

经节：听得是彼得的声音，就欢喜的顾不得开门，跑进去告诉众人说：「彼得站在门外。」他们说：「你是疯了！」使女极力地说：「真是他！」他们说：「必是他的天使！」（使徒行传十二章14~15节）

你可以用理智祷告，却心里怀疑。有时候在这种情况下，神照样会回答你的祷告，就像当初彼得被下监，等着被处刑一样。耶路撒冷的信徒没有能力去解救他，他们只能祷告。当神释放彼得时，他们的反应显露出他们怀疑的心态。即使彼得正站在门外敲门，他们仍极力争辩，认为彼得决不可能被释放的！

人是否可能作个没有信心的「祷告者」呢？你是否活在一个假像，以为自己求告神就等于有信心，相信祂的能力会满足你的需要？你的信心是否非常软弱，以至于十分讶异神对自己祷告的回应？作为神的儿女，你一定要期盼神会回答你的祷告。你是否求神成全某事，却不愿为了你所祷告的内容，来调整自己的生活？如果你祷告求灵性复兴，你是如何预备自己面对复兴的来临？如果你祷告求赦免，你是否仍然生活在罪恶感之中？如果你已经祈求神供应你的需要，你是否还担心忧虑？

求神加添你的信心，然后开始让自己的生活，反映出你对祂全然的信任。因着祂的恩典，即使你缺乏信心，神仍可能选择要回应你的要求。但如此一来，你就错失信心祷告的喜悦。

Praying but Not Believing

When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel."

Acts 12:14-15

You can say prayers in your mind but doubt in your heart. At times God will answer such prayers as He did when Peter was in prison, scheduled for execution. The believers in Jerusalem were powerless to free him, so they prayed. When God released Peter, their reaction revealed the doubt in their hearts. They argued that Peter could not possibly be free, even as he stood outside knocking on the door!

Is it possible to be a person of prayer and yet not have faith? Is it possible to fool yourself into believing that because you ask God for help, you have faith in His ability to meet your needs? Is your faith so weak that you are surprised when God answers your prayer? As a child of God, you ought to expect God to answer your prayers. Do you ask God to do something without adjusting your life to what you are praying? If you are praying for revival, how are you preparing for its coming? If you are praying for forgiveness, are you still living with guilt? If you have asked God to provide for your needs, do you remain worried and anxious?

Ask God to increase your faith and then begin living a life that reflects absolute trust in Him. Out of His grace, God may choose to respond to your requests despite your lack of faith, but you will miss the joy of praying in faith.

6月20日（星期一）- 标题：**当神说不的时候**

经节：用刀杀了约翰的哥哥雅各。他见犹太人喜欢这事，又去捉拿彼得。

（使徒行传十二章2~3节上）

你是否在神回绝自己的祈求时，仍然能接受神的旨意呢？如果你在神的旨意中祷告，祂总是会回应你的祷告（耶利米书卅三：3）。然而，有时候祂会拒绝你的祈求。

希律王拘捕彼得，并且准备要办他。就在那一夜，教会弟兄姊妹聚集祷告的时候，彼得被天使救出来，逃过一劫。神在那一夜，以神迹回答祂百姓们的祈祷。然而，不久之前，雅各也被希律王拘捕，结果被杀了。当然，教会众弟兄姊妹也曾热切为雅各祷告，就像他们为彼得祷告一样。但是，神那一次对他们的回答是：“不。”

神是否爱彼得多过雅各？当然不是。雅各曾经是耶稣的密友之一。然而，神让雅各死，却存留彼得的性命在世上继续服事祂。耶路撒冷的教会并没有变得苦毒，他们接受祂的回答，因为他们相信祂的爱与智慧。

