. Pray that the Gospel professed would reach the hearts and souls of many.

#### DAY 35 . Tue, 10 Sept 2024

# PROMISES OF FAITH

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 11:39-40

Faith is defined in Hebrews 11:1 as "... the assurance of things hoped for." This faith differs from worldly beliefs, and is built upon the hope and promises mentioned in previous chapters. So faith comes from God and is deeply rooted in His Word and promises. It begins with God's revelations, instructions, calling, and promises, and is then followed by "the conviction of things not seen," demonstrated by our obedience and perseverance as expressions of our faith. God promises us not only life but life in abundance. This abundant life is essentially intertwined with the faith we hold in God

Our faith should not remain stagnant at the stage of merely "believing in God" but should progress to "believing that God rewards those who seek Him."

Paul said, "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him..." (2 Corinthians 1:20). Have you been seeking God? Are you confident that His promises will be fulfilled? How much value do you place on God's promises? The heroes of faith lived extraordinary lives, firmly believing that God would not fail to reward them.

Today, God is still seeking vessels that He can use. He desires to move in our lives, allowing His promises to manifest in us as He accomplishes His wonderful works. Godly people are urgently needed to live out God's influential power at this crucial moment. Are you willing to entrust the ownership of your life to God and become a vessel of faith for this generation?



- Lord, grant us faith that transcends, leaping over our walls of understanding. We believe in God and we also believe that You reward those who seek You. Enable us to persevere in faith and to please You until the day we proudly stand in the heavenly realms alongside the heroes of faith, receiving the better things prepared for us (see verse 40). In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen!
- Pray that the Ministry of International Trade & Industry would be successful in providing a conducive business environment for investors, maintaining the existing investments as well as drawing in quality and high-value foreign corporations.
- Pray that we, as the Church, would be good investors as we run Kingdom business on earth, and that we would know where to sow generously and where to reap the harvest. Pray that every church would experience growth and multiplication where they have invested.

DAY 36-40

# THE UNSHAKEABLE MISSION

Hebrews 12 & 13



## DAY 36 • Wed, 11 Sept 2024

# **UNSHAKEABLE WITNESSES**

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-3

The unshakeable Kingdom is the divine kingdom under God's sovereignty that will never be shaken. In this Kingdom, a great number of witnesses surround us like clouds in the sky. We should press forward, running straight towards the goal. Christ is our Commander-in-Chief in battle, and He will guide us on the right path and lead us to victory. On our part, we must strive to lay aside every heavy burden, staying away from anything that could easily lead us to sin.

In this unshakeable Kingdom, Christ endured suffering on the cross. Now He is seated at the right hand of God's throne, a symbol of the completion of His redemptive work and mission. We who are still earthbound should wait patiently and look to the Lord for the future He has prepared for us, as He is both the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last of our faith. Those of us who are in the kingdom of God should consider earthly things as temporary and finite. Let us spend more time reflecting on our identity and on the promises in Christ, and rely on the grace of the Lord and the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel of Christ.



- Lord, help the Church to internalize the essence of Your Kingdom and missions so that we may continue to be good witnesses for You and earnestly win souls for the unshakeable Kingdom. May You empower the Church with a positive mindset and an unwavering perseverance so that we can face challenges encountered as we preach the Gospel. Amen.
- Pray that the Ministry of Defence would play its role well in improving the security of the country, safeguarding the interests of our country in its sovereignty and territory, as well as managing military needs.
- Pray that churches would put time and effort into prayer and intercession to build a hedge of spiritual protection over the Church and individuals. Pray that every church would be a powerhouse of prayer.

#### DAY 37 Thu, 12 Sept 2024

# THE UNSHAKEABLE ZION

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 12:22-24

Mount Zion symbolizes the dwelling place and presence of God, as well as events that are to occur, namely the heavenly city where there is a throng of angels. This is the unshakeable kingdom of the future, as it is the place where God will execute His judgment. At the same time, Jesus serves as our mediator and hence the souls of the righteous will be perfected. This covenant is established with the precious blood of the Lord. In this way, those who believe in Jesus shall obtain their eternal life, which is the unshakeable Kingdom. In this Kingdom, the Lord rules and reigns in the hearts of His people, bringing power and influence for missions.

Mount Zion is the new covenant

established by Christ Jesus with mankind two thousand years ago. This promise is given to those in Christ, offering them the hope of eternal life, by entering into the presence of the eternal God. What a wonderful promise to hold on to because there will be no more sickness, pain, sorrow, crying, or even death. The former things, or the things in the past, will all become history. For us who are still alive today, let us earnestly pursue and cherish the Lord who has given us salvation. In these end times, let us proclaim with all our hearts the great power of this gospel, so that all who believe in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour will not perish but have eternal life.



- Lord, open our eyes and fix our gaze on Mount Zion as we long for the unshakeable Kingdom. Use us to bring others to Christ so that they may share with us the great heavenly blessings. We fervently pray for those who are yet to be saved, that they may hear the Gospel in their lifetime, experience the joy of salvation, and partake in the unshakeable Mount Zion.
- Pray that the Ministry of Works would achieve excellence in the development and management of federal roads, meeting good standards of cost-effectiveness, quality, and maintaining a conducive construction environment.
- Pray that the works of the Church would not just be sound, solid and enduring on this earth but that they would also withstand His purging fire, survive the tests and ultimately lead to our receiving the heavenly rewards.

