



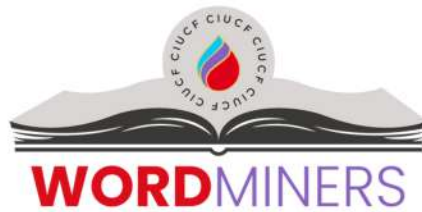
Reflections

(A monthly Devotional Series)

A publication of
CIU Christian Fellowship Bible Study Unit

WORD MINERS

APRIL 2025 EDITION



Reflections

(A monthly Devotional Series)

A publication of
The Bible Study Unit
Cyprus International University Christian Fellowship (CIUCF)

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INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME FOR APRIL 2025

By Pst. Peter Mornyey

The belief that God desires a relationship with us is a central theme in our Christian walk. He does not remain distant or hidden but reveals Himself so we may know Him personally. Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of God. Through His life, teachings, and sacrifice, He demonstrated God's love and desire for a relationship with humanity.

Our anchor scripture for the month - Jeremiah 27:13-14 (NLT) states (13) If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. (14) I will be found by you," says the LORD.

Let's explore other translations: the amplified bible states (13) Then [with a deep longing] you will seek Me and require Me [as a vital necessity], and [you will] find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. (14) I will be found by you,' says the LORD.

The message bible states, "When you come looking for me, you'll find me. "Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed."

Ultimately, God's desire for us to know Him is rooted in His love. He created us not just to exist but to have a meaningful relationship with Him. By seeking Him, we can grow in faith and understanding, fulfilling our purpose in His divine plan. Now is the time for us to get intimate with Him.

Peter Mornyey,
April Pastor

TEXTS:

APRIL

01

Memory Verse:



LET THERE BE LIGHT

TEXTS: Genesis 1:3, John 1:4-5, 2 Corinthians 4:6

APRIL

02

Memory Verse:

*"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."
Genesis 1:3 (KJV)*



From the very beginning of creation, the first recorded words of God in Scripture were, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). This command brought order to a world that was formless, void, and covered in darkness. Light was the first manifestation of God's divine power, setting the stage for all life to thrive. It was not just the creation of physical light but a symbol of His presence, His truth, and His glory shining into the darkness.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is described as the "true light that gives light to everyone" (John 1:9). When He stepped into the world, He brought spiritual illumination, dispelling the darkness of sin and ignorance. John 1:4-5 declares, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." This means that no matter how deep the darkness, the light of Christ is always victorious.

As children of God, we have been called to shine as lights in this world (Matthew 5:14-16). Darkness represents sin, confusion, and hopelessness, but we are to be bearers of God's light wherever we go. Just as God commanded light to shine at creation, He now commands His light to shine in our hearts through Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6). This light reveals truth, gives direction, and brings transformation.

However, shining as light comes with responsibility. We must not hide our light or allow it to be dimmed by compromise, fear, or sin. Instead, we should illuminate our surroundings by living in righteousness, sharing the gospel, and reflecting Christ's love in all that we do.

Today, God is still speaking, "Let there be light" — in our hearts, our homes, our communities, and the world at large. Will you allow His light to shine through you?

Reflection Questions:

1. In what areas of your life do you need the light of God to shine?
2. How can you be a source of light in your community this week?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for calling me out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Help me to reflect Your light in my daily life and to be a beacon of hope to those around me. May Your truth shine through me and bring transformation wherever I go. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Recommended Action:

Be intentional about bringing light into someone's life today — whether through an encouraging word, an act of kindness, or sharing the love of Christ. Refuse to blend into the darkness; instead, stand out as a shining witness for Him.



LIGHT WITHIN YOU

TEXTS: Matthew 5:14-16, John 8:12, Ephesians 5:8

APRIL

03

Memory Verse:

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

Matthew 5:14 (NKJV)



Light is one of the most powerful metaphors used in Scripture to describe the presence and work of God in His people. From the very beginning, when God spoke, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3), to Jesus declaring, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12), light represents truth, righteousness, and divine revelation. But Jesus didn't stop at calling Himself the Light—He extended that identity to us, His followers.

As believers, we are not merely reflectors of light; we carry the very essence of Christ within us. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 5:8, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." Notice that Paul doesn't say we are in the light—he says we are light! This means that wherever we go, darkness should not overpower us; rather, we should drive it away by living in truth, love, and righteousness.

However, having light within us is not just about possessing knowledge of God's Word; it is about radiating His character. If we claim to have the light of Christ but continue to walk in fear, compromise, or sin, we dim our testimony. That's why Jesus instructs us in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Our lives should visibly display God's glory—through acts of kindness, integrity, and faith.

Additionally, light brings exposure. When you allow God's light to shine within you, it exposes areas that need healing and transformation. David prayed in Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." If we are to shine outwardly, we must first allow God's light to cleanse and transform us inwardly.

