

DECEMBER 2021

vol. 6 #10

FOCUS TODAY

a devotional



...LIVING GODLY DAILY!

FOREWORD

Every day we get the privilege to see, is a priceless and one-time gift. We are offered blank cheques and limitless opportunities to gain maximally or lose regrettably. Life comes with daily pressures that sufficiently drain the vital potentials from us. Painfully still, amidst the exhaustions that characterizes our routine, we get to miss out of a priority which counts the most, depriving ourselves of that which our lives base on. Since there could never be a better source of replenishing strength and lifelong satisfaction outside drawing from Life Himself, learning to focus on Him every day remains wisest for us.

On a collection of inspired words that bless my heart daily, strengthening my focus on Christ Jesus, I urge you, fellow pilgrims, to keep up the focus. Our redemption is so much closer now than when we first believed; if we ever needed to stay focused, it is now. May our faiths, like glowing splints, continue to blossom and grow deeper into Him. May our hearts continue to seek Him. May our eyes continue to fix on Him. May our lives continue to express Him.

E. A. Faith

INTRODUCTION

We give praise to the God of heaven and earth, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and giver of the Holy Spirit, Who by His grace has made us to be partakers of great heavenly blessings.

This month, we'll have our focus on the revelation of the Lord—That we may see Him.

It is my pleasure to have you on this page, and in this month, praying that the Lord bless you, and make your daily walk with Him godlier than before. God bless you!

Deep appreciation goes to all who have been so present for the Lord's use in this view; editing team, sharing, praying, and so on. God's blessing again.

Another Beloved,

Adeyemi Michael Adetunji

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All Scriptures quoted from The Holy Bible, New King James Version, unless otherwise stated.

THE ACTS OF PAUL?

Wednesday, December 1, 2021.

Acts 28

LESSON: *Hurray! It's December, the last month! And there is surely this rejoicing in the heart like one is younger. The month of December always brings childhood memories anyways, the gifting, holidays and all. Here, we have a not diverse truth to share but a troubling one. Why is it troubling? It is, because there exists no such or very less of such today (in the present generation). I stand to say that the Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles was not limited or ended, as it is one or the only book even without a closure, or ending remarks. And one of the chapters (28), I concluded to be the Acts of Paul.*

Well, even though Paul had a large portion in the Book of the Acts, we cannot say the whole book was for Paul, but, in this chapter when read well, we would see Paul fulfil a great deal of what the Lord said of 'These Signs' (Mark 16:17–18).

In this chapter of the Acts (please check, read chapter 28), you will see that there was the evidence of God in a man. Paul, the only man who was challenged of being a god on very two occasions. Brother Saul, that was his first Christian name as Ananias called him, but he became Apostle Paul, one sent to the ends of the earth. By Paul alone was the Scripture expounded the most. Not even by Moses or Abraham or the enslaved Israel scattered abroad, but Paul. Read the Acts of Paul!

Prayer: O Lord, give me a heart for You this month and beyond, in the name of Jesus!

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The Acts of Paul is a challenge to our generation; what our stand is, where we are going, what we are doing... This could be rephrased as questions though.

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Bible in One Year: Ezekiel 40–41; 2Peter 3

GIVE US A KING!

Thursday, December 2, 2021.

1Samuel 8:6–7

LESSON: *Since November we have been taking a study on the life of king Saul (OT). We started with 'Saul, a Priest?', then 'Victory From The Lord, I Take Vengeance, My Battle, The Failing King, This Won't Happen!, A Regret' amongst other. And the last one came in the last day of the month, 'Gone Too Soon!' What a lamentable and tragic tragedy. Well, it all started with a process. And from this start, I could see that men could be the destruction of another soul. Men's request, cunning or selfish-flesh request, could be a danger to another innocent soul or souls.*

“But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” So Samuel prayed to the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.”

'Give us a king!', they cried. And to them the king came, but to their both destructions. Nonetheless, the soul of the king, who knows, it was destroyed –the third agenda of Satan (John 10:10). When men walk in permissive requests, presumptuous sins they would become, and though the permissive request is given, it is yet sin.

Prayer: Father, help me not to force my will, but Your will be made in me, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

How we have either installed or have become kings ourselves in place of God; our everyday pride and rebellion is becoming like Saul's. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Ezekiel 42–44; 1John 1

AND THESE SIGNS...

Friday, December 3, 2021.

Mark 16:17–18

LESSON: *It was a deep shock to me that day on the pew as I took an emergency Bible Reading, only to see a very naked image of... It was that Acts of Paul, Acts 28. And it was a buzz of blasts on my spiritual being. I was so elucidated to see that this one man fulfilled almost all, or perhaps all of what Jesus stated to the disciples, the signs of a believer. In one Chapter, Paul accomplished all.*

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

And in about thirty and one verses of the chapter 28 of Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles, I saw nonetheless all fulfilled. These signs..., a man of God would say, you are not fulfilling them in heaven or in the new earth, this is where you need them. Don't be overshadowed with signs anyway, but let your soul be involved for God. Permit me to charge that 'The signs that you bear will tell most of your faith'.

