

The Chinese-English
Bilingual Devotional Book

In the Post-Pandemic Era Renew Your Strength in the Lord!



But those who hope in the Lord will renew
their strength. They will soar on wings like
eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they
will walk and not be faint.

—— Isaiah 40:29

Produced by Gospel Times





PREFACE

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Psalms 23:1-4, NIV)

The progress of medicine and science technology in the past hundred years has always given us the illusion that turmoil is far away from us in times of peace. However, when the coronavirus pandemic broke out in 2020, we found that the quiet years may be just our wishful thinking – the world's upheavals have always been there around us.

Proverbs 24:10 says, “If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength!” Troubles



are like an alchemy stone. When we encounter difficulties, we often find that our faith is not as strong as we think it is and timidity is like a shadow which so hard to get rid of. It reflects the many parts that do not glorify God in the depths of our souls.

“How can we renew our strength in the postpandemic era?”

This book is a collection of 15 spiritual essays on the topic written by Christians around the world. It is a bi-lingual book in translated bilingual typography in both Chinese and English.

--"Repentance" --"Rest" --"Hope"

The 15 spiritual devotionals unfold on these three themes. Step by step, the essays share with you how you may stand confidence in the post-pandemic era through learning to meditate in different ways from defferent angles.

- Translated by Charlie Li

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REPENT

Distress is human-centered
whereas confession is God-centered.

The awareness of distress
depends on human ability
whereas the consciousness
of confession depends
on the power of God.



Reflection on COVID-19 Pandemic From Worry to Repentance

Da Mo

Warren Buffett famously said: "When the tide fades, you know who was swimming naked." Although the "tide" of this coronavirus pandemic has not faded, there are signs that it is gradually fading away. We can breathe more comfortably after having been suffocated for so long. Yet this is the best moment for us to reflect on ourselves and be on guard that we are not like the "naked swimmers."

Looking back on the pandemic, throughout the outbreak it is amazing to see that we have lost something precious. It is not something physical, but an awareness from God. This consciousness has been blocked because internally we are accustomed to distress – what we are missing is the sense of repentance that every Christian should have.

The Church's public gatherings have been temporarily suspended for nearly half a year. As a result, many pastors and believers are at a loss and have become "lost lambs." Our culture, which pushes that thing called "worry" to the front of our thoughts and minds has come to dominate us. Most importantly, as the outbreak continues, our worries have increased and widened. We worry about the ravages of the pandemic; we worry about the patients affected by the pandemic; we worry



about gatherings being suspended; we worry about the lack of funds in our churches; we worry about the pay for our pastors; we worry about losing congregations; we worry about the shortage of web tech staff; we worry about the quality of online fellowship; we worry about being unable to meet each other...

The string of worries comes one after another and never seem to end because we worry and worry, and the result is to worry more. It is a vicious cycle that distresses us. The only way to solve our worries is to pray. Yet it is precisely the content of our prayers that proves the poverty and deep distress in our thoughts and mind.

Actually, it is not wrong to worry. It may even be appropriate to worry about God's ministry; it is less wrong to pray because praying to God for everything is both the content of a Christian life and a demonstration of our faith in God as

a Christian. The crux of the problem, however, is that our current sense of worrying is not from God but from an inertial consciousness inherited from our ancestors and imprinted in our minds. Because, this is an important part of Chinese traditional customs and culture, which has been admired by the sages of all generations. For example, there are famous saying like that of Mencius who said: "worrying makes you live, peace makes you die," or lyrics from Han musical compositions, "one's lifetime exceeds a hundred years not, yet better one's worrying is kept for ten centuries or more." There is also the ancient poet Fan Zhongyan who said, "one's priority in life is to worry the whole world's worries, what remains minor is to enjoy the world's joy;" and then the well-known catchy saying "you either worry for the future or now, no exception."

Worrying is a unique inheritance of Chinese





culture, which deeply influences us. This seems to be justified. After all, our worries are manifested out of our love for Christ, for the Church, and for fellow believers. Anyway, our worry is about God's family and business.

But when we turn to the Bible and look at worrying from the Christianity perspective, we will discover this sense of distress is unnecessary and redundant because it is human-based – it is out of human consciousness. The more we worry the more distant we are from God. Think about it – the solution for those who face distress and are worrying is recognizing that they are relying on the wisdom and ability of mere humans. Even if there is occasional success, the celebration of the success is only about the glory of man. That pride in turn leads people to the path of self-centeredness. This naturally contributes to replacing dependence on God with reliance on man; God is completely abandoned.

Repentance is actually derived from the biblical concept of original sin and is out of awe and gratitude for God. As David said, "Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord. And you forgave the guilt of my sin.'" (Psalm 32:5). Similar verses are common in the Bible. Because of this, the consciousness of repentance has become the main theme and norm in people's lives throughout Christian civilization. During the outbreak, we have witnessed that many people from countries where the Christian faith is dominant spontaneously kneel down in city squares and streets to pray for repentance.

But what is surprising is that in Chinese prayers of repentance there is a strong sense of distress. We constantly ask God to drive away from the pandemic or ask God to show pity to



the affected people. It is as if God is our waiter ready to do whatever we ask.

They pray for repentance of their city, repentance from their deeds they ask God for forgiveness and grace. Although this is related to the differences in social systems, the main difference is that between Christian civilization and Chinese ethnic culture. The content of prayers is a reflection of these differences. It is clear that the sense of distress has long been deeply rooted in our souls, but we are not aware of it.

Distress is human-centered whereas confession is God-centered. The awareness of distress depends on human ability whereas the consciousness of confession depends on the power of God. Distress is related to our sinful nature whereas repentance is linked to atonement. The two have different origins so the final results are bound to be different. In countries where the Christian faith is dominant, the three most famous

writings on confession are: *Confessions* by St. Augustine, *Les Confessions* by Rousseau, and *A Confession* by Leo Tolstoy. These three confessional texts are world-renowned not only for their literary values but also because people see the value of spiritual vitality of Christian faith, and see the potential impact that repentance will have on the development of society and civilization. These three confessions are different but they all derive from biblical truths.

