

经节：无论作什么，都要从心里作，像是给主作的，不是给人作的。

（歌罗西书三章23节）

为神而作与为人而作之间有很大的区别。神值得我们竭尽全力事奉祂。人会令我们失望、背叛我们、忽视我们，和苛待我们。有些人不断地要求我们给予，却吝于回报。以人的角度来看，这种人不值得投注时间与精力交往。除了爱神以外，服事人的动机是什么？神值得我们全心全意地爱祂，祂要求我们要爱其他人，像祂爱他们一样。我们爱自己的配偶，不是因为他值得我们爱，乃因为这是神的命令（以弗所书五：22—33）。不是因为朋友怎么待我们，就怎么回报他们；而是因为神爱我们的缘故来待他们（约翰福音十三：14）。我们努力工作，不是根据雇主怎么对待我们，乃是根据神如何待我们。神是我们事奉的对象（以弗所书六：5）。

平庸与懒惰不得在基督徒的生活占一席之地。基督徒无论在家或在工作场所，一定要持守正直。在思考神为我们所付出的前提之下，为神作工改变了我们为他人作工的看法。我们的劳苦乃是奉献给神。不只是周日在教会敬拜神，我们一整个星期的劳苦，都是为了向那厚赐我们一切的真神献上感恩的敬拜。当人们没有达到我们的期望，我们自认为白费工夫时，要牢记自己是为圣洁的神辛劳作工。祂配得我们全心全意地努力。

For the Lord, Not Men

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. Colossians 3:23

There is an important difference between doing something for people and doing something for God. God always deserves our best effort. People will disappoint us, betray us, neglect us, and mistreat us. Some will constantly ask for what we can give while offering nothing in return. From our human perspective, these people deserve our minimal effort at best. What then should motivate us to serve people, except our love for God? God deserves our love, and He demands that we love others in the same way He does. We are to love our spouses, not as they deserve, but as God commands (Eph. 5:22-33). We are to treat our friends, not as they treat us, but as Christ loves us (John 13:14). We are to labor at our jobs, not in proportion to the way our employer treats us, but according to the way God treats us. God is the One we serve (Eph. 6:5).

Mediocrity and laziness have no place in the Christian's life. Christians must maintain integrity at home and in the workplace. Working for God, as opposed to working for other people, changes our perspective as we view our endeavors in light of what He has done for us. Our toil then becomes an offering to God. We not only worship God at church on Sunday, but our labor throughout the week is an offering of worship and thanksgiving to the One who has given us everything we have. When people do not measure up to our expectations and we feel our efforts are being wasted, we must keep in mind that we are toiling for holy God. He is worthy of our best effort.

5月2日（星期一）－标题：**神完全的保护**

经节：我与他们同在的时候，因祢所赐给我的名保守了他们，我也护卫了他们；其中除了那灭亡之子，没有一个灭亡的，好叫经上的话得应验。

（约翰福音十七章12节）

没有一件撒但做的事能够使你惧怕（提摩太后书一：7）。耶稣挑选出天父所赐给祂的十二位门徒，并小心地护卫他们不受恶者的侵害。耶稣差遣祂的门徒进入危险的困境，然而，祂为他们祷告，祈求天父的大能完全保守他们脱离那恶者（约翰福音十七：15）。

同样地，耶稣说我们是祂的羊，是牢牢地掌握在天父强壮的手中（约翰福音十：28）。没有一个地方比在全能神的手中更安全，你相信吗？还是你害怕撒但或别人怎么对付自己？使徒约翰鼓励我们不要惧怕：「因为那在你们里面的，比那在世界上的更大。」（约翰一书四：4）这不只是神学上的观念，更是一个让你完全放心的事实。这不只是一个默想家人安全的真理，而是一个应许，让你在面对逆境或世人威胁时，能紧紧握住的应许。

你的作为透露出你的信仰。如果你过的是惧怕、充满忧虑的日子，不管你嘴巴怎么说，你已经证明自己对神的护佑没有信心。你要有信心，相信耶稣不断地为你向天父代求。如果你完全相信祂，你不会有惧怕。

God's Complete Protection

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. John 17:1

Nothing that Satan can do to you should cause you to fear (2 Tim. 1:7). Jesus chose the twelve disciples the Father had given Him and then jealously guarded them from the evil one. Jesus sent His disciples into the world where they experienced difficult and dangerous circumstances, but He interceded on their behalf with His Father that they would have His strong protection from the evil one (John 17:15).