Prayer: I pray Lord, that the power of the Holy Spirit be manifest in me, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

Signs are announcers, the evidences of the so shining light, see Acts 28. Know also that love is a sign too. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Ezekiel 45–46; 1John 2

AND THESE SIGNS...

Saturday, December 4, 2021.

Joshua 2:1

LESSON: *All of the Scriptures, and I say indeed, all of the Scriptures were written for us. So, it is wise that one acknowledges this as quick as it can be. Some would take just one verse and live all of life on it. Nay! The Bible is not a script for dramas but a script for life. So I see lessons, contrasting events that would bring a lot of understanding and divine revelation of divine (spiritual) principles and orders.*

“Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho...”

The graceful thing is that these two men were successful. It sounded like Joshua who was once a spy amidst a group of twelve that Moses sent out, having seen that only two were better off, he sent just two instead of twelve. This had a kind of semblance as when Jesus once sent His disciples two by two to evangelize the kingdom of God (Mark 6:7).

It also brings an understanding of sense to know that in most of the places the Acts mentioned testimonies, they were always in twos... Peter and John (Acts 3:1), Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:7), Paul and Apollos (Acts 19), Paul and Silas (Acts 16:25) etc. No wonder we see two witnesses come from heaven, the order in the Revelation of John (Revelation 11).

Confession: I have received the grace of my Lord Jesus Christ, to be worthy of His mission. Amen!

FOCUS TODAY

Here is wisdom, two will always be better, better. This Solomon discovered. Solomon himself nevertheless did not understand the mystery. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Ezekiel 47–48; 1John 3

ON THE SABBATH

Sunday, December 5, 2021.

Revelation 1:10–11

LESSON: *It happened just like today, that, I do not know whether Jesus always purposely reserved His miraculous works till the Sundays, Lord's day or Sabbath. Or, the Gospel writers wrote more of the Sabbath testimonies for our understanding that Jesus is Lord over the Sabbath? And this action wrecked the camp of the Sanhedrin, Pharisees, Sadducees, all priestly levels, scribes and all. How would you get angry or hate for a good work done? Isn't it strictly wickedness? Like I stated in the beginning, it happened just like today...*

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia..."

As it happened that day on the Island of Patmos, apostle John, being exiled there after refusing to die by wonder, was in spirit. It did not mean that he had not been in spirit all the while. But on the Lord's day being so observed in those times, there was that solemnization of assemblies of people before the Lord, at the temple(s). On the Sabbath... On this day, apostle John saw a translated form of his beloved Lord, on the Lord's Day... The only thing many see is all men dancing.

Prayer: Father, help me to see the Lord! I receive sight to see Jesus today, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

Well, every day is the Lord's Day, but today we take the most... Will or do you plan to see the Lord? #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Daniel 1–2; 1John 4

WHO IS THE LORD? (1)

Monday, December 6, 2021.

Exodus 5:2

LESSON: *A friend of mine some time ago visited a general overseer in whose ministry he presided as a pastor. Having thought to have become familiar with the man of God, he went in to his office like a king with no protocol hindering (because the GO was a very reputable one). Ye, alas, he entered face to face with the confused man of God. Why was he confused? He was expecting my friend to produce a letter of appointment at least to know who he was. And thus the shocking question from the minister: 'Do I know you?' This was the most melting thing that humbled his ego of familiarity. Oh, what a shame! That question can be more humbly asked thus: who are you?*

“And Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.”

At some point, I memorized this verse, because it was so terrible that day, the outcome of that meeting of Moses with his Egyptian cousin, Ramses II (pharaoh). The outcome sent all Israelites to tears, they cried themselves out, how they wished their tears could turn into straws. 'Who is the Lord?' What is your response to that?

Prayer: Lord, help me to know You anew. Teach me Your ways and truth in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

Whether physically you have not been asked, 'Who is the (Your) Lord?' But spiritually you have been asked, when you use the name of the Lord that you are not faithful to in vanity. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Daniel 3–4; 1John 5

TRUST

Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

2Corinthians 7:16

LESSON: *There was a revelational poem written some years ago. This poem was inspired while reading the book of Songs of Solomon, using The Living Bible. The Living Bible presented this book like a script, a drama or acting script. So I had the picture of that young girl of Shulam. And it was coined 'The Shulamite and Solomon'. The poem of which ended in disappointment to her, of which she trusted Solomon, rejecting the warnings of her brothers and others. At the end, she invented the proverb "Do not stir love unless it pleases". The poem ended with this "Love without trust is like ripen but sour grapes".*

"Therefore I rejoice that I have confidence in you in everything."