Although confession is part of our national culture, there are differences in the nature of confession. Chinese confession is a reflection and remorse on our own mistakes or sins, and shows more sympathy towards the victims. However, confession in the Christian background is repentance of original sin and is complete humility before God. Worrying does not change the objective facts. Only repentance in presence of God will change or even the objective

facts that have occurred. This is the power of God, unimaginable for finite man.

It cannot be denied that anxiety exists in the minds and souls of each Christian. This is a spiritual birthmark left to us by traditional culture. It will definitely not disappear immediately because we have the Christian faith. Instead, it will be ready to rub into our faith life and drive us toward the opposite side of our faith to keep us away from the light that God has shed on us.

During the outbreak, it is we who have lost or forgotten this precious sense of repentance so that some of us have chosen to glorify ourselves in the process of worrying. Some have left their original church. Some have fallen into heresy. Some have abandoned their pursuits and beliefs altogether.

God is wonderful. He allows our nation's excellent culture to continue and shine in history. On the

other hand, God gives His eternal eternal truth to those who are chosen by Him. If the former is out of God's universal grace, and the latter is out of God's special grace, then the chosen person should get across the grace of the present to accept the special grace given to us by God and reshape himself in the light of God's special grace.

Remember that whether it was Christ or John the Baptist, the first call and cry to the world from the beginning of their preaching was, "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near," and there must be a strong awareness of the need for repentance.

This is also an important watershed in measuring whether Christians are true or false.

- Translated by Charlie Li



God And His Word Cannot Be Quarantined

Dr. Lajos Békefy

Dr. Klaudia Békefy-Röhrig



Fraternal welcome to the Lord's Chinese sisters and brothers

Dear Chinese Brethren redeemed in the precious
blood of the Lord Jesus!

Ever since the first news of the increasing
devastation of the new corona-virus arrived
from Wuhan, and elsewhere in your ancient
realms, we have seen an increase in the
number of infections and deaths at an alarming
rate through modern instruments of
communication. In the first weeks of pandemic
in Hungary, in the barely infected population, in

Is anyone among you in trouble?
He should turn to prayer.
Is anyone with a good heart?
He should sing praises! ...
The prayer offered in faith will save the sick man,
the Lord will raise him from his bed
James 5:13; 15

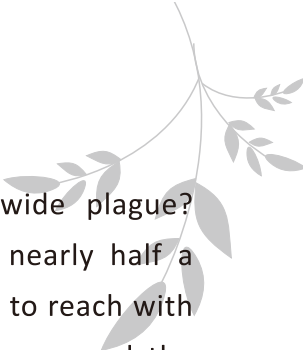
your Christian brethren, a very important recognition became clear. Namely: **the trouble is so great that only God can help here - if he wants to do. And he wanted to do something.**

When the first prayer calls from the Pastors of Wuhan and then from the Billy Graham Society in the USA arrived, it was expressed in me and others a saying in Latin, in the old, historical common Christian cultural language of Europe: **Prima et ultima ratio - oratio - first and foremost -prayer!**



For only the prayer, or better: the Lord who hears it, can help the suffering according to the holy Word of James. Only prayer from faith is a liberating, healing force. We have experienced with you that the Lord is our only refuge in loss and mourning, who can restore wounded souls. The only resource in the stressful situation of healers besides the sickbed is the Lord, whether one believes this or not.

Since the proclamation of the pandemic by WHO, I myself have asked too in many of my writings the fundamental question that was formulated by our believers, confessors, and then reformators in the times of the great 15-17. century epidemics, the “black death”, the destruction of the plague. They saw very clearly with their biblical faith: **the question is not why we got this epidemic, but what we finally do with it, for what purpose?** Are we learning from it, asking the Lord what He wants



to accomplish with this worldwide plague? With nearly 8 million infected, nearly half a million dead, what does he want to reach with that, perhaps to shake the believers and the nonbelievers, Christians and non-Christians, at the beginning of the 21st century?

After a lot of lessons, painful existential lessons, here are one or two insights.

The first is that we do not have a vengeful, punishing God, but a Father who is loving, with heart loving God, who will save us in time.

The truly sobering word of Calvin, the Geneva Reformer, evoked in me. In the *Institution*, the system of Christian religion, he wrote several times amid the pains of contemporary epidemics. For example: God has in vain warned His people, who have wandered with a good word, the Word, in stubborn warping,



Dear Chinese
Sisters and Brothers!
The purpose of his fatherly
upbringing, his rigor,
the fear of the
coronavirus is awakening,
repentance,
turning to Him,
praying to Him.



disobedience, unbelief, and a destructive way of life. Therefore, he finally decided, **“I will step aside a little, I will leave in silence that the people will be afflicted. I will see if, after the great and long tribulation, do I remember looking for my face?”** Calvin found the real cause of the epidemic. Beyond the physical is the metaphysical, beyond the earth is the heavenly reason. He did not ask for what

reason, but for what purpose. Because God has a bad purpose even for us, as a good for us. He does not want to lose, but to save, to save from eternal destruction.

As Isaiah proclaimed with lasting force: “A moment I forsook you, but with tender affection I will bring you home again” (54,7). God loves his own people with a “supra temporal” heart, with a heart over the times (so *Dooyeweerd*, a Dutch Reformed philosopher around 1938), his people and children migrating among the pitfalls of time.

You too, dear Chinese Sisters and Brothers! The purpose of his fatherly upbringing, his rigor, the fear of the coronavirus is awakening, repentance, turning to Him, praying to Him.

The other great teaching is that **the created world is a living reality**, a vast organism whose secrets are still spelled out by modern science today. But as a living reality, it can also defend

itself. The virus is a signal of the offended, the abused created world, who says: that's already enough! Think of the rainbow alliance with terrestrial civilization! After the flood, God entered into a covenant with Noah and his descendants, all living things, and the earth, so that there would be no more destructive flood (Genesis 9,8-17).

During the vigorous industrialization of the last centuries, the blind zeal of the greedy desire for profit exploiting nature, people did not notice that they were cutting the tree under themselves. They did not treat each other, living things, animals, plants, or treasure land as God-given covenant companions. An ecocidium, a murder of nature was carried out. The Earth is also protesting against this with the corona virus too.

A great Word shone forth in the days of terror from the apostle Paul: "We are free to do any-

thing, but does everything help the building of the community?" (1Corinthians 10,23). We got the freedom to build, for the benefit of our fellow human beings. To prayer, to receive biblical visions, to believe, to renew, to spread the power of love. This approach, vision, and interpretation of the epidemic cannot be quarantined. If the knowledge of the Lord shines throughout the inhabited earth in the wake of the corona virus, the pandemic has reached its spiritual goal.