In the same way, Jesus said that we, as His sheep, are held securely in the Father's strong hand (John 10:28). There is no better place to be than safely in the hand of almighty God. Do you believe this, or are you fearful of what Satan or people can do to you? The apostle John encourages us that we do not need to fear: "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). This is not merely a theological concept but a profound reality in which you can have absolute confidence. It is not just a truth for meditation in the security of your home; it is a promise you can cling to in the midst of a hostile and menacing world.

What you do reveals what you believe. If you are living a fearful, anxiety-filled life, you are proving your lack of confidence in God's protection, regardless of what you may say. Live your life with confidence that Jesus is continually interceding with the Father on your behalf. If you trust Him completely, you will have nothing to fear.

5月7日（星期六）－标题：**上去得那地为业**

经节：看哪，耶和華一你的神已將那地擺在你面前，你要照耶和華一你列祖的神所说的上去得那地为业；不要惧怕，也不要惊惶。（申命记一章21节）

基督徒的生活有一个看似矛盾的理论，就是得付出努力，才能得到神的礼物。神带领以色列人到迦南地，告诉他们祂要把这地「赐给」他们（民数记十 三：2）。对以色列人而言，应许之地的礼物听起来很棒，直到他们理解到，伴随这份礼物而来的，是与巨人和坚固城邑为敌。他们也许以为进入迦南地之前，神会先为他们消灭那地的居民。对以色列人最理想的情况，是接收一片空旷的土地和房屋，让他们马上住进去。

但事情并非如他们所料，神说他们必须争战，才能夺取这地。然而，他们不必用自己的力量打仗，神会出面为他们争战。神会把城邑的高墙夷为平地，并赐他们策略打败敌人，给予战士能力争战。以色列人比起他们的敌人占了许多便宜，但是他们还是得争战。

要是在信主的那一刻，神赐给我们完全的圣经知识，又让我们背诵所有的经句，该有多么好啊！要是神每日灌入我们喜爱祷告的心，以及向人分享信心的勇气，基督徒的生活就容易多了。可是，神不是这样带领我们。祂先赐给我们救恩这免费的礼物，然后要我们恐惧战兢地「做」得救的工夫（腓立比书二：12下）。你是否灰心沮丧，因为基督徒的生活比你预计的更困难及富有挑战性？请不要如此想。神给你的礼物是最完美的，藉着这些礼物，你会变得更完全（马太福音五：48；雅各书一：17）

Go up and Possess It

Look, the LORD your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as the LORD God of your fathers has spoken to you; do not fear or be discouraged. Deuteronomy 1:21

One of the paradoxes of the Christian life is that God's gifts often require labor on our part. God brought the Israelites to the Promised Land and told them He was going to "give" it to them (Num. 13:2). The gift of the Promised Land sounded great to the Israelites until they realized that, with the gift, came battles against giants and fortified cities! Perhaps they assumed God was going to obliterate the inhabitants of the land before they entered. Ideally for the Israelites, they could then have entered a vacant land with houses and cities already built and ready to inhabit. Instead, God said they would have to fight for it. They would not have to fight in their own strength, however; God would be present to fight for them. God would bring down the walls of cities, give them strategies to defeat their enemies, and empower their warriors to fight. The Israelites would have a divine advantage over anyone they fought, but they would still have to fight. It would be wonderful if, when we become Christians, God would fill our minds with a complete knowledge of the Bible and with Bible verses already memorized.