You are a carrier of divine light, called to illuminate the world around you. Whether in your family, workplace, or community, the light within you should bring hope to the lost, clarity to the confused, and the love of Christ to the broken. Don't hide your light — let it shine boldly for the glory of God!

Reflection Questions:

1. In what ways have you allowed the light of Christ to shine through your life?
2. Are there areas in your life where you need to let God's light bring transformation?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for making me a bearer of Your light. Help me to walk in the truth and radiate Your presence wherever I go. Search my heart, remove any darkness within me, and let my life be a reflection of Your glory. May I never hide my light but boldly shine for You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Recommended Action:

Identify one area in your life where you can shine the light of Christ today — whether through an act of kindness, sharing the gospel, or standing for truth. Take intentional steps to let your light shine!



CONTACT WITHOUT CONTAMINATION

TEXTS: John 17:14-16, 2 Corinthians 6:17

APRIL

04

Memory Verse:

"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." **John 17:15-16 (NKJV)**



As believers, we are called to be in the world but not of it. Jesus Himself prayed for His disciples, asking the Father not to remove them from the world but to protect them from evil. This means that while we engage with society—our workplaces, schools, and communities—we must remain spiritually distinct and uncompromised.

One of the biggest challenges Christians face is maintaining holiness while interacting with a world that often opposes godly values. Paul instructs in 2 Corinthians 6:17, "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." This does not mean isolating ourselves but rather ensuring that our engagement with the world does not lead to compromise.

Consider the example of Daniel. Though he lived in Babylon, a pagan land, he remained faithful to God. Daniel 1:8 tells us that "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself" with the king's food and wine. His decision to set boundaries allowed him to maintain purity while still serving in a high governmental position. Likewise, Joseph remained in Egypt yet refused to succumb to its immorality (Genesis 39:7-9).

Jesus likened believers to salt and light in Matthew 5:13-16. Salt preserves and enhances, but if it loses its flavor, it is useless. Light dispels darkness, but it must be set on a hill to be effective. We are called to interact with the world, influencing it with godliness while ensuring that worldly corruption does not seep into our lives.

The key to maintaining contact without contamination is to stay grounded in God's Word, prayer, and the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Romans 12:2 reminds us, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” As we engage with unbelievers, our conduct should reflect Christ, drawing others to His light rather than being drawn into sin.

Reflection Questions:

1. Are there areas in your life where worldly influence is beginning to compromise your faith?
2. How can you be intentional about maintaining holiness while still engaging with those who do not know Christ?

Prayer:

Father, I thank You for calling me to be a light in this world. Help me to engage with people without compromising my faith. Strengthen me to stand firm in righteousness, just as Daniel and Joseph did. May my life reflect Your holiness while drawing others to Your truth. Keep me from contamination and use me as an instrument of change. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Recommended Action:

Identify an area where worldly influence may be creeping into your life and take practical steps to guard your heart — whether it's through media consumption, friendships, or workplace ethics. Stay rooted in the Word and let your presence be a positive, godly influence wherever you go.



THE CROSS AND OUR SONSHIP

TEXTS: Galatians 4:4-7, John 1:12, Romans 8:15-17

APRIL

05

Memory Verse:

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."

John 1:12 (NKJV)



The cross of Jesus Christ is the gateway to our sonship. Before Christ's sacrifice, humanity was estranged from God, living under the curse of sin and the bondage of the law. But through His death and resurrection, Jesus redeemed us from slavery and brought us into the family of God. Galatians 4:4-7 tells us that Christ came to redeem those under the law so that we might receive the adoption as sons. The cross was not just about forgiveness — it was about restoring our identity as sons and daughters of God.

John 1:12 makes it clear that believing in Christ grants us the right to become children of God. This right was secured through the cross. When Jesus died, He took upon Himself the penalty of our sin (1 Peter 2:24), wiping away the debt that kept us separated from the Father (Colossians 2:13-15). Because of this, we are no longer orphans or slaves to sin; we are sons with full access to the Father.

Romans 8:15-17 explains that we have not received a spirit of bondage again to fear but the Spirit of adoption, by which we cry out, "Abba, Father!" This means our relationship with God is not one of distance or servitude but of intimacy, confidence, and love. The cross tore down the veil that separated us from God, granting us direct access to His presence as beloved children. This means we approach the Father with boldness and confidence knowing that He will receive us as a father receives their own child.

Moreover, the cross gave us the authority to walk in our inheritance. As sons, we are not just forgiven — we are co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17). This means we share in His victory, His authority, and His mission on earth. Just as Jesus walked in power, dominion, and purpose, we are called to manifest the same reality in our daily lives.

The cross is not just an event in history; it is a constant reminder of our identity and responsibility as sons of God. It calls us to walk in righteousness, to reject the lies of the enemy, and to live as those who belong to the kingdom. Our sonship is not a theory—it is a reality that must be seen in how we live, think, and act. We must embrace this truth daily, walking in the full privileges of being God’s children.