Let our millions of Chinese brethren be living witnesses, advertisers, survivors of these precious, verbal recognitions. The truth and light of the Word of the Lord will shine in your hearts and in the people of your great country. Your brother and sister, and allies with a prayerful heart:



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Meditation on on Fall of Jericho: What if We are Weak Spiritually?

Xiao Guang

The Christian faith seems to be very simple, as long as you "profess your faith with your mouth and believe with your heart". But even if we believe in our hearts in the son of God, who was born, and was crucified for us; even if we accept the miracles he has done, we may still fall and be weak in our faith journey.

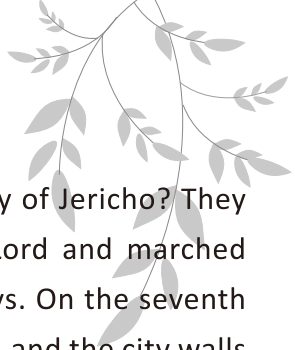
A patient who laid between the colonnades besides the pool at Bethesda had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. Perhaps his youth was wasted because of this disease. Because he was paralyzed, he could not stand and walk like normal people. Even if he laid close to the pool, he was completely immobile.

He could only watch as the angels stirred the waters and other people swarming to it for healing.

Many times, our life of faith is like this paralysis. Although our physical life is healthy, our spiritual life is paralyzed and we can do nothing. Our weakness makes us powerless, and even make us dislike and hate people around us and surroundings.

What should we do if we are spiritually weak? How do we overcome difficulties and usher in spiritual revival?

The first challenge faced by the people of Israel after leaving the wilderness was to conquer the city of Jericho. It looked very difficult from the outside, because the city of Jericho was seemingly indestructible. It was a very strong fortress with high and thick walls and tall and strong defenders.



How did they capture the city of Jericho? They followed the words of the Lord and marched around the city for seven days. On the seventh day they blew their trumpets, and the city walls collapsed.

It was not that they went to conquer the city of Jericho themselves, nor that the millions of Israelites went down with them. All they did was to carry the ark of the covenant and to walk around the city seven times as God had commanded, then the city wall collapsed.

This example should challenge us to think whether there is a stubborn sin in our lives similar to that of Jericho. A sinful nature is within our hearts and may become a thorn, a stumbling block in our spirits, or it may be a bad habit that causes harm to ourselves and those around us, but remains very difficult to overcome. We do not rely on ourselves to win, but on God.

Or we realize that there is the sinful nature similar to the city of Jericho in our lives. It obstructs our spiritual growth, entrapping us into weaknesses and low valleys. We seemingly keep up with the standard of religious practices and struggle to seek God's word, our walk with God becomes hard the moment something triggers the nature.

There were also fear and weaknesses inside the Israelites when they faced Jericho. They knew that they could not conquer the city by their own power, but they won the victory by God, not themselves.

How can we overcome a sin or weakness? Not by ourselves, nor by external circumstances or others, but by God's word. Too many times we want to conquer by ourselves, proving that we can even without God. But the ultimate result lies in that if we rely on ourselves, we will always fall into sin again. Sin and weakness will

continue to disturb us, making us unpredictable. Sometimes we are anxious and hope that God will listen to our prayers or we can see the results of our actions immediately. When the people of Israel went to conquer the city of Jericho, they went around the city for the first six days, and only on the seventh day the walls collapsed. For real change to take place there needs the accumulation of efforts. The wall of Jericho would not collapse if they did not go around for six days. It is the same when we fight against sin. We must persevere in seeking God and in praying. As we continue to pray, we will eventually change, and this change might be very huge.

But when does this change happen? No one knows, only God knows. If we remain in God's Word, we may not be aware when the change takes place, but God knows. It is like the miracle in the Cana wedding that Jesus

changed water into wine. The servants kept filling the jars with water. They did not know when water was changed to wine, but only Jesus knew. So when the quantity is met, the real change occurs.

The people of Israel still circled the city on the seventh day, and then they obeyed the Lord God and cried, and finally the city wall collapsed.

The city of Jericho was very large on the surface, but the people inside were promiscuous and lived sinful lives. The nature of sin is similar. Sometimes it is covered by things that make us think that it might not be sin, not so serious, and won't cause major problems, but sin is contagious like a virus. When we think it is a very small problem and leave it unattended, it will eventually spread and we will suffer the consequences.

We always should examine ourselves to see if

there is anything that we need to confess or get rid of, even if it is very small. If we fail to overcome and get rid of our sinful nature, we will end up compassing one problem as the Israelites marched around the wilderness. While we may not discover it immediately, the problem will surface at some point.

Showing weakness is not a terrible thing. What is terrible is that we cannot get away from being trapped in sin. Therefore, we should use God's Word as a rock, as a weapon that enables us to withstand the wind and waves, to help us break the bonds that hold us, to renew our strength and find freedom.

-Translated by Abigail Wu

Three Lessons Learned during Pandemic: Thankfulness, Reverence, Fear

Feng Chen

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



It is a verse from the book of Hebrews. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it seems to be clearer in meaning and I have a more in-depth understanding of them. Psalm 119 says: "It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees."

As people resume work and schools reopen, the churches are reopened. It seems as if everything has returned to normal. However, the past had occurred and life could not be reversed. Restarting is just the wishful thinking of immature people. I don't know how many believers have been awakened by the pandemic, learned new lessons, have come to know how to please God in their life, or have become a thankful, reverent or awe-inspiring person.

The pandemic was a furnace that purified the dross. God has refined us, causing us to abandon the secularized false beliefs such as those of the lukewarm Laodiceans or the hypocritical Pharisees. We should accept salvation with a true heart and with faith, have confidence in it and be a true disciple. After having been refined, our faith has become pure, our actions have become holy, and we are capable of witnessing His glory.

No day arrives without a reason and no sunshine is without its purpose. Everything has the beauty of God's good pleasure. Learn to live gratefully and you will find that God has always been a God of mercy and that He is still in charge of the world.