有时候神要我们恒切祷告，直到祂在我们身上成就祂的事工（路加福音十一：5~8，十八：1~6）。然而，如果神的答案是否定的，你再怎么乞求神改变心意，也是徒劳无用。有些人无法接受神的拒绝，他们坚持如果祷告够长、够努力，神终究会照着你的心愿成全一切。当神已经清楚拒绝你的祈求时，你仍然不断地恳求，这对神是个侮辱。祷告的目的不是要神顺着我们的心意成就，乃是调整我们的心意能合乎神的旨意。我们一定要学习相信神，当祂对我们说不的时候，要相信祂的旨意是最美好的。

When God Says No

Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Acts 12:2-3a

Can you accept God's will when His answer is no? If you are praying in God's will, He will always answer you when you pray (Jer. 33:3). However, sometimes His answer will be no. King Herod arrested Peter and prepared to have him executed. During the night, as his church prayed, Peter's life was spared when an angel freed him. God miraculously answered the prayers of His people that night. Yet not long before, James, too, had been arrested by Herod. James, however, was executed. Surely the church had prayed for James as fervently as they did for Peter, yet that time God's answer had been no.

Did God love Peter more than James? Of course not. James had been one of Jesus' closest friends. Yet God allowed James to die while He continued to use Peter in His service. The church in Jerusalem did not become bitter toward God. They accepted His answer because they trusted His love and wisdom.

There are times when God wants us to persist in our praying until He has completed His work in us (Luke 11:5-8; 18:1-6). However, when God's answer is no, it is futile to continue pleading for a yes. Some refuse to take no for an answer, insisting that if you pray long enough and hard enough, God will ultimately grant any request you make. It is an affront to your Lord to continue pleading with Him when He has clearly said no. The purpose of prayer is not to conform God to our will but to adjust our will to God. We must learn to trust God so that if He says no, we accept that His will is best.

6月25日（星期六）- 标题：**福音更兴旺**

经节：弟兄们，我愿意你们知道，我所遭遇的事更是叫福音兴旺。

（腓立比书一章12节）

每件事的发生都能以两个方式去看：这件事情如何影响你？如何影响神的国度？使徒保罗总是关心如何使用环境来拓展福音。当他被不公平地关入监狱时，马上观察自己的入狱，是否成为传播神救恩的机会（腓立比书一：13；使徒行传十六：19~34）。当他被愤怒的暴徒攻击时，他利用这机会传福音（使徒行传廿二：1~21）。当保罗因诉讼事件面谒亚基帕王时，他满脑子是如何向国王分享自己的信心（使徒行传廿六：1~32）！即使保罗遇见船难，搁浅在一个岛上，他仍使用这个机会分享福音。不管环境如何，保罗最关心的是如何利用目前处境，告诉他人神救恩的好消息。

在面对一个新的处境时，我们最关心的通常不是神的国度。当面临危机的时候，我们可能变得愤怒或担忧个人的利益受损，而不去瞧瞧神要藉此施行何事。倘若一直以自我中心，我们会失去许多机会，经历神在我们身上与周围人们身上的作为。

祈求神让你明白，祂要如何使用你的现况，成为他人的祝福。也许你身边有人必须看到基督如何改变你的生命。你是否愿意让神使用你的环境，向你身旁的人见证祂拯救的大能？

Furthering the Gospel

But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel. Philippians 1:12

There are two ways to look at every situation: How it will affect you, and how it will affect God's kingdom. The apostle Paul was always concerned with how his circumstances might aid the spreading of the Gospel. When he was unjustly imprisoned, he immediately looked to see how his imprisonment might provide God's salvation to others (Phil. 1:13; Acts 16:19-34). When he was assailed by an angry mob, he used the opportunity to preach the Gospel (Acts 22:1-21). When Paul's criminal proceedings took him before the king, his thoughts were on sharing his faith with the king! (Acts 26:1-32). Even when Paul was shipwrecked on an island, he used that opportunity to share the gospel there. Regardless of his circumstance, Paul's concern was how he could use his current situation to tell others of God's good news of salvation.