It couldn't have been so exaggerated though. It was Paul's letters curbed to words for a brother named Titus. In the early verses, he had said Titus was a refreshing agent (I call that refresher). It is just so overwhelming to get not just attracted to or be loved by some notable and worldwide preacher and apostle or even by the Lord, it is the best to be trusted. How do you think you could be more than just a Christian without trust?

Prayer: I refuse to work in the spirit of distrust in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

This is the scenario of trust: a fish in the sea would not wish it was in the trees. And you'd say I trust that fish. Would you be trusted? #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Daniel 5–7; 2John

WHO IS THE LORD? (II)

Wednesday, December 8, 2021.

2Chronicles 32:14–15

LESSON: *In no manner or moral respect did Pharaoh disdain Israel, Moses and their God who left them in slavery all the long years. The history file cannot be taken down or back, all their almost or more than ten generations back had been slaves in Egypt. The request of Moses that very first time appeared like one of an overfed lamb amongst hungry lions. "Who is the Lord that I should let Israel go? Add to their tasks, give them no more straws." Thus was the order of Pharaoh.*

"Who was there among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed that could deliver his people from my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you from my hand? Now therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or persuade you like this, and do not believe him; for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people from my hand or the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you from my hand?"

Throughout this chapter, the boastful question of who is your God?' was all Sennacherib (messenger) depicted. And a wise king such as Hezekiah gave the order, 'Answer him no word'. That is wisdom. Ye, God was God and He spoke for Himself.

Prayer: O Lord God, speak for me today, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

The arms of flesh, chariots and horses deceived and intoxicated Sennacherib against God; the pride that kills men are always not far from what they bare, not who they are. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Daniel 8–10; 3John

LET HIM PRAY!

Thursday, December 9, 2021.

James 5:13–15

LESSON: *Heavy sighs filled the room and its surroundings as if it was a place of voice training. What had happened? Another young one was gone! And, there exist the calamitous epidemic, strolling virally over the country. But, alas, this will not go by, there was that man who knew what Hezekiah, Elijah, Peter, Paul did... He prayed. The prayer of faith at that instant of time wasn't what necessarily raised the dead, it was the prayer of faith done in the faints, the lonely closets. Jesus said: '...in secret will be rewarded (or answered) openly...'*

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

This assurance and education given to the church by James moved mountains. For there is this reasonable and also unreasonable forgetfulness of praying. Thus and thus it was. Oh it is late! 'The question is, before the thus and even after the thus, what were you doing? Please hold to this –pray! Let us pray! Let him pray! Miss, pray! Even sins are forgiven here, in praying.

Prayer: Lord! Teach me to pray, in the name of Jesus!

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If there was one thing one could have thought Jesus not to do, it is praying, but He prayed even the most, every time. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Daniel 11–12; Jude

THIS YOUR GOD (1)

Friday, December 10, 2021.

Joshua 2:11

LESSON: *Hmm, I don't know what guts Sennacherib actually had, what he swallowed that made him so pompous to the Lord God of Israel. Hadn't he heard or read that He is a God that fights for His people though they rebel? The God I Am, Jehovah Yahweh is God, all of all, none of none can stand His majesty because there is none besides Him. This was in the heart of many mighty kingdoms, having heard what the Lord did to the world number one country in military and magical might –Egypt.*

“And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.”

Whosoever had done that recording of this part of Joshua (maybe Joshua himself), I would have carnally thought he oversighted those lines. But that was the reality. Nations melted! With all the might of Egypt, wow, that a whole Egypt had, slaves slipped out of their hand like that. Slaves, not even an army; that could only have been by the power of a God –This your God, the God of Israel, He is God!

Confession: Lord, be God forever in my life, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

Though many rise against you, they brew wickedly, yet they will be at peace because your God is God. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Hosea 1–4; Revelation 1

WHAT PRAYER CAN DO

Saturday, December 11, 2021.

James 5:17–18

LESSON: *One could sometimes get offended with God; nonetheless, this is a life threatening happening that the enemy launches on believers. There comes that time in life, it could be once or more that you just feel like asking God 'Why?' 'God can you answer, why?' But these are just complaints and not requests, not a discussion. Complaints carry this negative remark in them. They could even become offensive and unruly. But when one mentions prayer, prayer is supplication, request, admonition, even praises, thanksgiving.*

“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”

There is actually to no tail end what prayers cannot do, unless there is no God in it –not His will. And there comes the point of truth, one must be a man of God's will, a righteous being. See what the previous verse said... "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (v16). Those hungry and thirsty for righteousness are indeed blessed and shall be filled.

Prayer: I shall not pray in vain. My prayers in the name of Jesus shall not fail.

FOCUS TODAY

If you must/want to be a man of prayer, begin with the prayer of His will; there, righteousness lies. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Hosea 5–8; Revelation 2

THIS YOUR GOD (II)

Sunday, December 12, 2021.