## DAY 38 Fri, 13 Sept 2024

# **UNSHAKEABLE GOOD NEWS**

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 12:25-28

The Gospel is the Good News for all nations, and it has been revealed clearly to humankind over the last two thousand years. Since the creation of the heavens and the earth, the eternal power and divine nature of God have been evident and understood. Although invisible, His attributes have been made known through those things that are created, so we have no excuse for not knowing Him. God continually shakes this world and His created order, seeking to alert humanity and provide sinners with an opportunity to return to Him. If we persist in our stubbornness and reject the counsel of God and refuse to repent, we will inevitably face God's judgment.

Those of us who have received salvation. having obtained the unshakeable Kingdom, should continue to offer our thanksgiving as well as serve God in reverence and follow His will. In so doing, we may become a source of inspiration to unbelievers, leading them to come to the Creator and Saviour with the hope of receiving eternal life and the unshakeable Kingdom. In these last days, let us prioritize the proclamation of the message of repentance and righteousness above other ministries. Let us raise workers for the end-time harvest, and collectively respond to the call of missions in spreading the Good News of the Kingdom of Heaven.



- Dear Lord, forgive the sin of stubbornness and ignorance of those who continue to reject Your invitation and refuse the Way of eternal life. Soften their hearts and help them deny themselves, and come humbly before You. Help us pay attention to those events that are happening in this age. For through these hard and troubling situations, You are awakening the world to return to You and receive the Good News of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Pray that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would continue to enhance bilateral ties in foreign relations, be vigilant to counter-terrorism, and vigorous in negotiating when the lives of the diaspora are at stake.
- Pray that every local church would relate well with its community and neighbourhood, and function as lighthouses to give warmth, hope, and relational support.

# **UNSHAKEABLE PREACHER OF THE WORD**

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 13:5-8

In this unshakeable Kingdom, God has given his eternal assurance that He will never forsake His children, nor ever abandon His people. Servants of God need not worry about financial deficiencies, and they should guard themselves against greed, and find their contentment a source of joy. We ought to emulate those who proclaim the Word of the Lord, and observe how they live out their faith in their character and conduct. Their godly examples can be put into practice in today's missions and in the propagation of the Gospel, so that it can spread swiftly.

A preacher who leads an exemplary life is the best learning model for their

listeners. That being so, preachers should be consistently vigilant in providing positive examples through their lives and ministries. They must not harbour any greed or ill intentions, lest the work of the Gospel is hindered. The Gospel is the power of God that seeks to save all who believe, and it must be spread through good channels and credible witnesses. For we proclaim Jesus Christ, the Saviour. who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.



- Lord, raise more preachers of Your Word who have deep faith and live exemplary lives. Help these ambassadors of Your Good News to dedicate themselves to preaching Your Word in these last days so that Your Gospel may reach the ends of the earth. Lord, may the world come to know the Gospel through which we proclaim the Messiah the King, who was, and is, and is to come. Only through You can we enter this unshakeable Kingdom.
- Pray that efforts contributed by the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation would enable Malaysia to become a high-tech nation with high-performance delivery and achieve a globally competitive status.
- Pray that the Church would make good use of science, technology, and innovation and be contemporary in meeting the surging needs of the age, to advance the Gospel and the Kingdom of God. Pray that we would not be left behind because of our fears and misconceptions.

#### DAY 40 Sun, 15 Sept 2024

# UNSHAKEABLE CITY THAT IS TO COME

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 13:14-17

There is no earthly city or dwelling that will last forever. But we can look forward to the city that will descend from heaven in the future. It will be our eternal dwelling place and home, and it is the unshakeable Kingdom God has appointed. Since we have this promise, we need to perceive the world with an eternal perspective and value. Instead of putting our hope in the temporal city on earth that is decaying and passing away, we can look forward to this coming city, the New Jerusalem, the new heaven and the new earth.

While we are on earth, let us offer our sacrifices of praise continually, preach the Gospel diligently, do more good works, and be actively involved in charity. These will provide opportunities for others to get to know the Gospel

and experience its power. Our works will please the Lord and conform to His divine will.

There will come a day in the future when each of us will have to give an account of ourselves before the throne of the Lord for the works we have done on earth, especially in saving souls. May we be joyful rather than sorrowful when we give our account. Since we have received this unshakeable Kingdom, let us commit wholeheartedly to be obedient to those who guide us in God's ways.



- Lord, enable us to perceive this world with an eternal perspective, live with an eternal outlook, and allow the Gospel to guide our lives and works. Make our daily lives meaningful and valuable, especially when we make the Gospel known so that we will be joyful, and not sorrowful, when we give our account before Your throne. Amen.
- Pray that the Ministry of Federal Territories which oversees Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan, would further enhance the well-being of the communities there through social and economic development.
- Pray that churches in the Federal Territories would continue to be impactful in their outreach efforts, especially for the many that are reaching out to local and overseas students.

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**



#### Foreword

To Us Belong The Unshakeable Kingdom Rev Dr Eu Hong Seng

The Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken Pr Samuel Ang

A Determined Re-orientation of Spiritual Lifestyle Rev Looi Kok Kim

Support NECF's General Fund Pr Samuel Ang

Devotion & Prayer

Day 1-5 Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken Elder Khoo Kay Hup Rev Looi Kok Kim

Day 6-10 The Unshakeable Message Rev Lee Yew Meng

Day 11-15 The Unshakeable Relationship Rev Andy Chi

Day 16-20 The Unshakeable Walk Rev Rion Anjangkal

Day 21-25 The Unshakeable Hope Rev James Doss

Day 26-30 The Unshakeable Love Pr Doris Mayven

Day 31-35 The Unshakeable Faith Pr Grace Lee

Day 36-40 The Unshakeable Mission Rev Paulus Wong

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