Life is good and it is because of God's grace that we're still alive. The greatest grace that God has given is redemption and the promise of eternal life. The Bible says, "God so loved the world that He even gave his only son to them so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." The Bible also says, "How can we escape sin if we ignore such great grace?"

What does repentance mean? Repentance is a turning from the former way of not needing God, alienating one's self from God, and being self-centered to turning to the ways of worshiping God, adoring God and in reverence,

fearing Him. God is not to be slighted. You reap what you sow. The Bible tells us that God is a spirit and those who worship Him shall worship Him in spirit and in truth. My spiritual friends, are you righteous towards others? Are you devout towards God?

We still need to regain our awe and respect for nature, and fear of God and life. There is an old saying that a man should have fear. The wise king also said: "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter; Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." A person who is in awe of nothing is immature. What a great universe God has created! How small we are! How can we not be in awe? How can we treat life so casually?

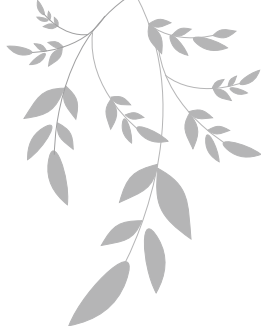
When life is back to normal... a thousand people

will have a thousand ideas. However, in any case, when life gets back to normal, Christian believers should have a common attitude of serving God with gratitude, piety, and awe as stated in the scriptures of the book of Hebrews. Take these attributes on life's road because suffering, hardships, and difficulties the pandemic will have meaning. You will be empowered to calmly face the bumpy road ahead of you.

It's unfortunate to have to encounter the pandemic, but we have fortunately been awakened. Let's serve God with thankfulness, reverence and awe, pleasing him in all things, and living a life centered around Him. Love will never fail, just as He never will also. Amen.

- Translated by Charlie Li, Elaina Wu





Back to the Cross

Gui Qi

If it comes to "how to regain our strength", you must ask yourself why you lost your strength. Is it because of a lack of strength, or a decline in strength? Is it because the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak? Or because of a loss of motivation and hope? If so, why is this happening?

A second thought produces profound fear. Is it because our hearts have been weakened by the ravage of the coronavirus? Does the sudden disaster that has killed so many innocent people make us lose faith in the goodness of God, or even lose faith in God? Was it because during the epidemic, there was no urging from the church ministry, no "supervision" from

brothers and sisters, no systematic listening to the words of God, reading the Bible and the inherent spiritual life, no long conversation with God, no group life, which led to spiritual decline? Or is it because, in the age of the Internet information explosion, we are misled by various Gospel-related public accounts or heresy links under the banner of the Gospel that has led us astray, further and further from the truth, and we become spiritually weak? If so, how can we regain our strength?

First, go back to the embrace of the Father. Why shall we go back to the embrace of Father? For the Lord God is the source of our strength. The poet said, *"I will love thee, O LORD, my strength."* (Psalm 18:1). *"The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed."* The prophet Isaiah said: *"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength."* (Isaiah 40:29) *"Though Israel be not*

gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.”(Isaiah 49:5) The prophet Jeremiah also said that LORD is his strength, and his fortress, and his refuge in the day of affliction.(Jeremiah 16:19) The prophet Habakkuk said: *" The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.”(Habakkuk 3:19)* God is willing to carry us on his back, like an eagle carrying his babies, spreading his wings and soaring in the sky with us.

Next, we need to turn back to the cross. We shall get to know the truth, and the truth will give us strength. Turn back to the cross -- or rather, turn back to the crucified Christ. As a sign, the cross becomes the physical object for Christians to think about God. The cross is not only the basis of human salvation, but also the basis of self-revelation inspired by God. It

is the starting point of Christian theology and the center of Christian thought. The core of the Christian Gospel is the crucified Christ.

The cross shapes the Christian life, and being a Christian means bearing the signs of suffering, conflict, rejection in oneself. *"Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus."* (Corinthians 4:10). For Paul, Christ and his cross were the cause and the model of the believer's suffering. The believer has a share in Christ's life and therefore in his suffering. Romans 8:17 expresses this concept most clearly: *"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."* Philippians 3:8-12 is based on the notion of suffering and resurrection with Christ. Believers have a part in Christ's suffering and resurrection due to their connection with him.

The Christian life is a process, so to speak, of being shaped and sculpted again and again like the suffering Christ. One of the effects of the cross is to restore the future of humanity, to make it possible for everyone to be reconciled with God, with himself, with nature and creation. The cross breaks down boundaries, regardless of race, gender or society. "All are children of God through faith in Christ Jesus." Not only does the cross help the believer to begin a new life, but it also points out what the new life should look like. The cross is the unshakable foundation of faith, from which faith begins, and to which it will return, with its power nourished due to Christ crucified.

In the end go, back to the beginning of faith. All that we see, and all that we think, is the grace of God. As the saying goes, "Don't forget the well-diggers when you drink

from this well." Then the blessed shall never forget who blessed you. Which of the followers of Christ has not received the great mercy of Christ? With our perverse character, Will we be willing to say that Jesus Christ is Lord, unless we benefit from Christ? For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. (Titus 3:3-5)

But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; (1 Corinthians 15:10) We should go back to the beginning of faith, remain true to the

original aspiration, and be clearly aware of the grace of God.

How to regain our strength? In short: return to the embrace of the Father , return to the cross , and return to the beginning of our faith. *But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.* (1 Peter 5:10)

- Translated by Nicolas Cao

REST IN PEACE

Worship, and serve
wherever we are and
God will show us
His love and His power in ways
we cannot imagine.



How to Worship Now

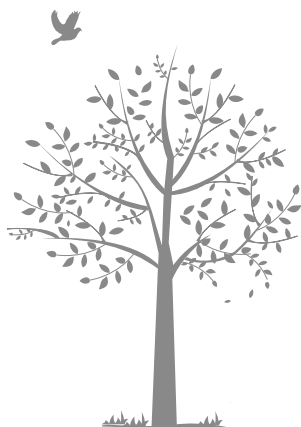
Ron Winstead

In Psalms 137 many Jews had been taken in captivity to Babylon. Separated from their place of worship, especially the Temple, they sat down and said (verse 4) “How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?” They had to learn new ways of worship and God blessed them even in Babylon. As God taught Israel to be His people in a different situation their faith was strengthened. When they eventually returned to Jerusalem their faith was stronger than when they left. Their adversity taught them much about God and what it means to be His people. They did learn new ways of worship and so can we. God is where we are and not limited to a building or specific methods of worship.

