

经节：「你们也不可与此地的居民立约，要拆毁他们的祭坛。你们竟没有听从我的话！为何这样行呢？」因此我又说，「我必不将他们从你们面前赶出；他们必作你们肋下的荆棘。他们的神必作你们的网罗。」（士师记二章2~3节）

神清清楚楚地指示以色列人：要完全赶出迦南人，消灭他们所有可鄙的偶像敬拜。这个任务充满挑战性！他们的敌人拥有可怕的战车，那些迦南人拥有外观看来很难攻陷的防御工事。以色列人并没有把所有的迦南人赶出迦南地，许多迦南人的生活习性与宗教，十分吸引以色列人罪恶的本性。以色列人非但没有消灭他们和他们的偶像，反而妥协了。对以色列人来说，迦南人是个麻烦，会分散人的注意力。他们拜偶像的习性会一直试探以色列人。

当你成为基督徒，神向你生活中罪恶的坚固营垒宣战。罪恶的行为与态度会牢牢地霸占你，但是神命令你要拆毁这个要塞。圣灵会指出，我们生命中有哪些地方拒绝顺服神的心意。你是否仅仅想与罪签订休战协议，而不去消灭它们？愤怒是否是你其中一项罪恶堡垒？若是如此，它会在你软弱时冒出来。情欲是否是你生命中的罪恶堡垒？若是如此，它会在你不提防时使你屈服。在你不注意的时候，这些堡垒会试探你，让你继续行过去罪恶的行为。

不要小看罪恶的毁灭能力。倘若你的生命中，仍有未被对付的坚固营垒，要知道圣灵早就预备好，要帮助你得到完全的胜利。

Strongholds

"And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars." But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? Therefore I also said, "I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you."

Judges 2:2-3

God gave the Israelites specific instructions: Drive the Canaanites out of every corner of the land, and obliterate any vestige of their abominable idol worship. This assignment was challenging! Their enemies had formidable chariots. The Canaanites had seemingly impregnable fortresses that were dangerous and difficult to overcome. The Israelites failed to drive all the Canaanites from the land. Much about the Canaanite lifestyle and religion appealed to the Israelites' sinful nature. Rather than destroying them and their idolatry, Israel compromised. The Canaanites would prove to be a troublesome distraction to the Israelites. Their idol worship would present a constant temptation.

When you became a Christian, God declared war on sin's strongholds in your life. Sinful behaviors and attitudes were firmly entrenched in your character, but God commanded you to tear them down. The Holy Spirit pointed out areas of your life that were resistant to God's will. Were you tempted to merely establish a truce rather than obliterating every sin? Is anger one of sin's strongholds? If so, it will rise up against you in moments of weakness. Is there a stronghold of lust in your life? If so, you will succumb to it when caught off guard. In careless moments, these strongholds will still tempt you to continue your past sinful behaviors.

Do not underestimate the destructive power of sin. If there are strongholds in your life that you have never defeated, the Holy Spirit is still prepared to bring you complete victory.

7月4日（星期一）－标题：**还有什么可做的呢？**

经文：我为我葡萄园所做之外，还有什么可做的呢？我指望结好葡萄，怎么倒结了野葡萄呢？（以赛亚书五章4节）

先知以赛亚提到一个在肥美山岗上葡萄园主人的故事。那个人刨挖园子、捡去石头，好让所栽种的葡萄树自由生长。他只种最上等的葡萄树，并在园中盖了一座楼，好守望侵略者与野兽的侵入。他又凿出压酒池，指望结好葡萄。然后，他等候结实。最终他却未收成好葡萄，反而在葡萄园里长满没用的野葡萄。

