

Issue 2

June/July 2020



YouthCross Experience

Christian Magazine

Powerful Sermon by
PASTOR RAVI NAIDOO

Become a
WORSHIP WARRIOR
with **PASTOR DESMOND C**

TESTIMONIES
SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS
MOTIVATIONS
TO ENCOURAGE

Social Issues covered are:
Perfection isn't everything
Understanding True Love

Theme: **TURN TO GOD**

OUR TEAM



Britney Jenine



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Editorial

TURN TO GOD

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Look full, in his wonderful face

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of his glory and grace”

The chorus above is beautiful. It reminds us that there is nothing on this earth that is better, more satisfying and more permanent than Jesus. There is nothing more comforting than seeking Jesus in uncertain times. There is no one else who can provide you with the peace that you need when you are stuck in the middle of a storm. When you face a crossroad, unsure of which path to take, it's Jesus who will guide you in the right way.

I had countless experiences of the intervention of the Holy Spirit in my life as I sought the face of God each and every time. A most recent experience was last year when my dad had a heart attack. Fear had overtaken me. The strength we as a family had only came through Jesus. As scripture says “For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10). The only thing we knew to do was pray and we did whole-heartedly as a family as well as friends. In the midst of the situation that was in front of us, we TURNED TO GOD, we turned our eyes upon Jesus and sought him. God healed my dad and saved his life. In tough situations God is there, He shows up when you call Him! Never forget that! Don't you ever think you are alone going through something. Jesus said “I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

In my personal life I have made tons of mistakes and turned away from God. Be it by my own pride and ego or just out of plain fear I tended to drift from the will of God. God was always there, waiting for me, it was I who was not ready. Until I TURNED TO GOD did I realise how far I had drifted. Only then did I begin to feel that emptiness vanishing and a new filling of the anointing come upon my life. Your life according to the flesh will not satisfy you no matter how hard you try to make it perfect. Even if you

have everything going right but not have Jesus then you will constantly feel that emptiness. There is no pleasure that this world can provide to the flesh that will keep you content. The Spirit of God is the only One who can give you that joy and peace you are searching for. It is only Jesus who can give you that love you so desperately need. He will give you 100% of His attention if you turn your eyes upon Him. “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I urge you today to Turn to God, it doesn't matter how far away from Him you think you are, He is ever ready to accept you. Remember the parable in Luke 15:3-7. Jesus made an illustration of a person having a hundred sheep and losing one. That person leaves the 99 and searches for that one lost sheep and rejoices once he finds it! Likewise when we as sinners lost in our sinful ways turn to God, Jesus rejoices and the heavens sing praises just for you “the one”. It's never too late...He gave His life to have you and is eagerly waiting for you to give Him a chance, let Him into your life so He can have a relationship with you! You are special to Him!

Britney Jenine
Editor-In-Chief



TURN TO GOD

Sermon by Pastor Ravi Naidoo

When we go through difficult times, it is easy to lose sight of our anchor in the Lord. As a young person, you may feel sorry for yourself, become depressed, get angry, become fearful, or wonder if God is still with you, when you face trying situations that put your faith to the test. These are normal emotions that we all experience at some time or the other, however you shouldn't let these feelings get in your way of peace and joy. You need to ask God to help you draw close to him and to put your trust in him, so that you can live a fulfilled life in the Lord. This will be made possible only when you turn to God.

Luke 15: 11-24 speaks of the parable of the prodigal son, which begins with a man who has two sons. The younger son asks his father for his portion of the family estate as an early inheritance. The son then sets off on a lengthy journey to a distant country and begins to spend his fortune lavishly. When the money runs out, a severe famine hits the country and the son finds himself in dreadful circumstances. He takes a job feeding pigs however he grows to be so impoverished that he even longs to eat the food assigned to the pigs. The young man finally comes to his senses, remembering his father. He recognizes his foolishness and decides to return to his father and ask for forgiveness and mercy. The father who has been watching and waiting, receives his son with open arms, love and compassion. He is elated by the return of his lost son. Immediately the father turns to his servants and asks them to prepare an enormous feast in celebration of his son's return.

The question this parable raises for us is, "Am I lost?". So many of us have run away from our Heavenly Father and lost our first love for Him by seeking pleasures in worldly things. Whether in the rush of school with all the work you had to complete or with your friends or whatever it may be, you forgot about God or neglected your relationship with him, God is waiting patiently, with love and compassion to restore you when you return to him with a humble heart. He offers you everything in his kingdom, including a restored relationship with Him when you turn back to Him and He doesn't dwell on your past mistakes.

So how do you identify with this story? Are you the rebellious son who has strayed far from God? Are you a sinner seeking salvation and love from the Father? Are you standing on the side-lines, wondering how the Father could ever forgive you? Have you hit rock-bottom, come to your senses, and decided to run to God's open arms of love, compassion and mercy? Well, no matter who you are and how you relate to this story, you will find your answer when you turn to God. His love is the only thing that can satisfy you and bring you back to a place of joy and peace.

2 Chronicles 7:14 says **"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land."** This is especially important during this challenging time that we are all facing regarding the coronavirus. It is particularly imperative for you, as young people, not to lose hope in what God can and will do for you. The future regarding your education may seem unclear and alarming, but God's plan and vision supersedes anything we can see in the natural. He is working on your behalf and in due time, you will see His plan for your education and life falling into place.

God is calling us to Him. When we all repent of our sins and run back to Him, just as the prodigal son returned to his Father, the Lord will surely forgive our sins and rescue us from this pandemic and whatever obstacles each of us faces in our daily lives. My earnest prayer is that during this time of chaos and despair that the world is faced with amidst this serious crisis, you choose to turn to God and let Him change your life in a way that only an encounter with the Almighty Father can.