Often when we encounter a new situation, our first thoughts are not about God's kingdom. When we face a crisis, we can become angry or fearful for our own well-being, rather than looking to see what God intends to do through our circumstances. If we remain self-centered we will miss so much of what God could do through our experiences, both for us and for those around us.

Ask God to make you aware of how He could use your present circumstances to bless others. Perhaps someone around you needs to see the difference Christ's presence makes in your life. Are you willing for God to use your circumstances to demonstrate His saving power to those around you?

6月24日（星期五）- 标题：**当怜悯!**

经节：你不应当怜悯你的同伴，像我怜悯你吗？（马太福音十八章33节）

怜悯是一项礼物，不是你应得的。受惩罚及承当自己行为的后果，是罪的公义代价，但怜悯人的人不应该向犯罪的人讨公道。若不是神的怜悯，我们所有人早就面临祂可怕的审判。若不是祂的怜悯，我们早在第一次犯罪后就被定罪。若不是祂的怜悯，祂会在我们每次犯罪后惩罚我们。然而，神没有让我们承受应受的惩罚，祂以自己作为我们罪的赎价。

你是否觉得自己很难怀有怜悯心？也许你并不理解神对你的怜悯心。耶稣命令自己的门徒，要以神怜悯自己的心来怜悯他人。当他们想到自己白白得来的怜悯，他们怎能拒绝将这无条件得来的怜悯，传递给其他人呢？比起神无罪之子所承受的谩骂、叫嚣等不应得的待遇，任何对我们的冒犯，又算得了什么呢？我们是多么快地忘却神仁慈赐予的怜悯，只在意自己由他人身上所承受的不平待遇！

如果你发现自己很难饶恕人，你可能需要默想神的恩典，以免你承受神公义的愤怒。圣经曾描述神是「乐意饶恕人，有恩典，有怜悯，不轻易发怒，有丰盛慈爱的神」（尼希米记九：17下）。

Be Merciful!

"Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?" Matthew 18:33

Mercy is a gift. It is undeserved. Punishment and consequences are sin's just reward, but the merciful person does not demand justice for the guilty person. If it were not for God's mercy, we all would have faced His terrible judgment long ago. If not for His mercy, He would have condemned us after our first offense. If not for His mercy, He would punish us each time we sin. But rather than letting us bear the full punishment for our sin, God demonstrated His mercy when He paid the penalty for our sin Himself.

Do you find it hard to show mercy? It may be that you do not comprehend the mercy that God has shown to you. Jesus commanded His disciples to extend the same mercy to others that they had received from God. When they considered the incredible, undeserved mercy they had been granted, how could they refuse to extend the same unconditional mercy to others?

Could anyone sin against us to the same degree that we have sinned against God? Could any offense committed against us be as undeserved as the abuse hurled against the sinless Son of God? How quickly we forget the mercy that God graciously bestowed on us, only to focus on the injustices we endure from others!

If you find it difficult to forgive others, you may need to meditate on the mercy of God that prevents you from experiencing God's justifiable wrath. Scripture describes God as "Ready to pardon, / Gracious and merciful, / Slow to anger, / Abundant in lovingkindness" (Neh. 9:17b).

6月21日（星期二）- 标题：**灵性的饥荒**

经节：主耶和華說：日子將到，我必命飢荒降在地上。人飢餓非因無餅，干渴非因無水，乃因不聽耶和華的話。（阿摩司書八章11節）

神有时候对我们沉默不语。以色列人明目张胆地忽视和拒绝神对他们所说的话，于是，神命令饥荒降在地上，这个饥荒远比食物及水的短缺还严重。他们被剥夺不得听见神生命的话语。