In Acts 16 there is a story of Paul and his helpers being beaten and put in prison at Philippi. They could have been sad and dejected but instead they turned the jail into a place of worship. They began singing praises to God worshipping God where they were. We can learn from Paul and others in the New Testament how God uses our circumstances to show us who He is. Wherever we are God is with us to bless us and teach us new ways to serve and honor Him.

After Paul and Silas worshipped in prison God moved in a great way to manifest His power. An earthquake shook the jail and destroyed it. Paul preached in prison and the jailer and his family were saved and baptized. God is not limited to a place or time or even a special way to show us who He is. So let us rejoice, worship, and serve wherever we are and God will show us His love and His power in ways we cannot imagine.

Be still,
and know I am the lord.
I will be exalted among the nations
I will be exalted in the earth!
Psalm 46:10



Be Still, and Know I am the Lord

Shobha Gosa

When we praise God, HE comforts us, when we are comforted, we praise God. So, it is a wonderful loop that you will find in 150 Psalms of praising God and man being comforted. This devotion is about learning to be still in God's presence.

There are times like this (Covid-19 Pandemic), when we consider how things around us have gone wrong; governments struggling, and nations mourning from human loss, fear of death and loss of hope in many ways. Being followers of Christ, can we be quiet? Even if we choose to, almost every conversation begins or ends with my helplessness to understand the purposes of God. I feel so human at times this and have this unending desire of seeing my

creator and redeemer, JESUS, face to face, not that I want all the answers, but just being in his presence would renew my strength to cope with my circumstances. Did anyone have the same questions as mine?

What an assurance from Christ for a believer, that HE sets us free from sin and death. The word says "There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death" (Rom 8:2). We start declaring this over our lives and people around us, it's a powerful declaration, let's make it, death can be trampled under our feet.

If you are reading this, I would encourage you to meditate on the beginning of this devotion, we need to be STILL and know that God is working on behalf of us. There are three things I have been doing throughout this season of uncertainty and now it's your turn to do; Praising God: every morning you get up thanking

that even though you don't have all the answers but you are sure about God's plans and purposes for you.

Praying God : Never be afraid of asking for the things which happen in heaven to prevail in the world - which are joy, peace, kindness, righteousness, justice and peace

Proclaiming God: you are not alone in this journey as God the Holy Spirit is in you, around you and before you - He is the way maker, miracle worker and promise keeper.

I write this from my desk in India, thinking of believers around the world. It's such a joy to know that the word of God is so powerful, it is coming into our living rooms as we worship online with our loved ones. I don't have words to describe God's goodness in our lives, but trust Him alone, BE STILL.

Authour: Ms. Shobha Gosa, INDIA (Insta Or fb pages:: shobhagosa)



Are You Waiting for God in Face of Pandemic?

Shen Enyou

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted people's dreams and also exposed the true face of this generation: no orientation, no purpose and blind pursuit of material satisfaction. As Christians, we aren't supposed to get lost in following the world as in "YOU JUMP, I JUMP"; nor are we supposed to stand above judgmentally above this generation and brag about our own self-righteousness. We should do what God wants us to do – to allow ourselves to be shaped by God and bring benefit to others.

Take heart, God knows it all!

Many people are weak in this long battle. It's understandable because we are all human beings. Even the Apostle Peter, who was chosen by Jesus Christ, denied Jesus three times when Jesus was most in need of a companionship. Of course, Jesus did not blame him because this was within God's expectation (which Jesus had clearly told Peter before the crucifixion). Later Peter really came to know himself. So there is no perfect person as such. Don't expect yourself to be free of weakness because the Apostle Paul testified to us that we are blessed. His testimony was that he became strong when he was weak because of God. Thus, if a person is not weak, he doesn't need God, but the truth is that there is no one who doesn't need God.

Relax, God has a promise!

Many people come up with new doubts about

relying on the Lord, which is easy to say. However, in a harsh situation there is no strength for them to seek God, not to mention moving beyond the situation. Jesus said blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. This is what Jesus said himself so no matter what kind of environment you are in, bring your pain to His throne and you will be comforted. This is God's promise to His people. Simply hold on to it.

In today's generation, Christians in different countries have to face different environments, but it is important to believe that God is shaping every one of us in order to train us to be His precious instruments. We can tell from historical records the situation faced by the Apostles in 100 A.D.: after the Christ gloriously rose to Heaven His followers went astray, forgetting the Lord's mission, "go to the ends of the earth". They went back to their own daily lives as if nothing had happened (really as

exactly the same as now). However, God did not forget men in that He raised them through environments to achieve His good purpose for mankind. How would God use those Apostles who were so weak and limited as they were basically uncultured?

Behold, God has a plan!

Then they remembered the Lord Jesus' instruction, "Don't leave Jerusalem" and "wait for the fulfilment of God's promise," and now we know that it is the Holy Spirit that gives wisdom and brings revelation.

Whatever we do, know that we are doing it for God and do our best to honor Him. Even if you were in a full-time ministry for the Lord, you'd work in vain if it was without the work of the Holy Spirit. God told us, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain."

Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." (Psalm 127:1) "So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty. " (Zechariah 4:6) Like the Apostles when they were praying urgently at the Marco House to wait for the one that God had promised, we can see that they received power from the Holy Spirit. Thousands of people repented. Surely miracles aren't limited to this. Was that the only power they received? No, the most important power they received was to change themselves. Apparently, they were weak before the Holy Spirit was given them. Then they were empowered to work for the Lord.

So since God has given the Holy Spirit we just need to follow Him closely.

We are particularly blessed in the New Testament Age. The moment when we believe

in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives within us. However, here the pouring out of the Holy Spirit means that the Holy Spirit is full in us that we are no longer acting by ourselves but under His guidance. When we are willing to open our hearts, humble ourselves, and ask for Him like a deer thirst for water, it is easy for us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul also instructed us not to "get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." (Ephesians 5:18) He knew that this was necessary for those who truly followed the Lord.