PASTOR RAVI NAIDOO

Shekinah Temple
South Africa

Love's Old Sweet Song

Sermon by Pastor J.F.Rowlands

Everybody enjoys a real, good love-story! We sit absorbed in a thrilling book, turning over the pages to the tune of some fascinating theme. The eternal triangle again! A beautiful girl, the heroine; a very handsome hero; and the ugly villain! The villain seduces the heroine into his clutches and then she is dramatically rescued by the brave, young hero. And so it goes on until the last chapter, when they get married and live happily ever after!

Most of these stories are imaginary and the characters purely fictitious; but how true is the saying "Truth is stranger than fiction." In the Bible we have a **TRUE LOVE STORY**

with the same characters in action. Satan, the villain, successfully seduces Adam and Eve to disobey God, and Man, God's most beautiful creation is married by sin. When every other attempt had failed, the sinner's Hero, Jesus Christ, rescues fallen humanity at the cost of His Own dear life at Calvary. **The story of this dramatic rescue is the Message of the Christian Gospel.** It is the world's greatest love-story.

Cameo-types of this love-story may be found all through the Scriptures, but none perhaps more thrillingly told than the story of Isaac and Rebekah in Genesis 24. Abraham desires a bride for Isaac, "his only beloved son," and sends Eliezer on a mission to "My country and kindred" (Gen 24:4). As Eliezer went forth to seek a bride for the resurrected Isaac (for had he not risen from the "dead" on Mount Moriah?), so the Holy Spirit is today seeking a Bride for a Resurrected Christ. The Holy Spirit is on a sacred mission to "My country and kindred." Ever since the Holy Spirit's "going forth" on the Day of Pentecost, He has been in ceaseless search of men and women to lead them to Jesus for cleansing and forgiveness of sin.

Coming to the city of Nahor, in Mesopotamia, Eliezer tarried by the "Well of Water" (Gen 24:13). And that is just where the Holy Spirit waits to meet sinners today ... beside **the Well of Eternal Salvation!** As Eliezer stood by the well, Rebekah came out!! The Holy Spirit is here to lead you to Jesus. May some "Rebekah," some sinner, come out! We

must not be afraid, **WE MUST COME OUT!**

Come right out of sin and everything that displeases God. Come out and show that you mean business with God. She was a fair one (Gen. 24:16). God wants all his children to be fair and honest. Far too many nominal Christians have their spiritual complexions darkened by sin. **The Bride of Christ must be transparently fair!** Rebekah went "down" to fill her pitcher. Friend, if you would fill the pitcher of your life at God's Well of Salvation, you must **COME OUT** and **GET DOWN** too! Only by getting down before God can you fill your pitcher!

Eliezer was anxious to take Rebekah home to Isaac without delay! Hallelujah! That glorious Day is soon coming for us too. The Holy Spirit will lead us Home to Jesus! Rebekah's relatives would procrastinate, but Eliezer would not be delayed! "Hinder me not," he says to her mother and brother. Don't let your relatives hinder you from coming to Christ. **Get right with God yourself.** It is your business and nobody else's! Your salvation is not a family business. You must attend to it personally. Rebekah was asked a straight question: "Wilt thou go with this man?" (Gen 24:58). I would ask you the very same straight question: "Will you allow the Holy Spirit to lead you to Jesus?" If you will, this will be **THE HAPPIEST DAY OF YOUR LIFE.** Rebekah was emphatic in her reply. "I will go," she said. Will you dear sinner friend say that. Pronounce those three simple syllables from your heart and you have settled the greatest or all eternal questions. As Rebekah said "Yes" so the camels drew up at her home. Say "Yes" to Jesus and the camels will come to your door, too! The moment you say "Yes" to God's loving invitation, you will commence your "camel ride" Home to meet your Heavenly Isaac. "And Rebekah arose and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man"(Gen 24:61).

A camel ride may be ever so bumpy! But never mind that; it's Homeward bound and we shall soon be There! Marvel not if the world hate you; remember that they hated Jesus before they hated you. And it hated Him without cause, too! (John 12:18,25). "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim 3:12), Never mind the criticisms, the persecutions, or the nagging wife! Hang on tight to your camel and be careful that you don't get "bumped off" before you reach your journey's end. Many Christians have fallen off by the wayside and have failed to gain the promised crown.

Our heroine did not know the way to Isaac, neither did she ask the way. She was led by Eliezer as we must be led by the Holy Spirit. It was towards eventide when Isaac saw the camels coming. Rebekah lifted up her eyes and saw Isaac (Gen 24:64). One of these glorious days **WE SHALL LIFT UP OUR EYES AND SEE JESUS.**

We shall immediately recognise Him by the nail prints in His hands. "When she saw Isaac, she lighted off her camel" (Gen 24:64). Dear friends, when we see Jesus, we shall alight off our camels and say, "Goodbye, camel ... Goodbye, bumps ... Goodbye, persecutions ... Goodbye, misunderstandings." Oh, when we see Jesus we shall say, "Good morning" to Heaven!

The heroes and heroines of our earthly stories don't always live happily "ever after," because they cannot. But we shall live happily with our Heavenly Isaac "for ever after" in eternity! Throughout the endless ages of eternity we shall be living happily with Jesus!

Isaac took Rebekah into his tent as Jesus is going to take us into His Heavenly Mansions. Our Saviour has gone to prepare glorious mansions for them that love Him (John 14:2-3 and 1 Cor. 2:9). What a wonderful day it will be when **WE SHALL SEE HIM FACE TO FACE** and He will introduce us to our eternal Home. Heaven's Wedding Bells will be ringing that day, and Angel Choirs will be singing the only real "Hallelujah Chorus." The hillsides of Glory will echo and re-echo with the joyful strains of "Love's Old Sweet Song." It is said of Isaac in Gen.24:67 – "He loved her." After a hundred, thousand, million years our Heavenly Isaac will be just the same. **He will be loving us throughout the aeons of eternity.** And we shall be loving Him, too!