Daniel 3:28–29

LESSON: *To the world, sometimes, you could remain a wonder. Oh, that is when you have exhibited the active power of the Holy Spirit. It came to a static dynamism that the people then exclaimed, 'These are the men who have turned the world upside down!' How? The world is not our dwelling, and its deeds are evil, what or how can it be then seasoned? Turn it around. So we have men who indeed have made exploits, that when foreigners see their patriarchs' impacts, they would tremble, no matter their ranks or authorities.*

“Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him... Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.”

So the intent of God's wonder spread to the world even while His people were slaves or captives. You should get, (it should be said as 'you don't get'). This Your God is too big, too heavy to fathom. That same God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was the God of Acts likewise.

Prayer: In the name of Jesus, I become an active Christian, possessed of the Holy Spirit.

FOCUS TODAY

This Your God cannot be said, but only to those who are of loyal and trusting heart to Him. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Hosea 9–11; Revelation 3

THE CHRISTIAN

Monday, December 13, 2021.

Acts 11:24,26

LESSON: *There is that time when you meet a character, and very well, you would be pushed to report that you have met a human being. The distinction would be wonderful and excellent. This was the life of the Christian of old. I could even count men who were Christians in the Old Testament. Daniel—a keynote alongside his three (Hebrew) brothers, Micaiah the prophet, Hezekiah of Ahab, Habakkuk, Jehoshaphat, Joseph the son of Jacob and so on. These, amongst others have that untraceable nature of being people with God, that men would not doubt see God in them.*

“For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”

This was the report given about one man, whose recorded writing could be patterned to his Lord's in Acts 10:38. He was a good man full of the Holy Spirit. By his exploit, Saul of Tarsus, also named Paul of Christ, grew into a giant of faith. Perhaps by his exploit again, the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch, his location. May be, not his exploit alone, but his presence in any place added a great deal.

Prayer: O God, give us good Christians, give us men after Your word in the name of Jesus! Make me a man after Your will.

FOCUS TODAY

Even if you are found in a deserted place, the dryness should be able to feel Christ in you and yearn for hope—the Christian. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Hosea 12–14; Revelation 4

A SIGHT OF GOD

Tuesday, December 14, 2021.

Ezekiel 1:28

LESSON: *No idea what Moses saw. The only thing he could narrate was that it was like the blazing sun. And, even at that, that was just a sight of Him from behind. Those who saw him (Moses) afterwards could not look to his face, for he had seen something that his face reflected for a long, a very long time. I do not think it was so retained, because if it was, the children of Israel wouldn't have forgotten God so quickly that they tempted Him for water. A sight of God will make a living flesh to die and dry bones come alive.*

“Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord...”

Ezekiel, in his first chapter did a very long narration of what the watchman saw while by the River Chebar. And it was indeed something one cannot record or register to an art work; it was huge. But at the end, he only could say that it was still the likeness of God. And that was what Ezekiel heeded as well as anyone needed to be a minister. This took Isaiah six chapters and the death of a leprous king, Uzziah, to see the Lord.

Prayer: O Lord, help us to see You always; in Your word, in Your act and by the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

It is not worth it to be sent by who you don't know: Moses almost forgot, thank God he asked, 'who are You?' And the 'I Am' name came forth. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Joel; Revelation 5

A SIGHT OF HIM

Wednesday, December 15, 2021.

Revelation 1:12–17

LESSON: *The old man John, young or some record say, he was the youngest disciple of Jesus. And he would have been so grateful to have a sight of his Lord as both Son of Man and as Son of God, till the old man was exiled to the Island of stone blasting Patmos, where he got the Revelation. And the Revelation wouldn't just begin to unleash its visions without knowing whose message it was. So it was called The Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave... by His angel to His servant John (Rev. 1:1).*

“Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire...”

I hope you read the complete chapter to see but a phrase of what John saw. And he could only discern that it was the Son of Man (Jesus) probably because he had seen Him in person before or by the bursting power of revelational knowledge.

Prayer: We pray for encounters O Lord, to receive the revelation of the Son of God, of God, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

It could be that all we need is just a sight of Him, just a revelation, otherwise, an encounter; that is a blessing of pure hearts. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Amos 1–3; Revelation 6

We wish to hear from you,
December 2021



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FOCUS TODAY
A Devotional

SIGHT

HAVE A BLESSED RIDE, GOD BLESS YOU!

THE BEGINNING DEATH

Thursday, December 16, 2021.

Ezekiel 16:49–50

LESSON: *The time comes in a man's life when he seems full and oh, 'I am great!', he would assume. From the parable of Jesus about the rich man who wanted to extend his barn, I did cry when I read about this man's account, because, naturally I couldn't see him exalt himself; he was only a planner, a naturally blessed farmer. But lo, he was taken that night. Also, Uzziah, one who became so great and lifted his heart up. It didn't go well for him- a blessed and anointed (by birth) king of Judah died of leprosy (2Chronicles 26).*

“Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.”