Reflection Questions:

1. How has the cross of Christ changed your identity and relationship with God?
2. What are some ways you can walk in the reality of your sonship today?

Prayer:

Father, I thank You for the cross of Jesus Christ, which has made me Your child. I receive the fullness of my sonship and reject every lie that says I am distant from You. Help me to walk in the power, love, and confidence of a true son, knowing that I am fully accepted and empowered by You. Let my life reflect the victory and inheritance I have in Christ. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Recommended Action:

Today, take time to declare your identity as a son of God. Speak out scriptures that affirm your sonship and consciously walk in boldness, knowing that you are loved, accepted, and empowered by God because of the cross.



REFLECTIONS

RESIDENT PASTOR'S TOPIC

TEXTS:

APRIL

06

BEACONS OF HOPE

APRIL

07

TEXTS: Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:14-16**Memory Verse:**

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

Matthew 5:14 (NKJV)



In a world often filled with darkness, confusion, and despair, God calls His children to be beacons of hope. Jesus declared that we are the light of the world, meant to shine brightly so that others may see and glorify the Father. Light does not struggle to shine—it naturally dispels darkness. Likewise, as believers, we are meant to radiate the hope and love of Christ to those around us.

Hope is a powerful force. It sustains the weary, lifts the discouraged, and anchors the soul. Paul, in Romans 15:13, prayed, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." This means that our hope is not based on circumstances but is divinely sourced in Christ. When we live with this confidence, we inspire and encourage others who are struggling.

Being a beacon of hope requires intentional living. Philippians 2:14-16 instructs us to do all things without complaining or arguing so that we may "shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life." Our words, attitudes, and actions should reflect the hope we have in Christ. When others see us responding to challenges with faith rather than fear, they are drawn to the light within us.

Consider Joseph's story. Even in the darkness of slavery and imprisonment, he remained a source of hope because God was with him. His faithfulness eventually led to the salvation of many (Genesis 50:20). Similarly, the apostles endured persecution but never lost sight of their mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Their unwavering hope transformed nations.

As sons of God, we must embrace our role as beacons of hope. Whether in our families, workplaces, or communities, we should stand firm in faith, offering encouragement and pointing people to the ultimate hope—Jesus Christ. The world needs the light we carry. Let us not hide it but shine brightly so that others may find their way to the Savior.

Reflection Questions:

1. How can you practically shine as a beacon of hope in your daily interactions?
2. Are there areas where you have allowed fear or discouragement to dim your light?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for calling me to be a light in this world. Help me to shine brightly in every situation, bringing hope to those around me. Fill me with joy and peace so that my life may reflect Your love. Strengthen me to stand firm in faith, and let my words and actions inspire others to trust in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Recommended Action:

Find someone in your circle who is struggling or discouraged and be a source of encouragement. Speak words of hope, share a Bible verse, or pray with them. Let your life point them to the unfailing hope found in Christ.



AMBASSADORS OF THE KINGDOM

TEXTS: 2 Corinthians 5:20, Matthew 28:19-20

APRIL

08

Memory Verse:

"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."
2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV)



Every nation appoints ambassadors — official representatives who uphold their country's interests in foreign lands. As believers, we are not just citizens of this world; our true citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). God has appointed us as His ambassadors, charged with representing His kingdom on earth. This means that wherever we go, we carry the authority, values, and message of the King. This also means that whatever we do as Christians here on earth reflects on the authority, values, and interests of the kingdom of God on earth.

Jesus, before ascending to heaven, gave His followers a mission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." (Matthew 28:19-20). This Great Commission is not just for pastors or missionaries but for every believer. We are called to demonstrate the love, righteousness, and truth of God in a world that desperately needs His light. Our words, actions, and lifestyle should point people toward Christ.

Being an ambassador requires more than just knowing the gospel — it requires living it. Our integrity, speech, and conduct should reflect Christ's character. When people see us, they should see Jesus in us. This is why Paul urges us to "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called" (Ephesians 4:1). We must be conscious that we represent God's kingdom at all times.

An ambassador also speaks on behalf of the kingdom they represent. As Christ's ambassadors, we are to share the message of reconciliation — calling people back to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20 reminds us that God is making His appeal through us. What an honor! But with this privilege comes responsibility: we must be bold, unwavering, and faithful in proclaiming the gospel.

Ultimately, being an ambassador of Christ means that we do not conform to the world's standards but stand as representatives of God's righteousness. Whether in our workplaces, families, or communities, we must be intentional about reflecting Christ and leading others to Him. Let us embrace this calling wholeheartedly and shine as representatives of the kingdom.