这个故事说明了神与祂百姓的关系。神已经为我们做了所有能做的事，好帮助我们结出丰盛属灵果子的生命。祂把我们由绝望中拯救出来。祂赐给我们圣灵，好在我们生命中结出果子（加拉太书五：22~23）。祂除去我们的罪，使我们能够自由地事奉祂。我们拥有无数版本的圣经，以及前所未有的丰富属灵资源，像：基督教书籍、音乐、录像带、福音聚会或培灵会、教会学校、福音电视及电台、属灵杂志和研讨会等。我们有各类大小不同的教会，有教师及牧师的教导与鼓励。最重要的是，我们能够以祷告来到神的跟前。耶稣说，多给谁就向谁多取，多托谁就向谁多要（路加福音十二：48）。有一天，神会审查我们，检视我们在祂丰盛供应下所结的生命果实。祂会发现什么？

What More Could Have Been Done?

What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes? Isaiah 5:4

The prophet Isaiah told the story of a man with a vineyard on a fertile hill. The man cultivated the ground and removed the stones so that nothing would hinder the vines' growth. He planted only the best quality vines. He built a tower in the middle of the vineyard so he could watch for wild animals and intruders. He constructed a wine vat so that he would be ready for the ripe grapes. Then he waited. Rather than producing good grapes, however, the vineyard produced worthless ones.

The story illustrates the relationship between God and His people. God has done everything necessary for us to produce an abundance of spiritual fruit in our lives. He saved us when we were without hope. He gave us His Holy Spirit to produce fruit in our lives (Gal. 5:22-23). He removed our sin so that we are free to serve Him. We have the Bible in numerous translations. We have access to more Christian books, music, videos, conferences, schools, radio and television stations, magazines, and seminars than ever before. There are churches of every kind and size. We have teachers and pastors to instruct us and encourage us. Most of all, we have direct access to God through prayer. Jesus said that to whom much is given, much is expected (Luke 12:48). One day God will hold us accountable for all that He has done for us. He will ask us to show Him the fruit of all of His bountiful provision for our lives. What will He find?

7月9日（星期六）－标题：**有效且恳切的祈祷**

经文：义人祈祷所发的力量是大有功效的。（雅各书五章16节下）

神应许所有信徒若能过公义的生活，并且恳切地祈祷，我们的祷告是大有功效，且会有重大的结果。我们是如何看这条应许呢？我们可能会争论：「可是，我真的有祷告，只是什么事也没有发生！」我们的问题在于不相信神话语的可靠性。神的话告诉我们，祷告会成就许多事。倘若我们的祷告生活没有成就任何事，我们该怎么办？倘若我们祷告没有果效，是否代表这个应许不是真的？我们是否应该因而认定圣经不合实际？或者我们应检验自己是否合它的条件？

雅各说，恳切地祷告是大有功效的。我们是否祷告得不够恳切？恳切地祷告代表我们绝不轻易放弃。恳切地祷告表示我们愿意花足够的时间为人代祷。恳切地祷告是以心灵向天父呼求，有时甚至是带着眼泪的。恳切地祷告是圣灵以说不出的叹息为我们祷告（罗马书八：26）。

根据雅各书，我们的公义会保证有功效的祷告。神公义的标准与我们的标准不同。祂越过我们的行为，甚至我们的思想，直见我们的内心。倘若我们的祷告功效很小，怎能自以为已尽了责任？如果祷告没有效，问题不在神的身上，而在我们的身上，因为神的话是绝对可靠的。如果我们能坚守神的要求，祂会领我们照着祂的心意祷告，且以大能的方式回答我们的祷告。

Effective, Fervent Prayer

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16b

God promises all believers that if we live righteously and pray fervently, our prayers will be effective and produce significant results. How do we treat a promise like this? We might argue, "But I *do* pray, and nothing happens!" Our problem is that we do not hold ourselves accountable to the Scripture. God's Word says that prayer ought to accomplish much. If our prayer life is not accomplishing much, what should we do? If we are praying but seeing no results, should we conclude that this promise is untrue? Should we excuse this Scripture as impractical and unrealistic? Or should we examine ourselves to see if we meet its conditions? James says that *fervent* prayer avails much. Could it be that we are not as fervent in our praying as we should be? Fervent prayer means we do not quit easily. Fervent prayer means we purposefully spend sufficient time in intercession. Fervent prayer means we cry out to the Father, sometimes in tears, with our heart and soul. Fervent prayer comes as the Holy Spirit assists us in praying with groanings too deep for words (Rom. 8:26).