This was the watchman's divine record of how Samaria had become, just like Sodom. Oh, Samaria never regained its divine presence. Look, the iniquity... She had put up for herself the pride of many abominations and indeed she even had too much freedom, idleness and food all over. These are the beginnings of death, and death, in person, would appreciate these natures of persons or places.

Prayer: May I not die in ignorance. May I not be dead already while I live, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

When the enemy (or Satan) has almost captured a living soul, place, the only thing left is to await God's renouncing. Alas death, destruction! #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Amos 4–6; Revelation 7

I SEE THE LORD

Friday, December 17, 2021.

Acts 7:56

LESSON: *On a good and fateful Friday, thus was the last time the Lord was seen in flesh. He was brutally wounded and scourged until death took Him away. At this, a lot of hopes died, some were just weakened, while other very few, a little strengthened. After that evening, at the Lord's burial, the next time of sight was to behold a glorified Lord. His transfigured form, of which Peter, John and James had sometime ago seen. This was the form of the ascended Lord of the Way people. So, on another fateful day, whether Friday again, there lay the first martyr recorded. He started a ministration that would and could have saved the whole of Israel. No one had ever preached so long history in a very short while. But, O Jerusalem!*

“...and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

Most of whom the Lord would use, He would reveal Himself to, that of which we call 'Encounter'. But to some, it would be at the end of their lives that they would see Him. This is really a 'should-happen' event for almost all, yet a privilege. It guarantees the security of the person's service note as 'Well done! Good and faithful servant'. So the Lord was seen by Stephen, but this triggered much hatred to the world.

Prayer: I want to see Your face, I want to know Your ways, I receive Your grace... I want to see You Lord!

FOCUS TODAY

Believe me, the Lord's revelation unto you will bring life to you, grace to people around you, but grief and war to the world. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Amos 7–9; Revelation 8

THE DIVINE ENCOUNTER

Saturday, December 18, 2021.

Proverbs 5:21

LESSON: *Should we really matter on the encounter? Should we begin to create focus in what could not be chosen unless given and privileged? There is a recurring call day and night like a wailing wolf left to die, day and night we call for this: Lord encounter me. Moses, a blabbing and almost dumb being, who could speak only ten words in a long time, was encountered on a mountain burning with no sulphur, a wood which never burned or quenched. The encounter could differ in appearance and reason, but they all stand to make the recipient a verified.*

*“For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord,
And He ponders all his paths.”*

One could ask why the Lord actually needs man, since He is God Himself. That scripture says, the ways of man, a single man is yet a study for God, because he becomes a new discovery. God has made man to be a perfect image of Himself, but the failure comes in as sin dominates all of man. For God to have fellowship, that of which could be termed friendship, He would have to study man, even to the point of pondering, and then reveal Himself to the whoever man He chooses. Some, He reserves their encounters for the last breath.

Prayer: I call for and receive divine encounter today in Jesus' name!

FOCUS TODAY

A divine encounter is what one really needs, but how wasting we have uncredited His appearances. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Obadiah; Revelation 9

WHO ARE YOU LORD?

Sunday, December 19, 2021.

Acts 9:5

LESSON: *This was the question that warranted a need and cause for explanations. I would agree that there could have been no clashing of Jesus and Saul of Tarsus ever, all through the three years' mission. But Saul, having known a little about Jesus' message and pattern and having heard the narration of His woes on the sect in which he represented –the Pharisees, could do havoc on the Way of Grace, the path of life He left.*

“And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”

Expectantly, no one would sound so strong or reasoning to ask such question at such an occasion. Having heard the voice alone, the voice of an encounter, Saul sought for answers. Who are You Lord? That gave a bigger room to thoughts. Was it that Saul had a precious revelation of Christ in which he never understood?

Prayer: Teach me about You O Lord, help me to know my Lord!

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In so many ways the Lord has revealed Himself unto you, but how have you figured it out? Have you prayed that... "That I may know Him"? #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Jonah; Revelation 10

NO LEGACY

Monday, December 20, 2021.

2Chronicles 21:20

LESSON: *It was said of an anonymous to have quoted this: a fool at forty is a fool forever. But of recent, as generations come by and centuries have changed, it has been discovered that a fool at twenty could have a lifetime of foolishness. Probably in coming and recent days, it could be reduced to twelve or less. But, here is wisdom, if you have a life, and sanity tells you this, you ought to be a man with vision, at least a vision, just one, and then pursuing it with all diligence. Oh, here, I sound to open a blank space, a vision is not evil, and not in bad orders, a vision helps others around it. That's why it's called vision –light, sight...*

“He was thirty-two years old when he became king. He reigned in Jerusalem eight years and, to no one’s sorrow, departed. However they buried him in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.”

This is a likeness of people who had no legacy. A king of Judah, oh a king, died, but no one was sorrowed. Jehoram had lived a life that was hapless and wickedly that he was even so hated for the people not to bury him in the tombs of the kings. He eventually died at forty, the age in which the anonymous of old thought one could no longer be revived of senses.