Reflection Questions:

1. In what ways are you actively representing God's kingdom in your daily life?
2. How can you be more intentional about sharing the message of reconciliation with others?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for calling me to be Your ambassador on earth. Help me to represent Your kingdom well in all I do. Let my words, actions, and character reflect Christ so that others may be drawn to You. Give me boldness to share the message of reconciliation and live as a true citizen of heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Recommended Action:

Look for an opportunity today to share the love of Christ with someone — whether through a kind act, a word of encouragement, or by sharing the gospel. Be intentional about reflecting God's kingdom in your interactions.



BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER

TEXTS: Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:12-13, Luke 6:35-36

APRIL

09

Memory Verse:

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)



Kindness is a defining characteristic of God, and as His children, we are called to reflect His nature. The Bible commands us in Ephesians 4:32 to be kind and compassionate to one another. This is not just an option but an expectation for every believer. Kindness is more than a feeling; it is an intentional act of love, mercy, and grace towards others, even when they do not deserve it. Kindness is part of the fruit of the Spirit, which means that as Christians, our lives are expected to manifest kindness as a natural expression of the Spirit of God in us.

In a world where selfishness and harshness are prevalent, kindness stands out as a powerful testimony of Christ's love. Jesus demonstrated kindness in His interactions — whether it was feeding the hungry, healing the sick, or forgiving those who wronged Him. Even on the cross, He prayed for those who crucified Him, saying, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." (Luke 23:34).

Kindness is closely tied to forgiveness. Colossians 3:12-13 encourages us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving as the Lord has forgiven us. When we show kindness, we create a ripple effect that can soften even the hardest of hearts.

Jesus calls us to go beyond being kind to those who are kind to us. In Luke 6:35-36, He tells us to love our enemies, do good to them, and lend without expecting anything in return. True kindness is not based on how others treat us; it is rooted in the love of Christ within us.

Being kind is a choice we must make daily. It may be as simple as offering a smile, a word of encouragement, or a helping hand to someone in need. It may also involve extending grace to those who have wronged us. Whatever the case, when we choose kindness, we reflect the light of Christ and draw others closer to Him.

Reflection Questions:

1. In what ways can you intentionally show kindness to those around you today?
2. Are there people in your life whom you need to forgive and extend kindness to, even if they don't deserve it?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your kindness and mercy toward me. Help me to reflect Your love by being kind to others, even when it is difficult. Teach me to forgive and extend grace just as You have forgiven me. Let my life be a testimony of Your goodness and love. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Recommended Action:

Be intentional about showing kindness today. Find someone you can encourage, help, or forgive. Let your words and actions reflect the love of Christ in a tangible way.



DON'T DIM YOUR LIGHT

TEXTS: Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:15, Ephesians 5:8

APRIL
10

Memory Verse:

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." **Matthew 5:16 (KJV)**



God has called us to be the light of the world. As believers, we carry the divine presence of Christ within us, and our lives should reflect His glory. Jesus said in Matthew 5:14-16 that we are like a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden. However, many times, due to fear, compromise, or the desire to fit in, we may be tempted to dim our light. **DON'T.**

God has called us to a life that shines as brightly as light in a world that is increasingly engulfed in ever-growing darkness. We must not seek to blend in with the darkness, instead, we must seek to shine as light that continues to conquer the darkness (John 1:5)

There are many ways in which people dim their light. Some do so by staying silent when they should speak the truth. Others compromise their values to avoid rejection or criticism. Still, others allow discouragement and fear to rob them of their boldness in Christ. But the world is in desperate need of light, and if we hide ours, darkness will prevail. Ephesians 5:8 reminds us that we were once in darkness, but now we are light in the Lord, and we must live as children of light.

Shining your light does not mean being perfect, but it means living in obedience to God's Word. It means being a witness of Christ in your words, actions, and choices. It means standing firm in faith, even when it is unpopular. Philippians 2:15 urges us to be blameless and pure, shining like stars in a dark and corrupt world.

The enemy wants nothing more than for believers to hide their light. He will use fear, intimidation, and distractions to keep us from boldly living out our faith. But Jesus calls us to stand firm and let our light shine, so that through our lives, others may see the goodness of God and be drawn to Him.

You were not meant to blend in—you were created to stand out for Christ! Don't allow fear, discouragement, or the pressures of the world to silence your witness. Shine brightly in your family, workplace, community, and everywhere you go. The world needs the light you carry.

Reflection Questions:

1. In what areas of your life have you been tempted to dim your light?
2. How can you boldly shine the light of Christ in your daily interactions?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for making me a light in this world. Help me to shine boldly and fearlessly, without compromise. Give me the courage to stand for truth and to reflect Your love in all I do. Let my life draw others to You, and may I never be ashamed of the gospel. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Recommended Action:

Identify one way you have been dimming your light, whether through fear, compromise, or silence. Take a bold step today to shine brightly — whether by sharing your faith, making a godly choice, or standing up for truth. Let your life reflect Christ without hesitation!



“WHERE ARE YOU?”