The villain seeks to frustrate God's purposes being fulfilled in your life. The Holy Spirit is here to lead

you voluntarily to Jesus. Don't listen to the devil as he tries to persuade you otherwise. If you will come out and say "Yes" to God, your sins will all be forgiven, and you will be given power to become a child of God (John 1:12). Your "camel ride" Home to Jesus may commence right now! A journey that will lead you all the way from earth to Glory. It is already eventide and our Isaac will soon be coming over the Starry Fields to fetch His Bride-Church! Are you ready for His Coming? Are your sins forgiven? If YOUR name written in the Lamb's Book of Life? **The Holy Spirit stands at the door of your heart close by the Well of Eternal Salvation.** Will you say "Yes" and believe on the LORD Jesus Christ? If you will ... He will save you **NOW!**



Pastor J.F. Rowlands

**Extracted from: Sermons
from the Sanctuary
Moving Waters_May 1940.**

In dark times
God is my light



Sketch by Leon Abrahams

Sketch by Leon Abrahams



God's got my Back!



Sketch by Leon Abrahams



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GOD AND MUSIC
Become a Warrior through Worship!
Pastor Desmond C

What is worship?

Is it a song?

Is it music?

Is it a beat?

Is it a style?

The answer to the above questions is a huge
NO!!!

A lot of people, churches, musicians and artists have twisted the meaning of true worship. This is the reason why many believers fall along the wayside, they think that worship is going to church and singing songs or putting on Christian music in their homes and cars and singing along is worship. **Worship unto God is a lifestyle.** You bring yourself in total surrender to God, the way you treat one another, the way we talk to each other, the ability to love those that hurt you and persecute you, **THIS IS TRUE WORSHIP.** Worship is selfless it's not about you!!!

In the book of **John 4** it says **“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”** John 4:23 - 24 (NIV)

While as Christians we are so focused on worshipping God in churches and forgetting God in our homes etc. The bible says there is coming a time that it won't matter where you worship but those that worship must do it in spirit and truth. There is a lot that we can learn from this portion of scripture. Your entire life needs to be lived in truth and that is true worship. When we harness the true power of worship we will be known as warriors.

‘After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendour of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: “Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever”.’ 2 Chronicles 20:21 (NIV)

"Worshippers are Warriors"

When you learn how to give God true worship, you can face the Biggest, Strongest Giant in your life and you will come out victorious.

Becoming a True Worshipper is hard but when you do, you become a Great Warrior.

"TRUE WORSHIP IS NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART"

Pastor Desmond C



God and Music

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

What is Praise?

The definition of praise is to gratefully express the goodness of God. When we praise God we rejoice and sing joyfully unto him. It is an act to display admiration to the One who protects and helps us in our daily lives.

Psalm 150

“Praise the LORD.

Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with the timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD.”

What is Worship?

Worship draws you deeper to God. Worship is when you really get personal with God and you lock into him as he locks into you. Worship elevates you to another level in spirituality. In worship you spend time with God. You experience him in a new way.

Psalm 95:6-7

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.”

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YOUR LIFE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE PERFECT!

By Cleo Govender

Are you a perfectionist? Teens today worry a lot about body image, exercising, and getting good grades. Many teens feel that the better they perform in school, the more successful they will be in life. This thinking does make sense, if you get good grades, you will be rewarded with high marks and this prepares you for college. The problem however, is that constantly striving for perfection tends to backfire. It often leads to stress, anxiety and sometimes suicidal thoughts. It also distracts you from your relationship with God. Whenever you are overcome with difficulty, maybe while studying or trying to do a project but failing to understand what is expected of you, just turn to your Heavenly Father. Ask him to help you and put your faith and trust in him.

I remember when I finished college and I was waiting to get placed for inservice, I had just gotten my first interview and I was so scared and nervous because my year end results were not that good. There were 3 other candidates after me and 2 of them would always get the highest marks in the class. As I sat through the interview, I was a bit at ease, the interviewer was really nice to me, and she wasn't looking for the person with the best marks but someone with a good personality and the ability to work well with others.

The bible verse that makes me feel invincible is **Jeremiah 29:11** "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope". God assures us that he has great plans for us and he will never let us down. We just have to believe in him.

Currently with the pressures from social media, you often compare yourself to others, you may feel like you need to dress up and look like someone from Facebook or Instagram or like a celebrity that you admire. You may think that people on social media have perfect lives, however they are just posting what they want us to see...the good. We don't get to

see the bad and ugly. Jesus loves you just the way you are, you don't need to be like him or her, you just need to be you!

Jesus reassures us in **Isaiah 43:4** "Because you are precious in my eyes, and honoured, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life."

So instead of trying to be perfect, just thank God for everything he's given and done for you. Try your best in everything you do, however if you make a mistake, don't be so hard on yourself. Talk to Jesus and keep his words in your mind, only he can give you the peace and satisfaction that you desire.

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."



"We Are The Change."

By Kimentha Govender

I've always wondered why we learnt history in school, for it bored me beyond measure. Learning about the struggles of others never really touched me when I was younger but when I reached High School I could feel tears forming after reading about the people who sacrificed their lives for change. I guess this is our time. We know about our history. We know from what we have come from. The difference between the previous generations and Generation Z is that **we WILL be the CHANGE that changes everything.** We are at liberty, even though we are not granted it. We voice our opinions through the media, through our cries. And I believe that 2020 is the year we will change it all.

If we can get through this year, we can get through anything. For God does not give us more than we can handle. He is testing our strength. He is here. Living with us. Giving us strength even when we feel like there's no hope left. So we will fight. Racism is just the tipping point of all the chaos in this world. Despite the world dying, we are choosing to risk our lives for a cause our generation was trying to fight for years. We will finish the fight. For we are all made in God's image and we are all equal, what makes us different is the way we think and only we have the power to change our mindset. We can only be the change we wish to see in the world.