Prayer: I receive grace to live the life of Christ, a life of purpose and legacy, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

In whatsoever way you live or exist, live with a vision (visions cannot be evil, it literarily means light), legacy that others may rejoice in. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Micah 1–3; Revelation 11

OH, GRACE!

Tuesday, December 21, 2021.

John 8:11

LESSON: *The English dictionaries have been the resort of most persons who are inquisitive about what this so amazing word of the Christians is. 'What is Grace?' The dictionary meaning is quite limited and not comprehensive as to what grace truly is. The highest or utmost definition it would relate to our grace is favor. Grace, grace, oh grace cannot be embraced in depth with a dimension of forgiveness issued by a Lord for a death deserving sin.*

"She said, "No one, Lord."

And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

On my programmed mobile Bible, I had to put a tag on that verse –GRACE as written thus. A man like Barabbas would understand what Grace was at that time of his set freedom. But, he didn't see it in the divine format, he only thought it was a thing of politics as the people voted his death upon another. The thief on the cross who asked for eternal life also received grace that I cannot explain. Oh, my Jesus! Even at the point of death, brutal death, one could receive Your so amazing grace. "Lord, give me grace to follow! "

Prayer: I receive grace, grace so great in the name of Jesus! Lord bless me with Thine grace!

FOCUS TODAY

Oh, grace, so amazing, that kept my wrongs all out in the dung, but put me on a walk with the Lord... And then an abiding grace. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Micah 4–5; Revelation 12

A JEHU

Wednesday, December 22, 2021.

2Chronicles 25:2

LESSON: *A study, that's something that could be needed to fulfil some missions. How wonderful that Paul admonished, 'study to show yourself approved (2Timothy 2:15KJV). This study matter, king Solomon did at the last end of his career or life, when he was already getting oppressed and condemned of his many wrongs. He stated with annoyance "I am better educated than any of the kings before me... So I worked hard to be wise instead of foolish (footnote to that Scripture: I sought to learn about composure and madness –but now I realize that even this was like chasing the wind" (Ecclesiastes 1:16–18 TLB). The NKJV stated, "I set my heart to seek and search out..." (Eccl. 1:13), but he was only dying to carnality.*

“And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a loyal heart.”

This was the record concerning Amaziah, a king of Judah. I wondered, how? How could one be right yet not loyal? Then I remembered the 'Mission Jehu' (a study we once did). So Amaziah was a Jehu-like king of Judah. This is the life of many Christians, they are right in the workings, they attend services, even refuse to be paid for extra works done in the services; but they do not have or know or search out, how to fellowship with Him. Don't be a Jehu (don't be just an executor).

Prayer: Lord, help me to learn fellowship, to know You in truth and in Spirit, in Jesus' name!

FOCUS TODAY

Grace is real and true, but its late discovery could make one regret like Solomon; he had the wisdom of the divine, yet he was thinking of his carnal searchings (works). #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Micah 6–7; Revelation 13

ABIDING GRACE

Thursday, December 23, 2021.

John 8:35

LESSON: *For how long will these sects of Maccabean torment the Lord with their unending questioning? Some of the disciples could have wondered and asked. Well, as well as the Lord had got answers for them, it was all well. They could be shut out sometimes, they became short-circuited and angry. Indeed, they achieved their utmost, their very awaited aim, to kill Him. What they thought was the end became the beginning. I don't think I have heard or seen something of such- as when you try to put out a smoke, only for it to become a fire, a fiery inferno.*

“And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.”

This is a statement, one possible or actual response of Jesus to the questioning thoughts of the sects (Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes etc.). "Why do You forgive sins? Who are You to forgive sins?" Jesus, the savior of the world of whom they knew not had come to save that which was lost. It is when something is lost that you want to save it. There wouldn't be a Lord if there weren't slaves, or servants, neither would there be the need of a physician when all is well. The sects rather loved to remain slaves, never abiding in the house and for this they wasted free grace.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I pray, preserve me with Your grace; Lord, preserve me, today and forever. Amen!

FOCUS TODAY

Jesus didn't only give grace (pardon), He gave insurance, assurance otherwise, abiding grace; when a slave is turned son. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Nahum; Revelation 14

A KING OF THE KING

Friday, December 24, 2021.

2Chronicles 32:8

LESSON: *Once the famine began in that luxurious city in which the prodigal son left for, there sounded the exactness of 'could this be true? For how long?' And the famine indeed lasted for long, that the son surnamed prodigal had to be eating with a swine of pigs. This was the most humiliating moment of his life, and then his senses returned. A servant will always remain a servant, unless he has been restored by the Son. So likewise a son, no matter how terrible things become, he would never forget having a home, a father and a family. So the prodigal recalled his home...*

“With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

In my Bible, I did tag this verse –a deep revelation. The question is, how did king Hezekiah beget that kind of understanding? Yea, he had a fellowship, a relationship. If that prodigal was a runaway servant or slave, he wouldn't dare think about going to his master, not to mention a home he never had. Hezekiah knew his Father, his KING. Though he was a king, he yet knew that a KING of kings existed.