TEXTS: Genesis 3:9, Ephesians 5:15-17, Romans 12:2

APRIL
11

Memory Verse:

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **Romans 12:2 (NKJV)**



When God called out to Adam in the Garden of Eden, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9), it wasn't because He didn't know Adam's physical location. Instead, it was a probing question about Adam's spiritual and moral position. Sin had separated Adam from God's presence, and his disobedience had shifted him out of alignment with God's original plan.

This question still echoes in our lives today: **Where are you?**

- Are you in alignment with God's will?
- Are you positioned where He has called you to be?

Many times, like Adam, we hide—not necessarily behind trees, but behind distractions, fear, pleasures, indulgences, or even worldly pursuits that pull us away from God's purpose. Ephesians 5:15-17 warns us to walk wisely, understanding God's will, because the environments we expose ourselves to can either nurture or hinder our spiritual growth. This exposes a vital truth concerning our lives: that without the understanding of God's will for us and aligning with His will, we walk as unwise people, regardless of whatever we may seem to achieve. Living outside of the will of God for our lives amounts to unwise living.

One key thing that pulls us away from the will of God is exposure to wrong environments, and the Bible highlights some of the dangers of wrong environments:

- 1 Corinthians 15:33 reminds us, "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'"
- Proverbs 13:20 says, "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed."

If we are not intentional about our surroundings—our friendships, media consumption, and even our thoughts—we risk drifting from God’s perfect will. Romans 12:2 urges us to renew our minds, refusing conformity to the world so that we may discern and fulfill God’s purpose.

Reflection Questions:

1. Spiritually, where am I right now? Am I growing closer to God or drifting due to distractions or sin?
2. What environments or relationships am I in that may be hindering my alignment with God’s will?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your constant call to draw near to You. Forgive me for the times I have strayed or allowed distractions to pull me away from Your will. Help me to walk wisely, renewing my mind daily in Your Word. Reveal any environments or relationships that may be hindering my purpose, and give me the courage to align fully with You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Recommended Action:

Today, take a moment to evaluate your spiritual position. Identify one environment (physical, social, or digital) that may be negatively influencing you, and take a step to either limit exposure or replace it with something that edifies your faith (e.g., godly fellowship, worship, or Scripture meditation).



EVANGELISM IS LIGHT TO THE LOST

TEXTS: Romans 10:14; Mark 16:15; Luke 19:10

APRIL

12

Memory Verse:

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
Luke 19:10 12:2 (NIV)



Light guides the way, just as a light on a path shows the way forward; our witness and evangelism help guide others toward salvation. Jesus is the ultimate Light, and we are called to direct others to Him through our words and actions.

Evangelism is simply reflecting or sharing Christ in us. It is offering people the path to eternal life. It's more than preaching, it's living in a way that reveals Christ to others. The way we love, serve, forgive, and live out our faith can all point people to the Savior. Jesus tells us that a city on a hill cannot be hidden; when something is meant to be seen, it's visible for all to witness. The message of the Gospel is meant to be seen and heard by all. Evangelism isn't just for a select few, it's for every believer.

In the same way, our lives should be a testimony to the transformative power of Christ, shining brightly for all to see. Just as light exposes what is hidden in darkness, our lives shining with the truth of God bring clarity to areas where people are living in confusion or ignorance. Evangelism requires us to bring light into dark places, revealing God's truth to those who are lost.

Sometimes, we may be tempted to hide our light, whether out of fear, complacency, or the pressures of the world around us. But Jesus challenges us to let our light shine. We do this not for our own glory but so that others may be drawn to God and glorify Him. When people see the love and grace of God in our lives, it becomes a living testimony of His goodness.

Evangelism is an act of hope. As we share the Gospel, we are offering the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ (Matthew 4:16). Light brings hope to a hopeless world. Many live in brokenness, struggling with the weight of sin, loneliness, and the harsh realities of life.

The message of the Gospel is the light they need—hope for forgiveness, healing, and restoration, showing people that no matter how dark their situation may be, there is a way out through Jesus.

Evangelism is not just about sharing a doctrine or set of beliefs—it is about offering people the chance to know Christ and experience the life-changing hope that He brings. This is why evangelism is so urgent and vital. Without hearing the Gospel, how can people know about the hope of salvation? Without someone to share the good news, the lost will remain in darkness, unaware of the life and hope that is available through Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

1. Who in my life is currently living without the hope of Christ, and how can I actively reach out to them with the message of salvation and love as soon as possible?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I ask for boldness, wisdom, and compassion to share the message of Your love with those who are lost. Help me to recognize the opportunities You place in my path to bring light into their lives.



Recommended Action:

Pray for someone in your life who may be lost or struggling, and then take a step to reach out to them whether through a conversation, offering encouragement, or inviting them to a church service. Be intentional in sharing the hope you've found in Christ.