It starts with us, and one day we will teach our children. One day when I ask my grandchildren 'What is their race?' I pray that their response is 'There is only one race, the human race'.

#blacklivesmatter #blm



**STOP
RACISM
WE
ARE
ONE
IN GOD'S EYES**

THE TASTE OF EMOTION, CREATES THE APPETITE OF THE SOUL

By Sumeshnee Govender

And so God created Eve neither from the foot of Adam to be below him, nor from his shoulder to be above him. No, but rather from his rib to walk beside him over every obstacle, pass every dilemma and through every storm along the pathway of life.

There is a legend about a bird which sings only once in its life, more beautifully than any other creature on the face of the earth. From the moment it leaves its nest, it searches for a thorn tree, and does not rest until it has found one. Then, it impales its chest on the longest, sharpest thorn. But as it is dying, it rises above its own agony to steal the sensation of the night. The Thornbird pays with its life for that one song, and the whole world stills to listen, and God in his heaven smiles, as it's best is brought only at the cost of great pain; driven to the thorn with no knowledge of the dying to come. But when we press the thorn to our chest, we know, we understand ... and still, we do it."

In Layman's we search our whole lives even unknowingly at times for our one true love, which could also be known as a legend because it's rarely found. We do things unknowingly. Not knowing of the amount of pain in the journey we take on our quest of LOVE. When we do get impaled, we feel the pain and guilt ourselves for starting the quest without knowing the consequences yet we repeat the same journey regardless of past pains, for the simple need of not wanting to exist in the solace of our own emotions.

Ever wonder why people act the way they do or why people change into who they have become currently? Or the biggest question out there does honesty really exist in the reality that is this generation? I know all these questions are ambiguous, but through the trials of my life I have learned that you should never judge a person before walking a mile in their shoes. For they may have faced something in this world failed by many, life!

I may not be best equipped for emotions of the heart. I may not be properly qualified to deal with them. I may not be the wisest in this world of vastly produced geniuses. I may not be the richest or the most

famous, and I am definitely not among the sanest! But I have something of value, something no one can take away from me. I have experience.

I learnt in the face of true love it doesn't matter if you're short or tall, if you have skinny legs or wide hips. It only matters who you are inside. Between you and I, what makes you beautiful cannot be seen. With true love you aren't judged by a section or a part, because what makes you most appealing is your heart. From the very first moment you with be their motivation, their world, their inspiration...their everything. When they are asked to define perfection, you would be their answer. You would be the only thing on their mind from morning's first light to night's last kiss, they would send you cheesy text messages to ensure you know how much they appreciate you.



THE TASTE OF EMOTION, CREATES THE APPETITE OF THE SOUL

Continued...

You know the best things in life take time and patience to develop. If you love a FLOWER don't pick it up. Because if you pick it up it dies and ceases to be what you love. So, if you love something or someone let it be. Love is not about possession. Love is about appreciation! When you love someone, and I mean truly love someone, they become both your greatest weakness and your greatest strength. The older you get, the more you realise how true that statement really is. You realise that it isn't about material things, or pride, or ego. Instead it's about our hearts and who they beat for. I used to say you shouldn't rely on another person to fill the empty spaces in your heart. I used to say you could just be as strong on your own, maybe even stronger. But I was wrong, the way I see it now, some of those empty spaces are only shaped for another person to fill. It doesn't matter how much you love yourself or how confident you are, in the end you can't hold yourself while you cry. You can't roll over and hug yourself to fall back to sleep after a bad dream. Life is about love and I now believe that love is meant to be shared.

Honestly nothing beats finding someone in life, someone who knows all of your flaws and mistakes and weaknesses, and still thinks you're completely amazing. I believe love is a meeting of two souls fully accepting the dark and the light within each other.

And if fate deemed them worthy at heart, they would be united as one.

I would like to leave you in thought among the words uttered by someone I call a Hero. Nelson Mandela often said: "we are not born hating one another because of race or colour and if we can learn to hate, we can be taught to love. For love comes more naturally to the human heart..."

In retrospect the probability of possible outcomes are endless and mesmerizing to the human thought capacity in terms of love that is. Our God can make the impossible possible! Why do you think that is so? Simply because "God is LOVE."

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

For love finds those who are pure of heart,
Seeks those who are incomplete in soul,
And chooses those who choose love above all else

SHEKINAH PULSE

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JUDGING OTHERS

By Bradley Moonsamy



Hello there! To all you fantastic youth. I know people's back-story, I would like to enlighten you on a topic I feel everyone should hear about. The topic I'm talking about is on judging others. Firstly maybe that person you called "druggie" goes what does it mean to judge a person? The logical term to judge someone means to home to a dysfunctional family or that girl you labelled as form a conclusion or opinion about a person. From my perspective judging people leads to a "prostitute" never had a dad or mom to gossipping and gossipping leads to many teach her how to behave. Instead of trying to problems especially in a teenager's life - sometimes even to teen deaths. It is wrong to find out their problems we decided to judge and ridicule them. Instead of bad-mouthing judge somebody without knowing their stories, get to know them, try and help them - you will feel much better. I'll leave you with these scriptures:

one of them being (Matthew 7:1) Christ said, **"judge not, that you be not judged"**. In our world, we have plenty of people who judge others for wrongs but forgot the wrong that they themselves do. Before judging others, people should make sure their lives are perfect and as we know no one is perfect. It is human to error and we rectify our mistakes, so I ask you then, why is it that we judge people despite being in wrong ourselves?

There's a word for such people and it's called "hypocrite". There are many who suit this word...though it's sad to say. The scripture says **"why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye, and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye"** (Matthew 7:3). The reason I say this is because of judging people many innocent lose their lives especially to suicide. I ask you to be careful who you judge, we don't

Luke 6:31-36 "Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Don't judge but help be the change!

The Blood of Jesus (Part 1)

What does it mean to Plead the Blood?