Confession: Lord, may I not be a castaway, in the name of Jesus! I am a child of the King, the King of kings. Amen!

FOCUS TODAY

Are you a son? Are you aware of your sonship? If the answer is slim, do a return or a recheck, and let Him Lord you. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Habakkuk; Revelation 15

JUDGING! CARNAL JUDGING! EXTRA...

Saturday, December 25, 2021.

John 8:15,49,52

LESSON: *Let's study... Really, I could have started a kind of personal commentary on the book of John, because it was the closest to Jesus' personal life. The book gave the exact words in which Jesus used that could cause any unbeliever to hate Him the more. Nevertheless, I still see some parts of the book which looked as though incomplete and could be confusing-figurative-statements. One was the 'My time has not come', yet He did turn water to wine. Another was where Jesus said it was not the blind man nor his parents that sinned, but that the Lord be glorified –this could not be general, could it? And here also, I was almost lost until I read down.*

“You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one... Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me... Then the Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.’”

So I assuredly saw that the Jews were even extra carnal judges. Jesus said 'I judge no one -carnally'. That was the hidden note.

Prayer: I rebuke every spirit of the flesh in me. I am filled with the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

In not one place did the Scriptures warn that we judge not. Paul only and alone explained to a depth..., saying 'a spiritual man judges all things' (but carnality won't allow, as everyone judges out of anger confessing it to be the Spirit).

#focustoday

Bible in One Year: Zephaniah; Revelation 16

THE BOAST OF THE DEAD

Sunday, December 26, 2021.

2Chronicles 32:21

LESSON: *The opportunity came and he didn't use it. He was even presented the chance, like reminded of what he should do. 'Curse God and die,' said the wife of a very noble man. Job didn't just have woes sent upon him from Satan, he had temptations, weariness to death, attacking him with family and friends. Howbeit that Job who was almost dead would have consented and boasted against God, of what need was it? Boasting is cursing. He would have been eventually struck dead by God, the devil having no power over his life. And Satan would have likewise boasted, 'You see, I told You, no one is true to You (God)'.*

“Then the Lord sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor, leader, and captain in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned shamefaced to his own land. And when he had gone into the temple of his god, some of his own offspring struck him down with the sword there.”

This was the end of a man, Sennacherib, who boasted against the God of gods. I wonder why the angel didn't strike him dead too. His boasts were cut off. He did have mighty men of valor, and since he had at this time almost captured all Israel, he thought extending to Judah would not be a problem, but he never achieved it.

Prayer: My Father, cut short the boast of the wicked against Your name in me, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

Make a wish, but not a boast. The Lord boxes those who are His with heavy surprises. I wonder what Hezekiah would have been doing on hearing the strange death of Sennacherib. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Haggai; Revelation 17

DILIGENCE

Monday, December 27, 2021.

John 9:4

LESSON: *On this note, I could say I lasted a long while to get it understood. And, you know what the enemy does? He would take you to the calendar, reading how many days are left and how you have had so unfulfilled plans and orders. In fact, to those who do diaries, he would show them their plans for the year and how they failed in achieving them. All of it faults to what he hinders many from – being diligent.*

“I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.”

This our own Lord, Jesus the Christ is saying He must work while it is day. Jesus is clamoring so much on diligence, while His attesting beloved followers are caught in all the cares and wiles of the world. We are togetherly partying, politely delving and doing the world's new orders, we are politically playing the cards and at the same time singing like Peter, 'I will die for you even with you'. We have so forgotten that He is not dying again.

Prayer: O Lord, save me by Your mercy, from the spirit of the world, the spirit of unfaithfulness, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

This is one of the enemy's potent tools –distractions, and you will see the diligence card turned to the flame. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Zechariah 1–4; Revelation 18

A FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, December 28, 2021.

Ezra 8:22–23

LESSON: *The extent of all God did, from the beginning, even to the end of time is for this one thing –fellowship. But, it is uncommon to be aware that this is God's most desire of us. Many do not have a thought of it at all, neither a heart to lay or surrender for this course, and cause. A fellowship, a kind of relationship that is more than friendship, that makes both sides so developed up to themselves. Why it is different from and higher than friendship? It is a kind of relationship, a genuine one, between a very rich man of one billion dollars' worth and another of one of hundred cents, yet true and true.*

Ezra:

“For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, “The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him.” So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.”

Ezra and this remnant did not make fake boasts in their God, they had an understanding of what He could do and what result the fellowship with Him brings. Yea, they boasted, yet they made their boast not just in words but in acts likewise.

Prayer: Day by day dear Lord of Thee three things I pray: to see Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, follow Thee more nearly, day by day. Amen!

FOCUS TODAY

Even in captivity, these men still boasted of their God, having had fellowship with Him; a little stump, and our generation would abuse God! #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Zechariah 5–8; Revelation 19

RUNNING FROM ATONEMENT

Wednesday, December 29, 2021.