Therefore, a willing person who follows God can't only rely on a rational mind to speculate on God's intention or to serve this generation, but rather needs the strength to consider God's will through the work of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in the face of weakness, do not fear

losing your courage and keenness in neither rely on your own limited strength or intelligence to overcome your weakness. Rather, come to God's presence to ask for mercy and ask the Lord to send the Holy Spirit to fill you in order to truly become strong.

"But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

- Translated by Charlie Li



Life on the Earth

Mr. Devilal Shrestha

How can we know what is life (body) on the earth? There are several philosophical thoughts available concerning on human life around us. People have defined and talked about this matter from various aspects. As a Christian, it is quite important for each of us to understand what Bible talks about human life/human body on the earth, or what is human life/body from the perspective of God on the earth, or how is human life in the sight of God? **Each of these questions is so crucial for us ponder and understand.** Having understanding about this fact shall enlighten us to exist on the earth meaningfully and fruitfully.



Human life has three aspects: soul, spirit, and body. All these three aspects are combined and functions together in each human life. From the Bible, for our devotion today, I would like to talk about three significant matters about human life:

1

It is a ***Temple of Holy Spirit*** (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Apostle Paul strongly emphasized believers in the Corinth to know that the body is the temple of Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells in human life. God who is Spirit and Truth (John 4:24) dwells in human life. Hence, Paul urged believers in the Corinth to maintain the purity in daily living.



2

It is for the ***Glory of God*** (1 Corinthians 6:20). Paul said that life is not our own, it is given by God Himself, it is bought with price. According to Genesis, we are created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, we are urged to honor God with our body in any circumstances.

3

It is the ***Body of Christ*** (1 Corihthians12:27) Apostle Paul mentioned human body is part of the body of Christ. He also said that the church is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23) where as he also mentioned human beings (we) are the church. In Ephesians 5:30 he said, we are the



member of the body of Christ.

Human life is so essential when we look it from the perspective of God's word. It is so clear for each of us that we are meaningfully made by God. We are the temple of God. We are here for the Glory of God. We are the Body of Christ. We are on the earth not by our desire but by the master plan of God. He is the Creator, Sustainer, and Protector. He knows what we need before we ask Him(Mat.6:8). We as human beings are directly connected to God because of His likeness and image we are created with.



Hence, in any circumstances, let us see our life from the perspective of God. It is a so precious gift that God has given us. The Word of God provides several meaningful messages concerning human life. It is indeed imperative for us to look to His Word, for it provides hope, love, encouragement to live life on the earth purposefully, and abundantly. It does not matter what kind of situation we pass through, we still see our life so significant on the hand of God.

Sincerely

Mr. Devlal Shrestha (Dev); Pastor, Nigah Missions Church, Kapan, Kathmandu, Nepal



May the God
of hope fill you with all joy
and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow
with hope by
the power of the Holy Spirit.
Ro.15:13

Having Hope, Overflowing

George Veith

The apostle Paul encourages the Christians in Rome to trust God because he is the God of hope. If they trust him, they will be filled with joy and peace and have even more hope—hope to the point of overflowing.

Because the eternal God is the God of hope, our hope is both for the present and for the future. When we face trials in life, we have a hope for the present circumstances because we know that God is with us. Jesus himself understands our situation. He himself experiences all of the difficulties that we are facing or will face. He was betrayed by a friend. He knew what it meant to be misunderstood, even by his own family members. He was criticized and

despised. He was tempted and experienced hunger and pain. He knew grief at the death of his close friend Lazarus. He was lonely and even totally abandoned by his father while on the cross. As believers, we have a present hope that God will accompany us even in our darkest hour.

And our hope goes beyond the present. We know that God is preparing a bright and glorious future. Jesus told his disciples that he was going away to prepare a place for them and would one day return to take them to be where he would be. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit is the guarantee, the first installment of many more blessings to come when the Kingdom of God comes in all its fullness. We will receive a new body, a new home, and a face-to-face presence with the Lord Jesus for all eternity. When we have this hope of a better future, it can carry us through the greatest of difficulties.

A story is told of two men, each about the same age, each one imprisoned for more than 10 years. While in prison, each man regularly wrote letters to his wife on the outside. Both men were so encouraged by their wives who supported them, told them to serve out their time in prison, and then come home again to normal life. Thinking about being reunited with their wives was a real sense of hope for both men. During the 6th year of their time in prison, the wife of the 2nd man suddenly became very sick and died a few days later. Upon hearing of the news, the husband was devastated. Over the next several weeks, he became more withdrawn, had no interest in eating anymore, and finally after two months was found dead in his cell. Seeing his wife again had been his hope for the future. With her now gone, there was no motivation to continue on. The first man lived out his sentence in prison, and finally when the day came, was released

with great joy and was reunited with his wife.

It is said that a person cannot live without food for more than a few months; cannot live without water for more than a few days; cannot live without air for more than a few minutes; but cannot live without hope for more than a few seconds. When we have no hope, our circumstances seem overwhelming and we lose the desire to even live.

During this challenging time of the coronavirus pandemic, there is much to be anxious about. When will life return to normal? When will I be able to normally visit with family and friends again? What about my job situation? When will the brothers and sisters again be able to worship together in the church?

When God is our hope, we can overcome and rise above our circumstances because we have both a hope for the present and for the

future. The questions we have will not make us anxious but rather we will be anchored by God's peace and joy. And this hope in us becomes a testimony for others to see and experience. Just as the water in a cup affects what is outside the cup only when it overflows out of the cup, so as Christians, our hope can overflow by the Holy Spirit to bring hope to others. May the Lord of hope, give us joy and peace, producing hope to overflowing.

AMEN.





HOPE

He gives strength to
the weary and
increases the power
of the weak.



As We Go through Valley, Lord Will Help Us Prevail



Dorcas

We don't have a choice of circumstances, but we can choose to face whatever happens with a state of mind. God doesn't promise that the sky will always be blue, but he says, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I stepped up my study for an exam in theology I was planning

to take, but I was afraid that my year-long efforts would be in vain. Worry filled my heart, but God showed me he commanded Joshua, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

After Moses, Joshua went on to lead the people across the Jordan River and take over the land of Canaan. Facing so many people and unknown dangers ahead, God told Joshua to be strong and courageous. Joshua's name, given by God, was "Jehovah is salvation." God had promised him that just as he was with Moses, he would be with him, and he would never leave him or forsake him. God wanted him to know that he was not alone, God was with him, and he should be strong and courageous and obey all the laws Moses had commanded. God's promise comes with power, not only for

Joshua, but for everyone who believes in him!