It would be easy if God would instill in us a delight in spending hours in prayer each day and a fearless desire to share our faith with others. But God doesn't relate to us that way. Instead, He gives us the free gift of His salvation and then tells us to "work out" our salvation in fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12b). Are you discouraged because the Christian life is more difficult and challenging than you expected? Don't be. God's gifts to you are perfect because, through them, God makes you perfect as well (Matt. 5:48; James 1:17).

5月6日（星期五）－标题：**安于奴隶的现状**

经文：就向他们说：「愿耶和華鉴察你们，施行判断：因你们使我们在法老和他臣仆面前有了臭名，把刀递在他们手中杀我们。」（出埃及记五章21节）

人可能安于奴隶的处境，一点也不想为自由付出任何努力。希伯来人作埃及人的奴隶，已有四百年之久。奴隶的身分代表他们没有自由做神要他们做的事，也没有行动自由。摩西已经告诉以色列人如何得到自由，但比起讨神的欢喜，他们更关心工头的反应。对他们来说，得到自由意味着激怒他们所事奉的法老王！也就是，他们一生所事奉的埃及人，可能会攻击他们。由奴役中被释放得到的自由，似乎不值得他们耐心忍受那不可避免的艰苦。

当神释放我们得自由时，我们通常得付出代价。哀伤可以是捆绑的另一个形式，然而，我们可能愈来愈安于奴隶的现状。我们可能安于恐惧的生活，却不晓得如何安心度日。照着毁灭性的恶习与罪恶的生活方式，我们可能比较喜欢熟悉的环境，而不愿去经历被释放后的未知。我们可能已明白地认出朋友的坏影响，却情愿拒绝神的心意，不愿得罪我们的朋友。

这个情形实在令人难以相信，以色列人居然因为摩西改变他们从小的奴隶生活，而心生不满。你是否安于被某项恶习捆绑？你是否惧怕改变多过惧怕神？你是否愿意让神在你身上动工，好能够释放你？

Comfortable in Our Bondage

And they said to them, "Let the LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us." Exodus 5:21

"It is possible for people to become so accustomed to their bondage that they resist efforts to free them. The Hebrews had been slaves in Egypt for four hundred years. Slavery meant that they were not free to do God's will or to go where they wanted. Moses had come to tell the Israelites how they could experience freedom, yet they were more concerned about the reaction of their taskmasters than they were about pleasing God. For them to be free would mean that the pharaoh they were serving would be angry! It would mean that the Egyptians they had served all their lives might attack them. Freedom from their slavery did not seem to be worth the hardships they would inevitably endure.

When God sets out to free us there will often be a price we will have to pay. Grief can be a terrible form of bondage, yet we can become comfortable with it. We can grow so comfortable with fear that we don't know how to live without it. As destructive as our sinful habits and lifestyle might be, we may prefer living with the familiar, rather than being freed to experience the unknown. We may recognize the harmful influence of a friend but choose to reject God's will rather than offend our friend.

As incredible as it seems, the Israelites were angry at Moses for disrupting the life of slavery to which they had grown accustomed. Have you been lulled into a comfortable relationship with your bondage? Do you fear change more than you fear God? Are you willing to allow God to do what is necessary in order to free you?"