According to James, our righteousness will ensure effective prayer. God's standard of righteousness is different from ours, for He looks beyond our actions, even beyond our thoughts, directly to our hearts. How then should we hold ourselves accountable if our prayers are accomplishing little? If nothing happens when we pray, the problem is not with God. The problem is with us, for God's word is absolutely reliable. If we adhere to what God requires, He will lead us to pray for things that align with His purposes, and God will answer our prayers in a mighty way.

7月8日（星期五）－标题：**圣路**

经节：在那里必有一条大道，称为圣路。污秽人不得经过，必专为赎民行走；行路的人虽愚昧，也不致失迷。（以赛亚书卅五章8节）

以色列这个国家，本来是被预定成为万国敬拜真神的地方。耶路撒冷的圣殿，本来是传播神救恩喜信到世界每个角落的中心点。但那些本来应属神的百姓，却背弃了祂，行各样恶事。他们不但没有作神的使者，反而羞辱神的圣名；不但没有吸引地上万国到神的跟前，反而成为寻道者的绊脚石。以色列人惨痛地失败，与神原先的计划大相径庭，以至于神审判他们，放逐他们。然而，神应许有一天祂的百姓会成为一条大道，带领其他人得着救恩。

哪里有基督徒，神就有法子让人们知道救恩（罗马书十：14~15），这是神的心意。每当未信者遇见基督徒，他应是与所有跟随主的信息面对面。

可悲的是，有些基督徒就像以赛亚时代的以色列人。我们可能深陷罪恶之中，完全背离神，更别提装备自己去指引人。如果我们在生活中假冒为善，我们非但不能帮助人到神的面前，反而害人转离神。如果我们的生活充满疑惑和愤怒，我们会妨碍他人到主的跟前。我们的生活应该是一条圣道，成为周围寻道者的帮助。求神挪去你生命中任何妨碍人认识主的绊脚石。

A Highway of Holiness

A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray. Isaiah 35:8

The nation of Israel was designed to have a place where other nations of the world could come to worship the true God. The temple in Jerusalem was to be the center from which the good news of God's salvation would spread to every corner of the world. But those who were supposed to be God's people forsook Him and practiced every kind of sin. Rather than being ambassadors for God, they disgraced His holy name. Rather than attracting the nations of the earth to God, they became stumbling blocks to those who were seeking the true God. The Israelites fell so far from God's original intent that God judged them and sent them into exile. Yet God promised that one day His people would be an avenue by which others could find salvation.

Anywhere there is a Christian, God has a way for people to learn of His salvation (Rom. 10:14-15). Whenever an unbeliever meets a Christian, the unbeliever ought to be face to face with everything he needs to know in order to follow Christ. Sadly, however, Christians can be like the Israelites of Isaiah's day. We can be so involved in our sin that we are completely disoriented to God, ill-equipped to direct others to Him. If our lives are filled with hypocrisy, we may turn people away from God, rather than helping them come to Him. If our lives are filled with doubt or anger, we will impede others from coming to Christ. Our lives ought to be a highway of holiness, providing easy access to God for anyone around us who seeks Him. Ask God to remove any obstacle in your life that hinders others from coming to know Jesus.