We often hear this line that we should “Plead the Blood”, but what does this really mean?

Firstly, the definition of “Plead” according to the court of law is to argue a case or cause. This term is not used to beg but to defend.

Secondly, the Blood of Jesus is the evidence we need to defend ourselves against every accusation thrown at us from the accuser who is Satan.

Revelation 12:10-11 says “Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony”...

Each and every one of us is fighting a spiritual enemy who is Satan. He doesn't miss an opportunity to bring you down before God but because of Jesus and the blood He has shed on the cross we have received mercy and pardon from our sins. It is the blood of Jesus which stands as evidence to prove our innocence.

Satan will come against you and remind you of your past, he will remind you of the sins you committed and he will make it seem like you can never be forgiven. He will torture you mentally and lead your life down the wrong path which will take you directly to hell. But the Blood of Jesus trumps all of that. The Blood says that your past is over, you are made new in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”)

The Blood says you are forgiven. When the opposition raises its voice against you believe with all your heart that the Blood of Jesus has cleaned out your record of wrongs and has given you a new life. (**Ephesians 1:7-8** “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us.”)

The Blood protects, delivers and sanctifies you. It covers you so that you are presented holy before God.


Plead the Blood of Jesus as this is your defence weapon against the accuser.

The importance of Reverence

To have reverence is to have respect. This is vital in the presence of God. Hebrews 12:28 says "Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe..." When in church or any gathering, when someone is praying, you ought to bow your head and close your eyes out of respect for God. You should not be making jokes nor should you be looking around. This grieves the Holy Spirit and prevents the move of God. There is one sin in the bible which cannot be forgiven and that is sinning against the Holy Spirit. Matthew 12:31 "And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven." When you don't respect God, you grieve the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:29-32 "Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you. And do not make God's Holy Spirit sad; for the Spirit is God's mark of ownership on you, a guarantee that the Day will come when God will set you free. Get rid of all bitterness, passion, and anger. No more shouting or insults, no more hateful feelings of any sort. In-

stead, be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ."

Reverence equals to the Fear of the Lord. This fear is not to make us afraid but it is a fear showing deep respect and total submission to God. We as believers ought to carry out our lives in a manner that pleases God. If one calls themselves a Christian then one should act like one. Remember that Christianity is Christ in you. It is not a religion but a relationship. So how can you show disrespect to someone you love and who loves you unconditionally? Let's make a change brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us adopt the attitude of reverence and not falter in acknowledging the Sovereign God we serve. He knows and sees everything so let us live our lives in the fear of the Lord and the obedience of His Word that we may grow closer to Him and know Him more.



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WORD OF GOD

*Have you ever wondered why you should read
God's word?*

*Have you ever heard someone say that God's word
changed their life?*

Do you wonder what that meant?

How could reading words on a page change someone's life? It can be really easy to not put much importance in God's word, however, God's word is an awesome tool that has the power to shape and change one's attitude, actions and desires. Following Jesus does not mean we will have a carefree life, in fact, He clearly tells us that we will have trouble in the world. Trouble takes on different forms for us at different times in our life. The Devil will be on attack; he does not like us to follow Jesus and will do everything in his power to divert our attention and our affections away from God.

Matthew 4:4 says, "But he answered and said, it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God".

As believers we must be minded, watchful and aware that spiritual battles are alive and real, it is not of this world so we cannot fight with weapons of this world. We prepare ourselves with the armor of God, His presence and His Word, these are the weapons we use to fight against evil. The good news is that we are not alone in this battle. God has given us the tools to fight against attacks, and He never leaves us to fight alone. His word is the ultimate weapon to fight!

So if God's words are so powerful and have the ability to change lives, how do we get them into us? Think about it like food, food is something you make time for every day. Usually 3 times a day or more,

morning, lunch, and night, so there is a set time you eat each day- even at school.

The same is true with God's Word. There should be a set time each day to spend with God. It can be any-time, at night, before bed, when you wake up, or even at school on your break.

The key is to find and make time in your day for God's Word and keep it consistent!



Above my Situation!

By Britney Jenine

In such a time like this, when our world is facing a pandemic and our lives are constantly at risk, we tend to stand in the line between faith and fear. Its only human to do so, I mean there is nothing wrong with being afraid once in a while. That's when you know your in a vulnerable position and there are some things in life which you cannot control. There is one person who can control everything. A person who is Omnipotent. Who's name is Healer and Deliverer. Who is Protector and Defender. That is God!

God is Faith over Fear, Victory over Defeat, Beginning and the End—the Author and Finisher of our Faith. He is the One who has the Power and Authority and has given us that dominion over the enemy and his schemes through Christ Jesus, His Son!

He is a Miracle Working God! A God who makes a way when you see no way out. He is a God who is “Above my Situation”!!!

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us remember the God we serve in our tough times. He has never and will never fail us. **Romans 8:34-37** says ‘**Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**’ As long as God still sits on the throne and Christ Jesus at His right hand we shall overcome any situation life throws at us. We need to surrender it all over to God and exercise our authority in Christ Jesus. He is the One who fights for us! He is the One who helps us rise Above our Situation. Yes, I know that sometimes it is difficult to let go

and trust God, but it is only when we do so that God can work in our lives. When there is more than one person trying to fix something, chaos is bound to happen but when we allow the more experienced person to do the fixing then the results are miraculous.

Meditate and declare God's Word over your life and situation. There is nothing that God cannot do. Learn to get radical in praise and worship. This is where the battlefield is. Speaking God's Word is your Sword of the Spirit countering every attack of the enemy over your life. Praise and Worship pushes you forward in battle. It allows you to advance - conquering the enemy's territory. Prayer is your grenade. When you pray and that prayer is answered, it's like a grenade went off in the enemy's camp. It stops the enemy in his tracks...it sends him back to the drawing board to try another tactic but God once again will destroy his plans and give you the victory!