5月3日（星期二）－标题：**基督的喜乐**

经文：现在我往祢那里去，我还在世上说这话，是叫他们心里充满我的喜乐。（翰福音十七章13节）

倘若说基督徒的生活要有与众不同之处，那应该是喜乐！耶稣屡次向门徒提及，祂自己的喜乐完全充满他们。当门徒了解，自己是神的儿女及与基督同作后嗣的身分，他们充满喜乐（罗马书八：16—17）。他们原本是死在自己的过犯之中，现在在基督里却是活着（罗马书六：4）。他们本来是无望的死囚，如今死亡已不能再威胁他们了（哥林多前书十五：55—58）。门徒拥有如此奇妙的基督救恩，怎能不喜乐呢？

不要拒绝自己是神儿女的身分。不要满足于没有喜乐的生活，每个基督徒都应该拥有基督内住的喜乐，这喜乐是任何生活环境不能夺去的。然而，惟有你允许圣灵在你的生活中彰显祂自己时，你才能得着这种喜乐。圣灵果子的其中一个特质就是喜乐（加拉太书五：22）。喜乐不像快乐，快乐由世事而生，喜乐则洋溢在你做的每件事情上。

耶稣并没有为你仅仅享有快乐、或是免除忧伤而祷告。祂为你祈祷，要让你拥有天父所赐给祂的喜乐。这份喜乐是一种神圣的喜乐，是由你与天父深刻而稳固的关系，所培养出来的。这份喜乐是坚固地植根于你与天父的关系，没有任何环境的改变可以动摇它。基督为你所祷告的是让你拥有这种喜乐。

The Joy of Christ

But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. John 17:13

If there is anything that ought to characterize the life of a Christian, it is joy! Jesus spoke many times to His disciples about His joy being complete and full in them. His disciples were filled with joy as they realized who they were: children of God and joint heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:16-17). They had been dead in their sins but were now made alive in Christ (Rom. 6:4). They had once been helpless victims of death, but now death had no hold over them (1 Cor. 15:55-58). With such a marvelous salvation experience with Christ, how could the disciples be anything less than joyful?

Don't deny yourself that which is your birthright as a child of God. Don't be satisfied with a joyless life. There ought to be in every Christian a deep, settled fullness of the joy of Christ that no circumstance of life can dispel. This comes as you allow the Holy Spirit to express Himself in your life. One of the fruits of the Spirit is joy (Gal. 5:22). This joy is unlike any happiness that is produced by the world. It fills you and permeates everything you do.

Jesus did not pray that you would merely be happy or even that you would escape grief. He prayed that you would have the same joy that the Father had given Him: a divine joy, a joy that comes from a deep and unwavering relationship with the Father. It is a joy that is grounded so firmly in a relationship with God that no change in circumstances could ever shake it. This is the kind of joy that Christ is praying will be in you.

5月4日（星期三）－标题：**神带你归向祂**

经节：我向埃及人所行的事，你们都看见了，且看见我如鹰将你们背在翅膀上，带来归我。（出埃及记十九章4节）

神拯救以色列的儿女脱离埃及，并不是叫他们能够享受应许之地。祂释放他们的捆绑，好叫他们能够认识神与敬拜神。在他们离开埃及三个月后，祂提醒他们，祂像鹰一样将他们背在翅膀上、拯救他们的原因。祂的目的是为了带领他们归向祂。也就是神拯救他们，为了要让他们享受与自己亲密的关系。那些以色列人一直是奴隶，没有敬拜神的自由。现在，在自己的土地上，他们可以自由地认识与敬拜上帝。神的呼召不是要毁灭迦南地那些拜偶像的国家，也不是要他们安居于自己所征服之地，更不是要建立一个新的国家——虽然这一切也都被成就了。更确切地说，神呼召他们成为一个爱祂、敬拜祂的民族。因著祂的拯救，他们认识祂是全能且富怜悯的神。他们现在可以自由地回应祂。

我们往往是行动取向，常假设自己得救是为了执行某项事工，而不是享受关系。祂使用我们的活动或环境，把我们带到祂的面前。倘若神交付我们只有祂能解决的重任，我们会脱离亲近祂及倚靠祂的轨道。相反地，倘若神允许我们经历危难，我们会更亲近祂。