神刚开始沉默的时候，你可能很难注意到祂的沉默。你可能依稀记得过去神对你所说的话，然而，你慢慢会领悟到，自己有一段很长的时间不再听见神的声音。倘若你发觉自己正处于「干旱」，你要立即寻求神，求祂调整你的生活，好让你再次享受与祂相交的喜乐。也许上回你曾不顺服神的命令，因此祂在给你新方向以前，先等待你顺服下来。也许是你生命中有尚未悔改的罪，或是你有破裂的人际关系（以赛亚书一：15；彼得前书三：7）。有可能你在祷告的时候，话说得太多，而祂要你去聆听。神的沉默可以成为一段祂与你相交、大有能力的时光。

神就是神！因为祂是神，当祂开口发言的时候，祂期待你有能听的耳，并且能热切地回应。祂是轻慢不得的（加拉太书六：7）。当我们忽视祂，祂可能会闭口不言，直到我们悔改，并与祂的关系恢复正常。先知亚撒利雅向亚撒王保证：「你们若顺从耶和華，耶和華必与你们同在；你们若寻求祂，就必寻见；你们若离弃祂，祂必离弃你们。」（历代志下十五：2）

Spiritual Famine

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD."
Amos 8:11

One way God communicates is through silence. The Israelites blatantly ignored and rejected God's word to them, and God responded by sending a famine. This famine was far more severe than a shortage of food and water. Instead, they were deprived of His words of life.

God's silence may be hardly noticeable at first. You may still remember times when God spoke to you, but you gradually realize you've not heard His voice for a long time. If you realize you are in a "drought," immediately seek God and ask Him what adjustments your life requires so you can once again enjoy fellowship with Him. It may be that you disobeyed His last instructions to you and that He is waiting on your obedience before giving you a new direction. It may be that there is unconfessed sin in your life or that you have a damaged relationship (Isa. 1:15; 1 Pet. 3:7). It is possible that you have done too much talking in your prayer times and that He wants you to listen. God's silences can be powerful times for Him to communicate with you.

God is God! Because He is God, when He speaks He expects a listening ear and an eager response. He will not be mocked! (Gal. 6:7). When we ignore Him, He may withhold His voice until we repent and get right with Him. The prophet Isaiah assured King Asa, "The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you."

6月22日（星期三）- 标题：**属灵的标记**

经文：以色列人就照约书亚所吩咐的，按着以色列人支派的数目，从约旦洞中取了十二块石头，都遵耶和華所吩咐约书亚的行了。他们把石头带过去，到他们所住宿的地方，就放在那里。（约书亚记四章8节）

灵性的记忆在基督徒生活中，占有重要的一席之地。每回神向你说话的情景，是否仍历历在目？倘若你急于超前自己基督徒的信心，却忽略在生活中的十字路口，放下属灵的标记，这是个悲剧。若没有这些属灵路标的帮助，你会迷失属灵的方向。

以色列人曾经历一段喧哗漫长的旅行。由于怀疑神的大能是否带来胜利，他们付上漂流旷野四十年的代价。后来，神行神迹，分开约旦河水，让他们过河，好继续他们的征战。神知道以色列人遭遇敌人的胁迫时，有时需要一些提醒，好相信神的大能足以保护他们。以色列人可能会受试探，认为进入迦南地是个错误。为了这个原因，神要他们在约旦河畔立标记。他们无论任何时候回到此地，这标记会提醒他们神伟大的能力。这标记会鼓舞他们面对新的挑战。

灵性的标记指出我们面对神清楚带领的一段抉择时光。你还记得自己成为神儿女的那一时刻吗？你是否记得祂呼唤你照祂的方式而活的那一时刻？你是否能清楚指出，祂明确引导你作决定的时刻？你还记得祂曾以大能呼召你，向祂献身吗？要记录这些人生的重要时刻！要定期回想这些重要时刻，并且察觉自己在神的带领之下稳定的成长。这会帮助你了解神在你生命中的作为，也帮助你明白自己未来的方向。

Spiritual Markers

And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged. Joshua 4:8

Spiritual memory is crucial in the Christian life. Do you vividly recall times when you know God spoke to you? It would be tragic if, in your haste to advance in your Christian faith, you neglected to leave spiritual markers at the key crossroads of your life. Without the help of these markers, you will lose your spiritual bearings.