Persevere in tough times. Don't give up easily, don't you dare throw in the towel! You are not alone. **Psalm 34:7** says “**The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.**” Jesus is always with you, He watches over you. He prevents the enemy from stepping in and attacking you. So don't you ever think you are facing anything on your own. Talk to God. He is ever ready to listen to you, even if no one else is. He always shows up on time, remember that.

Believe that God is Above your Situation, and practice some raw faith in tough times. The King of Kings will always see you through.



I come from generations of Christians and grew up on a strong and firm foundation when it comes to Christianity. I learnt giving offering and tithes is very important and no matter how financially strained I can be at times my first priority was to take my tithes out first. As a very young adult I started working and wasn't earning very much at the time but every week that I got paid I always took my tithes out not having enough for anything else let alone my carfares but I believed what belonged to God should be given and I should not steal what's God's. I had faith and trusted God will see me through the next week and He always did. I was very unhappy in my job and it was very far for me to travel also taking into account that I needed separate money for my weekend travel to work as there were no lift clubs running over the weekend. I used to be physically and emotionally drained I used to go home every af-

ternoons being so depressed. It wasn't a good environment to work in. I remember my mother telling me one day not to give up to keep praying for the dream job I want and told me to be specific in prayer, she told me to write down what I wanted in a job the exact desk, the chair basically everything I could picture from the phone to the walls and I did write it down and placed it in my Bible and prayed every day and night. It was one night I decided I couldn't go back to my job because I had no transportation. I was unemployed for a couple of months and up till now it still amazes me, the last pay I received I still paid my tithes and trusted God to open another door for me. Months went by and God stretched that money until I found something else. As long as my tithes were paid God made sure I never ran short of nothing! Money meant nothing to God but faithfulness did. The next job I got was everything I had written in the letter and much more! Not only did I get double of what I was previously earning but I found great favour with the boss. I now look forward to going to work.

My advice to many young adults out there stressing about not getting a job, remember it's not about the degrees you have or not even about the contacts you have but all about God. He is our biggest contact and the biggest degree we can ever have. All we need is to have faith, be specific in prayer and believe if He can do it for me He can do it for you too.

Testimony by Shannon Pillay

This testimony is not necessarily amazing or mind blowing, but who says that every testimony has to be? Everyone's testimony is special to them. And this is how my family found Christ. My mother and two brothers, along with me, grew up being Christian, but it was one of those cases where we were just brought up that way and that it wasn't really our choice. I never really understood what it was to be a Christian, and neither did my family. We sort of just went along with other people because we believed that God existed. My dad, on the other hand, was Tamil his whole life.

There came a time when in 2012, that he actually started coming into the church, when he dropped us off, but only to sit there until the service was done. And we would constantly hope he listened to the Word, or that something spoke to him. Eventually, for some reason, we all stopped going to church. There was no real reason, maybe it was because my dad worked on the weekend and he couldn't give us a lift, but we eventually just stopped. Even though we stopped going to church, for some reason my dad stopped his religious practices or going for prayers, which he did on a regular basis.

For 3 years we stopped going to church, until something happened. In 2015, we found out my dad had some illness called thrombosis, which is basically a blood clot in your vein, and he had this in his leg. Early one morning, around 1 or 2 in the morning, it was literally unbearable. I have never heard a grown man scream and cry the way he did. Naturally, the

worst thoughts came to mind, so we started praying. We knew we needed help from God, because even though we weren't dedicated

Christians, we knew that God

is our only healer. We all prayed and prayed, but my dad's pain just got worse and worse. So we had to take him to the hospital immediately. My mom needed to pack, so she told my dad to pray. Obviously this was just a suggestion, considering he was still Tamil. But he prayed. All he said was "Jesus, help me" and the pain gradually went away. Right then and there, my dad believed in Jesus, and he eventually gave his life to Christ. He got baptised the same year and so did we.

And, yes, this was his testimony, but it brought my whole family to Christ once again.



Motivation by Emily Andrew

“I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.” 1 John 2:14

What could be the most difficult period of life? Infancy, childhood or old age? Each of these chapters of human life presents with its own challenges, but one could argue that none could compare with the challenges of youth. It can be a frustrating time; you may feel at odds with everyone from your parents to yourself, not to mention trying to overcome the various temptations that scourge the youth of today plus many other forms of adversity. Considering these things, it can be easy to feel alone, fearful and overwhelmed.

What’s important to remember is that God loves you, no matter what. No mistake could change His love for you. Youth are valuable to God, as we see all



through Scripture the confidence that He places in them. One example is Joseph who was sold as a slave when he was only 17 years old. It could not have been easy to be young and alone in the land of Egypt away from everyone and everything he knew but as we read further on through scripture, we see Joseph held fast to his morals when he refused the attempts of Potiphar’s wife to seduce him saying “How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9). He held fast to his

faith in God and as we read further on, we see that even though he was so young, God had a plan for his life and despite the evil intents of his brothers, God used all that happened to him for good (Genesis 50:20), using his life in a powerful way to save the

Hebrew people.

Miriam the sister of Moses being as young as ten or twelve, kept watch over her brother as he travelled down the Nile as a baby in a papyrus basket, ensuring that no harm would come to him. She watched over him until he found safety. Moses went on to lead the Israelites to freedom; this could not have happened if harm had come to him when he was on the Nile. Do you see how the entire future of God’s people was entrusted to a young girl?

Perhaps the most famous example is David, who, when the older and stronger Israelite soldiers were paralyzed with fear at the sight of Goliath, held fast to his faith in God, and being armed with no more than a slingshot and a stone, defeated the giant Goliath, giving victory to the Israelite army. David who later became the king of Israel, should show you the immense value that The Lord places in His youth.