REFLECTIONS

RESIDENT PASTOR'S TOPIC

TEXTS:

APRIL

13

FOLLOWING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

TEXTS: Philippians 2:3-4; 1 Peter 5:5

APRIL

14

Memory Verse:

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men." **Philippians 2:5-7 (NKJV)**



As believers, we have been called to live a life that honors and reflects God in the world. God, knowing that we cannot live this new life except by His power, showed us an example in Christ of life powered by His Spirit. We are therefore called to model Christ in our lives.

In Philippians 2:3-4, Paul encourages believers to adopt the same mindset as Christ, focusing on two important traits: humility and obedience. Jesus, who is fully God, chose to humble Himself by becoming a servant and obeyed God's will, even to the point of dying on a cross. This represents the highest example of selfless love and sacrifice. Instead of clinging to His status as God, He emptied Himself for the benefit of others.

We are called to reflect this same attitude in our lives. Rather than acting out of selfish ambition or pride, we should serve others with humility, prioritizing their needs over our own. This isn't just about being humble in specific situations. It's about developing a mindset of humility that influences all our interactions.

The path of humility might feel different from what should be done and can be tough to follow. However, it is through this humility that Jesus was honored by God. His example shows that true greatness comes from serving others and putting their needs first. By embracing humility, we align ourselves with God's purpose and find true fulfillment.

Serving Without Expecting Anything in Return is Selfless service, which means serving others without expecting praise, recognition, or anything in return. It's not about what we gain but about loving others with the love of Christ.

We cannot serve others selflessly in our own power. It's through the strength of the Holy Spirit that we are empowered to live out Christ's example.

When we serve selflessly, we reflect Christ to the world. Our service becomes a testimony of God's love and grace. When others see our humility and willingness to serve, they can be drawn to Christ through our actions.

Reflection Questions:

1. In what specific ways can I practice selfless service this week, and how can I shift my focus from my own needs to the needs of others beyond the church, just as Christ did?

Prayer:

Father, help me to reflect Your heart of humility and love in all that I do. Teach me to serve others without expecting anything in return and to put their needs above my own. Remove any pride or selfishness in my heart and fill me with a desire to honor You, in Jesus' name.



Recommended Action:

Look for opportunities to serve in small, humble ways whether it's through acts of kindness, offering help, or showing empathy. Approach each opportunity with a heart focused on glorifying God rather than seeking personal gain.



SERVANTHOOD

TEXTS: Matthew 20:26-28; Mark 9:35

APRIL

15

Memory Verse:

"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28 (NKJV)



All through the teachings of Jesus, the concept of greatness is redefined as service. Jesus tells His disciples that the path to true greatness is through serving others. To be a servant is to have a heart for people. Servanthood, when viewed through the lens of Christ's teachings, is much more than a concept or attitude. It is an active, lived-out expression of love. Without humility, servanthood can become distorted. When we serve others but do so with pride, seeking recognition, validation, or rewards, we miss the mark of true servanthood. Our actions may look like service on the outside, but inside, they are driven by selfish ambition. Serving with pride can be motivated by wanting others to see us as "good" or "important," and in that, our service loses its significance before God.

In John 13:15, Jesus washed His disciples' feet, a task typically reserved for the lowest servant. By doing so, He demonstrated that no act of service is too small or beneath us. Vs 17 highlights the blessing in servanthood is in doing, not just knowing. The blessing of servanthood is twofold: First, it brings joy and fulfillment to the servants as they live in alignment with God's heart. Second, it brings a sense of connection, unity, and love to the non-believers and believers.

The heart behind servanthood is just as important as the action itself. Through Jesus Christ, we see servanthood requiring sacrifice. Jesus exemplified this most powerfully through His death on the cross, where He laid down His life for others. But servanthood can also involve smaller sacrifices. True servanthood flows from empathy, a deep understanding of the feelings and needs of others. It requires putting ourselves in the shoes of others and responding with compassion. In Matthew 9:36, when Jesus saw the crowds, "He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." This compassion was not just an internal feeling; it compelled Jesus to act, heal the sick, teach the people, and feed the hungry.

Servanthood is driven by that same compassion, where our empathy for others' struggles leads us to actively work for their good.

Servanthood, in its truest form, becomes a powerful testament to God's love working through us, turning ordinary actions into extraordinary expressions of grace.

Reflection Questions:

1. How can I actively live out a life of true service in my daily life?
2. What motivates my actions and service to others and in the body of Christ?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for the reminder that I have been called to service and stewardship to you with my life. Help me to embrace a heart of true service and to be a faithful steward of all you commit to me, even when I get no recognition or reward from men, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Recommended Action:

Today, take time to reflect on the motivation that drives your actions and sacrifices, and seek opportunities to serve or help people where you cannot get recognition or reward.



THE FATHER'S VESSEL

TEXTS: 2 Timothy 2:20-21; Romans 9:21; 2 Corinthians 4:7

APRIL

16

Memory Verse:

"Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work." 2 Timothy 2:21 (NKJV)



When the world interacts with you as a believer, what do they encounter? What is the stuff you are made of?