Now that worship services have been suspended, how do we not become spiritually weak during this period of time? First, we need to return to our faith itself. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. The branch withers when it is not a part of the vine, and it bears fruit only when it is connected to the tree. We can understand God's heart by reading the Bible, praying and praising him. Secondly, we need to have spiritual partners. With our spiritual partners, we can encourage and pray for each other, challenge each other, and read the Scriptures together. If we can't see each other often, WeChat contact is ok, and we will always find the way that is best for us.

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. (Isaiah 40:29)

- Translated by Sophia Chen

Hope and Strength in Christ

En Ti



I lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2)



When we face suffering, what happens to our relationship with God? Some people turn their backs on God and stop taking refuge in him. Some calm down and pray, choose to live in Christ, and build a strong faith that helps them overcome the difficulties they encounter in life.

Our help comes from God for his loving kindness endures for ever. Even when we are in trouble,

God is truly with us. However, the devil works to break our bond with God. He tempts us to focus on things that entangle us and pressures us before resuming work. Then we lose love and trust for God.

God is concerned about every service we offer to him, every devotional that comes from our hearts, and every praise that we give him. Those are good moments when we rebuild intimacy with God. That Jesus is Christ should not be a slogan. It should be the firm confession of Christians and the source from which we have the courage to face life.



And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)



Believe in the existence of God and also believe that he will bless me if I am searching for his

help. The essence of faith is not conceptual, but a living and organic relationship. Before God blesses a person, he will first check if they have faith in him and have a heart that seeks him actively. It is the premise of whether one's spiritual life is renewed or not.



“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

(John 16:33)



What are the faith and foundation behind Jesus' words? To save us, Jesus Christ became flesh. He served the sinners on the earth, was crucified on the cross, resurrected, and ascended to heaven. He will come again. Jesus absolutely believed in God's justice and promise. He trusted God's love and that this was the best plan for him. This faith

overcame the temptation of fame and the death threat from Satan.

The world's changing rules and circumstances bring anxiety and fear to many people. The essential wisdom is that how this world manipulates people's souls. We give the world the chance of influencing us when we refuse to depend on God and affirm his existence.

The rule of the world is that personal safety lies in the extent of your possessions and how much money you control. Your value is based on your achievements. But the Bible tells us that is a lie. Since we are created in the image of God, the image inside us is honorable and priceless. Our dignity and peace come from God's grace and blessings.

We need to be convinced that God loves the world and his justice and loving kindness endure for ever. Today whatever circumstance

you face, don't forget that God reveals his perfection through your weakness. When we admit and confess, "the end of man is the beginning of God," we can understand more deeply the world of the resurrection: "When I humble myself and turn to Christ, the God who loves me immediately arranges the most suitable path for me."

I hope we can hold fast to God's unchanging faithfulness and justice so we can deal with all of the changes and difficulties in our life. Let Jesus Christ become the center of all the things we do so that our feet can be like the feet of a deer and we can reach new heights by his grace and guidance.

– Translated by Karen Luo



The Secret to Renewing Power

Xiao Guang

Facing the gradual resumption of work and return to normal life, how should Christians regain power from God so they can “soar like an eagle?” What are the new feelings and preparation for life and faith in the future? These questions remind me of a particularly intriguing story in Genesis 32: “Jacob wrestles with a messenger of God.” It is particularly interesting to think about how a man could wrestle with God. The Bible records that only Jacob himself and God's messenger experienced this “wrestling.”

Good and evil were combined within the person of Jacob. In fact, Jacob's human nature had a particularly remarkable characteristic which is also suggested by his name, meaning "to grab." In life he tried to grab the birthright of the eldest son; in material things he tried to grab enjoyment; and in his beliefs he tried to grab God's power and blessings. Genesis Chapter 32 was a turning point in Jacob's spiritual journey. This laid a solid foundation for his future spiritual progress and abundance. We also can receive light from this understanding.

Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward. Readers who are familiar with the Old Testament know that Jacob stole the name of his older brother, Esau. He designed a scheme to cheat his father and receive the blessing intended for Esau. Later he had to flee to live with his uncle Laban because he heard Esau would kill him. Soon 20 years passed by,

Jacob had two wives and two concubines with 11 sons as well as herds of cattle, sheep, camels and other livestock. He labored hard in his uncle's family. That made Jacob homesick all the more. Finally, one day he took his wife and children and returned home.

But Jacob worried that his brother Esau might take revenge on him because of what he had done in the past. He was even more worried that Esau might think he was returning to divide up the family's inheritance and wealth and harm him. So Jacob sent servants in advance to Edom to greet Esau. He was afraid and upset when he learned that Esau responded by coming towards him with 400 troops! Jacob said to himself—this is probably the end. So he divided all the people and the livestock into two groups thinking—if Esau kills the first group, the other group can escape. He made gifts from his possessions and instructed

the servants to present them to Esau, indicating that he was not coming back to claim the family business and at the same time that he wished to make things right with his brother.

Although he carefully considered everything and made thoughtful arrangements, Jacob's mind was still not at peace. At the thought of coming face-to-face with his brother whom he had wronged, he couldn't think clearly. At this time his heart turned to God. He remembered during the past 20 years how God had so powerfully guided and preserved him. He remembered God's promise to him: "Go back to your father's land, I will treat you well." Then he sincerely prayed to God: "Please save me from my brother Esau's hand because I am afraid that he will come to kill me, even my wives and children." As Psalm 77:2 says, "I seek the Lord on the days of suffering."



It was in this desperation that Jacob learned again to seek and rely on the Lord. The end of a man is the beginning of God. No Christian's life will be smooth sailing. There are difficulties and even the danger of death, but we can remember what Job said: "Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward." Paul also said, "We have to go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God."

Difficulties are inevitable. They are not unexpected. Yet the key is how we face and overcome these difficulties. Job's experience tells us, "As far as I am concerned, I will look up to God and entrust my affairs to Him."