The Israelites experienced a tumultuous pilgrimage. Their doubt that God was powerful enough to give them victory cost them forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Then God miraculously parted the waters of the Jordan River so they could pass over and continue their conquest. God knew that at times the Israelites would face intimidating enemies and would need a reminder that He was powerful enough to protect them. The Israelites might be tempted to think they made a mistake entering Canaan. For this reason God instructed them to build a monument on the banks of the Jordan River. Whenever they returned to this spot, they would see the monument and be reminded of God's awesome power. This marker would give them confidence to meet the new challenges they faced.

A spiritual marker identifies a time of decision when you clearly know that God guided you. Can you remember the moment you became a child of God? Were there specific times when He called you to His ways of living? Can you point to times when He clearly guided you in a decision? Were there times when He spoke powerfully to you about a commitment you should make? Keep track of these important moments! Regularly rehearse them and notice the steady progression in the way God has led you. This will help you understand God's activity in your life and give you a sense of direction as you face future decisions.

6月23日（星期四）- 标题：**天国中最大的**

经文：是谁为大，是坐席的呢？是服事人的呢？不是坐席的大吗？然而，我在你们中间如同服事人的。（路加福音廿二章27节）

在神国里，衡量伟大人物的方式与世人大大不同。我们的社会把财富、权势、美貌、运动能力视为偶像，甚至把那些厚颜无耻、炫耀自己不道德行为的人，当作名流。世人认为服事人是低下的工作，但神的国度完全否定世人对尊敬的评价，神的国度是以服事人的坐首席。那些无私的、仁慈的、毫不埋怨的、隐藏自己事奉的人，在神国中是最被尊崇的。

当耶稣与门徒进入楼上的房间，门徒忙着找重要的席位坐下，耶稣却在寻找服事的场所。门徒们很尴尬地等着耶稣拿毛巾、脸盆，洗他们的脚（约翰福音十三：1~15）。基督徒很喜欢自称为仆人，却很少会以仆人的待遇而心满意足！我们往往采用世人所重视的评价。若以耶稣为自己的榜样，我们会看到服事人比被服事的人，拥有更高贵的性情。

世人会以服事你的人多寡，来衡量你的重要性，但神关心的是，有多少人正接受你的服事。如果以服事人为苦，你可能已经远离神的心了。求神教导你无私，赐给你力量，能够效法祂的榜样。注意耶稣的邀请，好加入祂事奉的行列。

Kingdom Greatness

"For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves." Luke 22:27

The measure of greatness in the kingdom of God differs vastly from that of the world. Our society idolizes the rich, the powerful, the beautiful, and the athletic. We even make celebrities out of those who brazenly flaunt their immorality. The world claims it is demeaning to serve others. However, God's kingdom completely rejects the world's measure for esteem, giving the greatest honor to the one who serves most. The person who serves selflessly, lovingly, without complaint, and without seeking recognition is highly regarded in the kingdom of God.

When Jesus and His disciples entered the upper room, the disciples looked for a prominent place to sit; Jesus looked for a place to serve. As they awkwardly waited to be served, Jesus took a towel and basin and washed their feet (John 13:1-15). We Christians like to refer to ourselves as servants, but we are seldom content to be treated as servants! We are tempted to adopt the world's evaluation of importance. But when we look to Jesus as our model, we see that it takes a far more noble character to serve than to be served.

The world will estimate your importance by the number of people serving you. God is more concerned with the number of people you are serving. If you struggle to be a servant, your heart may have shifted away from the heart of God. Ask Jesus to teach you selflessness and to give you the strength to follow His example. Watch for Jesus' invitation to join Him in serving others. It will come.