Paul uses the word vessel to illustrate the lives of believers, meaning we are carriers and specifically carriers of God. When we read our text further, different types of vessels are contrasted; however, what makes the distinction is the purpose of each vessel.

God desires that we, as His vessels, are set apart for noble purposes, reflecting His glory in every aspect of our lives. This devotion encourages us to think about the condition of our own "vessel." Are we ready to be used by God for His good purposes? Are we letting God cleanse us from things that could make us unfit for His work?

We are vessels created for good works only and nothing else Ephesians 2:10 But for that to happen, we must take steps towards sanctification and consecration

"Useful to the master". The Master is Jesus Christ, who is lord over all. Being "useful" means being prepared and ready to fulfill God's purposes. This usefulness depends on the believer's openness to being shaped and guided by God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The concept of being useful to the Master highlights the significance of spiritual growth and maturity, which is illustrated in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), where diligent servants are praised for how they manage what they have been given.

After being cleansed, we are encouraged to seek specific virtues: righteousness (living in a way that is right with God), faith (having trust in Him), love (serving and caring for others), and peace (encouraging reconciliation). These qualities help us become suitable vessels for God to use.

By striving for these traits, we develop a heart that wants to follow God's will and bless those around us. Paul tells Timothy and, by extension, all believers to avoid youthful passions. These can include selfish desires and temptations that lead us away from God's purpose. This serves as a reminder that living based on our fleshly desires can limit our ability to be useful to God.

Reflection Questions:

1. What are some areas in my life where I need to allow God to cleanse and prepare me so I can be used for His good purposes?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for calling me to be a vessel in Your house. I ask that You cleanse me and make me usable for Your glory. Help me to turn away from sin and distractions and to pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace.



Recommended Action:

Confess the areas revealed to you in your reflection and commit to pursuing righteousness, faith, love, and peace in your daily actions.



IN HIS PRESENCE

TEXTS: John 8:12; Romans 12:2

APRIL

17

Memory Verse:

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" **John 8:12 (NIV)**



In Scripture, light is often associated with truth, goodness, and divine presence, while darkness represents sin, ignorance, and separation from God. The Bible reminds us in John 1:4-5 *"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* By calling Christ the *"light of all mankind,"* Jesus is presented as the one who reveals God's truth and brings people out of spiritual darkness.

Living as light in His presence is more than just an external action; it's about an inner transformation that happens when we spend time in the presence of God. Jesus, the light of the world, calls us to reflect His light in the world around us. But to do that, we must first live in His presence, allowing His light to illuminate our hearts and lives. When we are in His presence, His light drives out the darkness within us, and we are empowered to shine that same light into the world.

In the natural world, light dispels darkness. As we dwell in His presence through prayer, worship, reading the Word, and obedience, we are transformed and made more like Him. The more time we spend in the presence of Jesus, the more His light shines through us.

In His presence, we begin to see things differently: our desires, our values, and our attitudes start aligning with His will. This is what transformation truly looks like: an internal change that radiates outward, becoming evident in our thoughts, decisions, and actions. Following Jesus results in never *"walking in darkness,"* which signifies liberation from the grip of sin and its consequences. It doesn't mean followers will never experience trials or struggles, but they will always have the light of Christ to guide them through life's challenges.

The renewal of our minds through God's presence doesn't just lead to personal change, it makes us vessels of light, drawing others to Him.

"In Him" is life. The presence of God is where our source and sustenance is drawn from. If we must shine as light in our world, we must learn to dwell in His presence.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does recognizing Jesus as the 'light of the world' impact the way I navigate challenges and make decisions in my daily life?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus I ask that you shine your light into every corner of my life, guiding me in truth, wisdom, and love. Help me to follow You closely, trusting in Your direction, and to reflect Your light to those around me.



Recommended Action:

Spend intentional time in prayer and Scripture asking Jesus to reveal His light in areas of your life where you feel lost or uncertain.



REFLECTIONS

GOOD FRIDAY DEVOTION

Pastor Desire

APRIL
18

BOLDLY LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Romans 1:16; 2 Timothy 1:7-8; Matthew 10:32-33

APRIL

19

Memory Verse:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."

Romans 1:16a (KJV)



The Christian life is not a private, timid walk—it is a bold declaration of our allegiance to Christ and His kingdom. To follow Jesus is to take up your cross daily, to walk contrary to the patterns of the world, and to live with a courage that is rooted not in human strength but in divine conviction. Boldness is a hallmark of genuine discipleship.

In Romans 1:16, Apostle Paul makes a powerful confession: "I am not ashamed of the gospel." This statement wasn't made lightly—it came from a man who had faced severe persecution, imprisonment, ridicule, and threats to his life. Yet he chose to stand firm. He knew that living boldly for Christ was not optional—it was necessary. It is this same spirit that every believer is called to walk in.