Today, in the face of such a severe pandemic, it is also necessary to admit to God that we are powerless and that even Christians need to go through all kinds of hardships and difficulties. But we are not without someone to depend on. Job told us to look to God, to entrust our lives

to His hands, the one true God who created all things in the universe, and to obey Him. The Lord who gives also takes back. His mind is higher than ours. What should we worry about? In such a time of loneliness and helplessness, it is time for us to seek God.

- Translated by Charlie Li





Peter's life,
spreading his wings like an eagle,
is also based on the prayer of the
Lord and the anointing
of the Holy Spirit.

“But I have prayed for you,
Simon, that your faith may not fail.
And when you have turned back,
strengthen your brothers.”

“But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit comes
on you.”



May We, like Peter, Soar on Wings as Eagles


Feng Chen

In 2020, the "pandemic" year, no one can feel strong in the face of the global pandemic, but rather weak. Speaking of weakness and falling, the most representative in the Bible is Peter. He denied the Lord for three times. And finally, he came out of weakness and fall, renewed his strength in the Lord, and became a great apostle.

During the coronavirus pandemic, we all went through a spiritual valley and our relationship with the Lord seemed to have been frozen, just like Peter denying the Lord three times. In such a moment, we need to repent like Peter and rely more closely on God, asking him to give us the strength to come out of the situation, renew our strength, and have the life to soar on wings like eagles. Peter's failure to recognize the Lord is a lesson for us. However, his victory in the Lord also sets a good example for us.

Peter, who had been following the Lord for three years, was so frustrated on the night of the Lord's arrest that he disowned the Lord three times before a young servant girl. In fact, before he had denied the Lord in his words, he had already denied him in his heart.

We say that we are followers of the Lord, and yet deny him in our spirit and in our actions. What weakness and a falling it is. During the pandemic, the physical church has been

A decorative illustration of a leafy branch with small, oval-shaped leaves, extending from the top left corner across the top of the page.

temporarily suspended, and family members accuse and complain to each other at home. Because of the fear of facing the virus and the lack of spiritual companion, none of us dared to boast, and the state of our spirituality was at its worst.

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.” I suppose, if the temptation had come like it did to Peter, who could say if he or she would confess his faith in the Lord with his heart and with his words?

“Whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.” It is a sad thing for a man who believes in God all his life but is finally denied by the Lord.

When I was young, I used to laugh at Peter because I thought if I had been in Peter's situation, I would not have been weak and fallen like



Peter did. Some pastors who are spiritually more mature and who have experienced spiritual highs and lows, were able to put themselves in Peter's shoes and use his weaknesses and failings as lessons. Peter did in fact follow the Lord to the high priest's court, and it shows that he was brave when compared to the other disciples who fled the scene at this point.

Wang Ming-Dao, God's old servant, was once weak for a time, and later he confessed that he was like Judas, denying the Lord and betraying him. He however became spiritually free when he held on to the true faith.

Peter, from being very weak, became the one who ascended like an eagle. In the book of Acts it says he preached to between three and five thousand who welcomed the salvation message. His victory ought to be our victory. Peter once said, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I



never will.” In fact, he really did fall.

The principle of God's way is that his grace is perfect when men are weak. When Peter realized his weakness and failings, he repented and returned to the Lord to renew his strength. Therefore, when one knows one's weakness and one's failings, if one returns to the Lord, the Lord will renew his or her strength.

We can do nothing without the Lord. When we look to him, we are renewed. During the pandemic, we have experienced weakness. We have not been able to help ourselves, and others have been busy enough with their own affairs. At this time, we can only fix our eyes on the Lord, who is responsible and strengthens us. The precious blood of the Lord is very effective. There is no sin so great that he cannot forgive. The Lord is almighty, and his omnipotence helps all those who look to him. It matters not whether we are weak, but whether




we are continually following and looking to the Lord.

Peter's life, spreading his wings like an eagle, is also based on the prayer of the Lord and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

“But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”


Our Lord is the high priest, who in heaven daily prays for the believers. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. He also anoints us and gives us strength. Spiritually, we are not alone in the pandemic, for the Holy Spirit is with a true believer. The Lord will pray for those who love him as much as he prayed for Peter to strengthen them. The Holy Spirit is especially with those who are prayed

A decorative leafy branch with small leaves and berries, extending from the top left corner across the top of the page.

for Peter to strengthen them. The Holy Spirit is especially with those who are suffering, because God promises the glorious Spirit to be with believers when they suffer for the name of Christ during the pandemic.

Peter's life rose like an eagle's in the sight of the risen Lord. "The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord." It is also same for us. No matter how dangerous the situation is, we should not lose heart, because we have experienced the resurrection of the Lord, and this resurrection power has been placed in us by faith, giving us hope and confidence.

For a time, Martin Luther was so weak and miserable, and his wise wife said to him, "Is Christ really dead? The risen Lord is our hope. What are we afraid of when we think of the resurrection? The Lord has risen, and so will we who believe in him. The Bible tells us, 'Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength'."

A decorative illustration of a leafy branch with small, rounded leaves, extending from the top left corner across the top of the page.

Peter preached once and three to five thousand people were saved, showing that this great power was not from Peter, but the Lord. In contrast to the three times that Peter denied the Lord, Judas, another disciple, also sinned greatly and spiritually entered the darkest hours. However unlike Peter, he was paid a bribe to appease his conscience and was brought to ruin by not returning to the Lord.

“Who is weak, and do I not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and do I not inwardly burn?” Paul's words in 2 Corinthians advance Christ's voice. Physical meetings in churches have not yet resumed, and so believers are weak, fail and stumble. I wish we would consider the Lord's mind. Be like Peter. Repent, pray for the Holy Spirit's presence, and see the risen Lord in faith. Then shall we renew our strength, as peter, and mount up with wings as eagles. Amen!

—Translated by Sophia Chen

Proverbs 24:10 says, "If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength!" Troubles are like an alchemy stone. When we encounter difficulties, we often find that our faith is not as strong as we think it is and timidity is like a shadow which is so hard to get rid of. It reflects the many parts that do not glorify God in the depths of our souls.

This book is a collection of 15 spiritual essays by Christians around the world. It is a bi-lingual book in both Chinese and English.

"Repentance", "Rest", "Hope"

The 15 devotionals unfold on these three themes. Step by step, the essays share with you how you may stand with confidence in the post-pandemic era through learning to meditate in different ways.

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