如果不小心，我们可能会不自觉地忽略与神的关系，好能够继续我们的活动。当你忙于神的事工时，要记得神要给你的是要引领你更亲近祂的体验。

God Brings You to Himself

You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Exodus 19:4

God did not deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt so that they could enjoy the Promised Land. He freed them from their so they could come to know and worship Him. Three months after they left Egypt, God reminded His people why He had delivered them “on eagles’ wings.” It was to bring the people to *Himself*. That is, God saved them so that they could enjoy intimate fellowship with Him. The Israelites had been slaves with no freedom to worship God. Now, with their own land, they could come to know and serve God freely. God’s call was not to destroy the idolatrous nations in Canaan, not to settle the lands they conquered, and not to establish a new nation, although all of these would be accomplished. Rather, God called them primarily to be a people who loved and worshiped Him. Through God’s act of deliverance they came to know Him as an almighty and compassionate God, and they were now free to respond to Him.

We are so activity oriented that we assume we were saved for a task we are to perform rather than for a relationship to enjoy. God uses our activities and circumstances to bring us to Himself. When He gives us a God-sized assignment, its sheer impossibility brings us back to Him for His enabling. When God allows us to go through crises, it brings us closer to Him. If we are not careful, we can inadvertently bypass the relationship in order to get on with the activity. When you are busy in your activity for God, remember that God leads you to the experiences in order to bring you to Himself.

5月5日（星期四）－标题：**我是**

经节：神对摩西说：「我是自有永有的」；又说：「你要对以色列人这样说：『那自有的打发我到你们这里来。』」（出埃及记三章14节）

当摩西在燃烧的荆棘前面遇见神的时候，他还有许多地方需要更认识主。他眼前的神迹令他惊叹不已（出埃及记三：3）。然而，带领以色列人挣脱当代最强盛的国家——埃及——的俘虏，其困难度可是比行燃烧荆棘的神迹要困难得多。那位使荆棘燃烧却不烧毁的神，是否有足够的能力拯救这么一大批群众呢？

神的答案是：「我是。」也就是：「摩西，我能提供你所有的需要，好完成我给你的任务。倘若你需要神迹使法老王信服，我就会以神迹来彰显我自己。倘若你要我中断大自然的规律，分开红海，我就如此行，来证明我自己。倘若你需要食物与水，我就是你的供应者。倘若你害怕，我就是你的力量。」

在摩西与神同行之初，摩西对自己需要神做什么，一点也没有概念。但每回摩西有需要，他对神就有新的认识。摩西渐渐地了解，神的能力比起行荆棘燃烧却不烧毁神迹的能力，要强得多。要是当初摩西被燃烧荆棘的神迹给迷住，在那个地方建立圣殿，叫[燃烧荆棘教会]，他将失去许多经历神的机会！回想第一次与神同行时对祂的认识，如今你的经历是否扩展你对祂的认识？

I AM

And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' " Exodus 3:14

When Moses encountered God in the burning bush, he still had much to learn about his Lord. Moses was impressed with the miracle before him (Exod. 3:3). However, it would take much more than a burning bush to lead Israel out of captivity from the most powerful nation of Moses’ day. Would the same God who could cause a bush to burn without being consumed also be able to do what was necessary to deliver a multitude?

God’s answer was, “I AM!” That is, “Moses, I’ll be whatever you need Me to be as you carry out my assignment. If you need miraculous signs in order to convince Pharaoh, then that is how I will express Myself. If you need Me to interrupt nature and part the waters of the Red Sea, then I will demonstrate Myself in that way. If you require food and water, then I will be your provider. If you are afraid, I’ll be your strength.”

At the beginning of Moses’ walk with the Lord, Moses had no idea all that he would need God to do for him. Yet each time Moses faced a need, He learned something new about God. Moses came to realize that there was much more to God than a burning bush. What if Moses was so enamored with his experience at the bush that he built a tabernacle on the spot and established “The Church of the Burning Bush”? He would have missed out on so much more that God wanted to reveal to him!

Think back to your understanding of God when you first began walking with Him. How have your experiences expanded your knowledge of Him?