7月5日（星期二）－标题：**选择喜乐**

经节：约在半夜，保罗和西拉祷告，唱诗赞美神，众囚犯也侧耳而听。

（使徒行传十六章25节）

身为基督徒，我们的喜乐不应该取决于环境。喜乐乃是从神而来，不应被外在环境所影响。不要愚蠢地任由他人的行为举止，来决定你的喜乐。真正的喜乐乃是不管外在环境如何，确实知道神自己住在我们心里与我们相交。真喜乐是清楚了解圣洁的神已经完全饶恕我们的罪，甚至祂已经在天上为我们安排了一个住处，让我们能够永远与祂在一起（约翰福音十四：3）。你生活的环境并不能够改变这些真理！

保罗和西拉面对的是你所能想象到最困难的环境。他们被诬告，被拘捕下监。他们被棍打，并且被上了脚镣，关在监狱中最黑暗，最寒冷的牢房。然而，他们拒绝让恐怖的环境减少自己的喜乐！他们没有责怪神让这些事发生在他们身上，相反地，他们赞美祂的美善！在黑暗的夜晚，他们祷告、唱诗、赞美神。神施行了一个神迹，他们的锁链都松开，然而，最大的神迹也许是圣灵即使在他们痛苦入监时，仍然充满他们，使他们的喜乐满溢！

不要让困难的事物抵销你作神儿女的喜悦。选择让圣灵以洋溢的喜乐充满你。对那些看你面对试炼的人而言，你的生命会是个神迹。

Choose to Rejoice

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Acts 16:25

Your joy as a Christian should not depend on your circumstances. Joy comes from God, and therefore it cannot be affected by what is outside of you. Don't be fooled into letting the actions of others determine your joy. True joy comes from knowing that God Himself lives within you and has fellowship with you, regardless of your environment. Real joy lies in the knowledge that holy God has completely forgiven you of every sin, and even now, He has a home prepared in heaven where you can spend eternity with Him (John 14:3). The circumstances of your life cannot change these truths!

Paul and Silas faced some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. They were falsely accused, arrested, and imprisoned. They were beaten and shackled in the darkest, coldest section of the prison. But they refused to allow their horrific situation to dampen their joy! They did not blame God for allowing these things to happen to them. Instead, they praised Him for His goodness! In the darkness of the night, they prayed and they sang. God brought a miracle that released them from their chains, but perhaps the greater miracle was that His Holy Spirit could so fill them that even in their painful imprisonment they could overflow with joy!

Do not allow difficult events to cancel the joy of knowing you are a child of God. Choose to allow God's Spirit to fill you with His unquenchable joy, and your life will be a miracle to those who watch you face the trials that come.

7月6日（星期三）- 标题：**转向神**

经节：所以你要对以色列人说，万军之耶和华如此说：你们要转向我，我就转向你们。这是万军之耶和华说的。（撒迦利亚书一章3节）

神要让我们成为什么样的人，取决于我们对祂的反应。如果我们远离神，祂要我们回转向祂。神应许，如果我们转向祂，祂就马上更新祂与我们的关系。雅各书四章8节告诉我们，如果我们亲近神，祂就必亲近我们。马太福音七章7节保证，如果我们寻找基督，寻找就必寻见。基督徒的生活主要在于对神的回应，和我们想要完全经历神的渴望。

为什么有些基督徒似乎比其他人更深地与神同行？为什么有些人的代祷力量，能够改变国家的措施？为什么神选择去膏抹一些人所说的话，因此当他们说话、祷告或讲道时，很明显地他们的话语就被神膏抹成圣？这是因为这些人下定决心，执意要追求神，直到在生活中真实体验祂大能的同在。他们决心不以偶有神的同时在为满足，神尊重他的渴望。

你是否满足于现在与神的关系？还是你渴望与祂建立更深的关系？与神相交，不要满足于那种被罪所败坏、没有圣灵大能的关系。那历世历代的圣徒所拥有神大能的同在，正等着你去掘取！回转向神吧！如果你回转向神，会发现有许多宝藏等着你。祂等着你的回应。

Return to God

Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Return to Me," says the LORD of hosts, "and I will return to you." Zechariah 1:3 (NKJV)

God places much of the burden of what we will become on our response to Him. If we have drifted from God, His call is to return to Him. God promises that if we will return, He will immediately renew His relationship with us. James 4:8 promises that if we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. Matthew 7:7 guarantees that if we seek Christ, we will find Him. Much of the Christian life rests upon our response and our desire to experience God to the fullest.