Another example is Josiah who became king at the young age of 8 years old, he began to seek God at the age of 16 and when he was just 20 years old, he made plans to rid his kingdom of idolatry. Scripture mentions that **“Josiah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left” (2 Kings 22:2)** meaning that Josiah remained a faithful servant and did not allow himself to become corrupt.

If there is anything to take away from the youth of the Bible mentioned above, it is that God does not view the youth as society views them, to Him those who are young have great potential and important roles in His great plan. We as youth should be made bold by this fact and allow our faith to be strengthened by a God so great, He leaves not even one behind!

POWER VERSES



By Hope Pillay

Psalm 118:8

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.

2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

The end of the matter, all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in to him and eat with him and he with me.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy, I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Mark 10:51-52

Jesus said to him "What do you want me to do for you and the blind man said to him, Rabbi let me recover my sight and Jesus said to him, "go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Covid - 19 by sameeha khan

It was all that we heard
leaving world leaders perplexed and scared.
Scrambling desperately to stop its spread
An invisible virus wreaking havoc and dread.

Life as we knew it came to a halt
Forcing us to re-evaluate all that we thought
important and worthy and worth the stress
showing us what we have done to leave the world in such a mess.

We closed our doors but opened our eyes.
this tiny virus has made us wise.
We learnt to live without take aways, shopping sprees, movies out
with friends
practicing social distancing
hoping this pandemic would end.

Princes and presidents- no one was spared
Go outside, only if you dared.
We learnt to value what truly mattered instead
This virus having left many dead.

So let us join hands and spread compassion and love, look after
nature as blessings from above
Let these lessons not be in vain
after all the calamity and agonising pain.



There's a rebel in my soul

**O my soul, o my soul
There's a rebel in my soul
Against this world, against such pain
O' the storms pouring rain
Take away all unrest;
Too much sin I cannot bear
And the thought of knowing what means blest
I figured it was.**

**Blest was life -
things your money cannot buy
Things you can't obtain on your own
So what is it o my soul?
What's the cry about? Why are you aching?
Why are you broken?
Is not your trust in God? Will He ever fail you?**

**There's a rebel in my soul
Against violence, crime altogether.
Mixing all together the wavering way of life
O my soul, o my soul
Be glad and rejoice
For the struggle is not over.**

The Word is Alive

Bible Stories

The Story of Jonah

Jonah 1 & 2

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish." Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land."

This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.) The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?" "Pick me up and throw

me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. Then they cried to the LORD, "O LORD, please do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O LORD, have done as you pleased." Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him. But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said:

"In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me.

"In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me.

The Word is Alive

Bible Stories

From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,

and you listened to my cry.

You hurled me into the depths,

into the very heart of the seas,

and the currents swirled about me;

all your waves and breakers

swept over me.

I said, 'I have been banished

from your sight;

yet I will look again

toward your holy temple.'

The engulfing waters threatened me,

the deep surrounded me;

seaweed was wrapped around my head.

To the roots of the mountains I sank down;

the earth beneath barred me in forever.

But you, Lord my God,

brought my life up from the pit.

"When my life was ebbing away,

I remembered you, Lord,

and my prayer rose to you,

to your holy temple.

"Those who cling to worthless idols

turn away from God's love for them.

But I, with shouts of grateful praise,

will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good.

I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'"

And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all

of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

The Word is Alive

Bible Stories

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus Walks on the Water

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

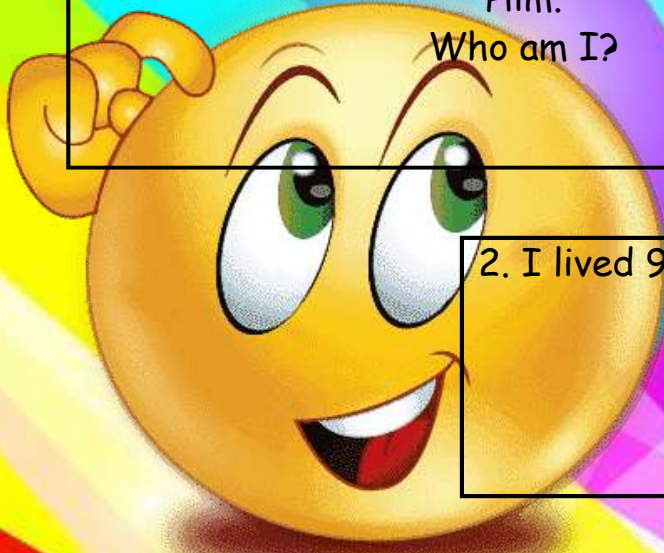
"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Guess the Bible Character

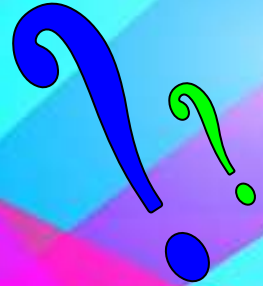
1. I had a barren womb and was constantly mocked by my husband's other wife. I prayed and God gave me a son who I gave back to Him.
Who am I?



2. I lived 969 years and am regarded as the oldest man in the bible. I died in the year of the flood.
Who am I?



3. I prophesied a drought, it came. I prayed for fire from heaven, it came. I prayed for rain, it came. I ran faster than a chariot. I didn't die but was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot with fiery horses in a whirlwind. Who am I?



4. I was the first apostle to perform a miracle after Pentecost. I used to be a fisherman.
Who am I?



5. I am the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. I was baptising in the Jordan river preparing the way for Jesus.
Who am I?

6. I lost everything yet still remained faithful to God, God restored all that I had lost and healed me completely.
Who am I?