John 18:28

LESSON: *Just as the year drew near, related with the Jews' too, sometime ago. Because the time of the Passover was a command for them, a new year. And it thus happened as in the days of the Egypt's exodus. Well, it was a Friday (fifth/sixth day), the day in which the preparation for the Passover began and here was the Man of Sorrow, one who was caught and to be charged for what could not be traced. Jesus of Nazareth, the One of whom the prophets professed and prophesied to save the people from their sins, was arrested and I tell you, He was deserted.*

“Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.”

While I read this particular verse, I couldn't hold a laughter that went AWOL into an unknown sorrow. I was actually sorrowing for the ignorance, destruction, rebuke, failure of these people of Israel, Jews of that time. Imagine, they were running from the real atonement. Jesus was actually at that time considered an unclean person, and lest they should become unclean too, they left Him to the Roman soldiers (Gentiles) and they stayed far away.

Confession: I am atoned today, by the blood of Jesus! I am sanctified by His word. I live by His name, I am made whole today and forever, in the name of Jesus!!

FOCUS TODAY

This that the Jews did then, a lot of unbelievers do today too, and even believers, they try to avoid Him (His name, church, love); what a pity! #focustoday

Bible in One Year: Zechariah 9–12; Revelation 20

RESTITUTION

Thursday, December 30, 2021.

Ezra 10:3

LESSON: *As we draw near to the end, there is this suddenness or rush to accomplish things. Things which have been long forgotten would now come to a glaring reality and the understanding that one needs to work and fulfill the undone becomes present. Well one of the things I come to remember or realize are the few (of many) wrongs I had done in the past days. There comes this consciousness of the wrongs which need repenting. A friend once said 'better don't do it, than do it and later seek repentance'. But I otherwise believe that only dead men don't need repenting.*

“Now therefore, let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and those who have been born to them, according to the advice of my master and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.”

These men of Israel (Judah) having returned by grace from captivity, they came to their gathering of the remnant and found great abominations in which the Lord has commands not to be so prominent. This sin of Solomon (Nehemiah called it) was gravely abundant. The sin of intermarrying the strangers. They obviously had a great decision to make, nevertheless, they couldn't bend repenting.

Confession: I repent Lord today of____, please have mercy on me by Your blood, in Jesus' name.

FOCUS TODAY

Truly, some things could be hard to retribute, but at least not hard to repent and pray mercy; these men repented and restituted, even putting away wives.

#focustoday

Bible in One Year: Zechariah 13–14; Revelation 21

AUTHORITY

Friday, December 31, 2021.

John 20:23

LESSON: *And finally, we have the last lap of 2021, a day that resolutions are remade (I do not say made but remade). And top of the list is, 'Lord I want to walk with You in the New Year'. This has been the resolution for many Christians for every New Year. The last time I had such resolution of truthful desire to walk with God in a New Year should be the year before my eventual salvation. Glory to God! After salvation, I can't imagine myself not walking in His light and I would be called a Christian. We refuse to speak on words of thanksgiving or a reflection of what the year could bring. We just learnt to work on this thing Jesus said to His disciples.*

"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Most of the times Jesus did a miracle of healing, He was always forgiving sins. And at other times when He spoke with the Pharisees and the related sects, He somewhat retained their sins, because they act to be clean and whole. Jesus, here gave to us the biggest of all authorities, the authority of salvation and damnation. It is not a chance to keep men bound in yokes of curses or otherwise, it is an authority to exercise like Elijah did, likewise Peter and Paul.

Prayer: I praise the Lord today for grace thus far, I pray grace for the new year, grace for the days to come, grace to live as a follower, in fellowship and to remain a faithful in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

FOCUS TODAY

It is the last day of the year, what, how, where have you been with the Lord? There is chance to remain in your spot, as well as to remain unspotted.

#focustoday

Bible in One Year: Malachi; Revelation 22

YOU CAN BE SAVED

Have you burdens?

Have you troubles?

Have you sins and weaknesses *unthinkable*?

Come to the Lord today; He is willing to help you.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

John 3:16-18

Pray:

Lord Jesus, come into my heart and reign as Lord.
I confess my every sin (mention) and forsake them today.
Heal me O Lord, and save me till the end.
Thank You Lord for this grace, in Jesus' name I pray.

Perhaps you need further prayers and counselling, reach us today via any of the followings:

Email: focustodaydevotional@gmail.com

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Shalom!

"In times like these you need the Bible,
In times like these O be not idle;
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!"

–Ruth Caye Jones

FOCUS TODAY is a Daily Devotional written to guide The Christian into ALL TRUTH, and in accordance to the Holy Scriptures; having daily words that can strengthen and edify The Christian. With the watchwords of Watch and Pray, the Christian can overcome fears and obtain the victory of Jesus our Lord.

Living Godly Daily, Daily Godly Living! Amen!



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