Why is it that some Christians seem to go so much deeper in their walk with God than others? Why have some had such powerful intercessory prayer ministries that have changed the courses of nations? Why has God chosen to anoint the words of some so that, when they speak or pray or preach, it is obvious that their words are consecrated by God? It is because these individuals have committed themselves to pursue God until His presence is powerfully real in their lives. They have decided to settle for nothing less than a vibrant relationship with God, and He has honored their desire.

Have you become complacent with your relationship with God, or are you hungering for more? Don't become satisfied with a relationship with God that is broken by sin and void of the power of the Holy Spirit. You have just as much of God's powerful presence available to you as the greatest saint in Christian history! Return to God. There is so much more in store for you if you will return to Him. He awaits your response.

7月7日（星期四）- 标题：**不能坏的冠冕**

经节：岂不知在场上赛跑的都跑，但得奖赏的只有一人？你们也当这样跑，好叫你们得着奖赏。凡较力争胜的，诸事都有节制，他们不过是要得能坏的冠冕；我们却是要得不能坏的冠冕。（哥林多前书九章24~25节）

运动员通常比普通人更奋力发展自己的潜能。他们努力控制自己的肉体与意志力，盼能一鸣惊人，得到奖赏。当其他人回家休息，运动员继续锻炼自己。当其他人体贴肉体，享受安舒的时候，运动员则强迫自己直至忍耐的极限。有些人只要表现平庸就心满意足，然而运动员愿为卓越的表现付出任何代价。保罗说，虽然运动员付上最大的努力以得成功，但是他们的成就与奖赏终究被人遗忘。即使是最伟大的运动员，其成就也不会持续到永恒。

倘若运动员愿为那会朽坏的奖赏竭尽全力，那么基督徒愿为那不朽坏的奖赏，付上多少代价呢？倘若运动员肯日复一日、为荣耀与他人的赞赏而努力不懈，那么基督徒得付上多少努力，才能换得恩主一声嘉许：「做得好」？你是否努力让自己的身体也能荣耀神？你是否锻炼自己以神的思想为思想，而不是认同世人的思想？你是否操练自己的祷告生活？你是否在其他人睡觉时，仍然为人代祷？你是否勤奋读经，预备好面对目前生活的挑战？你是否装备自己广传福音，随时可以分享信心？身为基督徒，你是否预备好要得到那不朽坏的冠冕？

An Imperishable Crown

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 1 Corinthians 9:24-25

Athletes are willing to push themselves harder and longer and farther than anyone else. They strive to bring their bodies and minds completely under control so that they excel and receive a prize. Others go home to relax, but athletes continue to train. While most people protect themselves from any form of discomfort, athletes push themselves to the limits of their endurance. While some remain satisfied with mediocre performance, athletes pay any price for excellence. Paul said that despite their most valiant efforts, the athletes' successes and prizes are eventually forgotten. Even the greatest athletic achievements have not affected eternity. If an athlete can be motivated to make incredible sacrifices for a perishable reward, how much more ought Christians to strive for an imperishable one?

If an athlete will labor day after day in order to receive glory from others, how much harder ought Christians to work for the "well done" of their Master? Are you striving to bring your body into subjection for the glory of God? Are you training your mind to think the thoughts of God rather than thoughts of the world? Are you disciplining your life in prayer? When others are sleeping, are you interceding? Have you studied God's word so diligently that you are prepared to find answers to the challenges you face? Have you equipped yourself in evangelism so that you are ready to share your faith? Have you prepared yourself as a Christian in order to qualify for the imperishable crown that awaits you?