Delicious and Super-fast *Meals*

Recipe for:

Butter Chicken

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 medium onion (diced)
- 1 teaspoon fresh ginger (finely minced or grated or use paste)
- 2-3 cloves garlic (finely minced or crushed)
- 1 ½ pounds about 2-3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into ¾-inch chunks
- 1 can 6 oz. tomato paste (or 8-10 oz can of tomato sauce)
- 1 tablespoon garam masala
- 1 teaspoon chili powder or paprika (adjust to taste)
- 1 teaspoon Fenugreek (seeds, powder or mustard seeds) optional
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1 cup heavy cream sub for half & half or yogurt for low fat
- Hot cooked rice or naan for serving

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Heat a large skillet or medium saucepan over medium-high heat.
- Add the oil, butter, onions and cook onions down until lightly golden for about 3-4 minutes.
- Add ginger and garlic and let cook for 30 seconds and keep stirring so it doesn't burn.
- Add the chicken, tomato paste, and spices. Let it cook for 5-6 minutes or until everything is cooked through.
- Add the heavy cream and simmer for 8-10 minutes while stirring occasionally.
- Serve over Basmati rice or with naan.



Recipe for: Linguine

INGREDIENTS:

(For 2)

- 2 large red onions (thinly sliced)
- 2 teaspoon garlic (minced)
- 115 g tomato paste
- 200 ml cream
- 3 or 4 thyme sprigs
- Grated Parmesan
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- Olive oil
- Linguine (sufficient for 2 servings, about half a packet), cooked in briskly boiling water, and drained



INSTRUCTIONS:

- Slice the onions and sauté in olive oil on a low heat, stirring, allowing them to caramelize and the sweetness of the onion to develop.
- Add garlic, tomato paste and thyme and braise with the onions.
- Braising tomato paste cuts the acidity.
- If you prefer more sweetness, sprinkle in a little sugar and braise for a minute or two.
- Add the cream and stir.
- While stirring season with salt and pepper and simmer for a few minutes.
- Then remove from the heat.
- Drain the cooked linguine, reserving a tablespoon of the pasta water.
- Toss the linguine in the sauce, and add the spoonful of pasta water.
- Serve immediately with grated parmesan.



Kaylin Joash George

Q & A

Q: Why does God let bad things happen? And how do we know He exists?

A: I'm sure many of us have asked these questions at some point in our lives - myself included. Let's take a step back and look at ourselves, our very being. Can you begin to understand how your intricate organs work? Each microscopic cell doing its own purpose in your body, from cellular networks, absorption of food, neurological synapses... the processes that take place in our bodies are endless. In fact doctors have been studying for centuries on end and still have not to date come to know everything about the human body. Now with that in mind, think about how much thought must have gone into creating each of us. **Psalm 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands"**. Who else could have done this besides an Awesome Great Almighty God? Creation itself is proof that there is a God! God doesn't make mistakes. He's deliberate and purposeful. He doesn't just do things for nothing either (Isaiah 55:11) and if scientists haven't figured out everything by now, what makes us think that we ever will?

Our minds are intricate and filled with knowledge but still cannot come to understand the greatness of God, nor fathom the rationale of His works even though Mankind has come a long way trying to do such but to no avail. **Job 11:7 "Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty?"** God reveals Himself to us through His Word, the Bible. It is a spirit-filled, God-breathed living word. In reading it,

through the Holy Spirit we see God depicts Himself as a Father. Now, I don't know about you, but My Father is one amazing man. He is full of wise words, he can fix almost anything and we share lots of laughs together even though he's also very strict when he has to be, but most of all - he loves me more than anything and always wants the best for me. Having said all these things about my earthly father can you begin to imagine the attributes of our Glorious Heavenly Father? He is all that and so much more. Just like a father, God wants us to always come to Him with our problems. He is there for us in good times and in bad times. Fathers allow us to make mistakes in order to grow, learn and develop. Likewise, God doesn't force us to love Him or worship Him. He has given us free will so we can decide for ourselves. But our decision doesn't change His unconditional love for us. He doesn't make everything disappear when we experience tough situations and hurt - although he could possibly do that if He Willed! Instead He comforts us and gives us peace and the reassurance that no matter what situation or circumstance we face, we can hold onto our faith in Him that He is steadfast and will give us all that we need to endure and ultimately grow spiritually. Look at Job in the bible, he was an upright, faithful man who walked in the ways of the Lord, yet Job was put through so much agony.

Q & A

His children all died, he lost all his wealth - he was quite rich mind you, and he was plagued by disease but weirdly he still loved God and never wavered in his faith. **Job 13:15** “**Though He slay me, yet will I trust him**” Job held onto the fact that God is who he says HE IS and Job knew that the same God that made day - all sunshine and roses, also made night - darkness but with the stars and the moon. Job knew that God would never let him down. So he held onto his faith.

Let me share this quick story with you:

A woman went to the dentist to repair a sore tooth. Upon completion of the dental procedure, the woman was thrilled that all was well and thanked God. The dentist responded by saying to the woman; “I am the one that helped you, yet you thank God? I do not believe in God. If there was a God then there would not be so much of bad in the world.” The woman remained quiet and shortly replied “Well then I don’t believe in dentists.” The dentist was upset and said “What are you saying? You have just come to me to be helped!” The woman smirked and said “Well, if dentists exist there wouldn’t be people with bad teeth.” The dentist exclaimed “Well I can’t help those that don’t come to me.” The woman smiled and said “Likewise God can’t help those that don’t come to Him.”

God doesn’t bulldoze His way into our lives and hearts, He is patient and kind and waits for us to come to Him. **Revelation 3:20** “**Behold I stand at the door and knock,**”

Yes bad things happen in the world, and we

may not have answers or understand the reasons for them. But who are we to question God and His masterplan? **Jeremiah 29:11** “**For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper and not harm, plans to give you hope and a future**”

We can stand firm in our faith, even when at times we feel like we may battle, God still remains faithful. He will never let us down, We need to just trust Him that He knows best and wants to give us the best.



If you have any questions you would like answers to, feel free to write to us via whatsapp or email. Your questions will remain anonymous. If they are too personal or controversial it will not be published in this magazine but we will try our best to give the answer directly to you. - Britney Jenine

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