2 Timothy 1:7-8 reminds us that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. Paul encourages Timothy not to be ashamed of the testimony of Christ, but to be willing to suffer for the gospel. Fear and timidity are tools the enemy uses to silence believers and dull their impact. But God equips us with everything we need to live boldly, even in hostile environments.

Jesus Himself made it clear in Matthew 10:32-33 that our public confession of Him matters. He honors those who are not afraid to stand with Him before others. Being bold doesn't mean being aggressive or confrontational—it means being unapologetically faithful, truthful, and consistent in your walk with God.

When the early church faced threats, they didn't retreat—they prayed for boldness. In Acts 4:29-31, the believers asked God to enable them to speak His word with great boldness, and the result was a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit and a shaking of their meeting place. We too can ask for and receive this boldness.

In a world growing increasingly hostile to truth, boldness is not just an option; it is a necessity. We must speak the truth in love, live with integrity, and be unashamed to bear the name of Christ in every space He has placed us.

Reflection Questions:

1. Are there areas in your life where fear has kept you from boldly representing Christ?
2. What is one practical way you can step out in faith to live bolder for Jesus today?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for calling me to be Your representative in this world. I confess that at times, I've allowed fear to silence me. Today, I receive the spirit of boldness You have given me. Help me to live with courage, to stand for truth, and to represent Christ unashamedly in every area of my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Recommended Action:

Take one bold step today to express your faith — whether it's sharing the gospel with someone, speaking up for truth in a conversation, praying publicly, or standing firm in a difficult situation. Don't shrink back — God is with you, and His light shines through your courage.



REFLECTIONS

EASTER SUNDAY

Pst. Peter Mornyey

APRIL

20

THE GLOW OF GOOD WORKS

Matthew 5:14–16; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:7; 1 Peter 2:12

APRIL
21

Memory Verse:

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16 (KJV)



“How can we shine as light, practically?”

This is a frequently asked question regarding our identity as light in the world. The answer is simple: by living a life that expresses light in our daily works.

Scripture calls this GOOD WORKS.

In a world overshadowed by darkness—confusion, selfishness, and moral decay—believers are called to be radiant carriers of God’s light. This light is not abstract or merely symbolic; it finds expression in how we live, love, and serve. Jesus said we are the light of the world, and one of the most powerful ways we shine is through our good works (Matthew 5:14–16).

Good works are not the basis of our salvation, but they are the natural evidence of a life transformed by Christ. As Paul states in Ephesians 2:10, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” This means our acts of kindness, compassion, generosity, integrity, and service aren’t random—they are part of God’s design for our lives.

Titus 2:7 challenges us to be examples of good works in everything, showing integrity and seriousness in how we carry ourselves. People may not read the Bible, but they read our lives. And through our consistent, sincere good works, we reflect the character of our heavenly Father.

Furthermore, 1 Peter 2:12 urges believers to live such good lives among the unbelievers that even though they accuse us of doing wrong, they will glorify God when they see our deeds. This is the glow of good works: it not only benefits others but draws attention to the God who empowers us to live differently.

To glow through good works is to live intentionally, seeing every opportunity as a chance to reveal the kindness, justice, mercy, and love of Christ. Whether it's a word of encouragement, a helping hand, a financial gift, or simply living with integrity — our works light up the darkness.

Reflection Questions:

1. What kind of good works are visible in your life, and do they reflect God's nature to others?
2. Who around you needs to see the light of Christ through your actions today?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for creating me in Christ Jesus for good works. I ask that You help me to walk in them daily. Let my life shine with acts of love, service, and obedience so that others may see and glorify You. Use me to be a light in dark places. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Recommended Action:

Look around you today and find one intentional good work you can do — visit someone in need, give to a struggling family, speak encouragement, volunteer, or lend your time. Let your light glow in action, not just in words.



COME AWAY

Song of Songs 2:10–13, Mark 6:30–32, Psalm 27:4

APRIL

22

Memory Verse:

“The one I love calls to me: Arise, my dearest. Hurry, my darling. Come away with me!...” **Song of Songs 2:10a (TPT)**



“Come away...” These tender words echo from the heart of God to His children, inviting us into sacred, uninterrupted fellowship. In Song of Songs 2:10–13, the Beloved beckons His love to arise and come away, calling her out of the noise and distractions of the world into a place of closeness. This is a divine picture of how God desires us — intimately, undistractedly, and completely.

In a world where there is so much noise, activity, and distractions, there is the tendency for our hearts to be drawn away from our devotion to God by the allure of the trends of the day or the sensationalism of current culture. But God is calling us to come away; to deliberately separate ourselves from the noise and be with Him.

In Mark 6:30–32, Jesus exemplified this need for communion with the Father. After intense ministry, He told His disciples to “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” The demands of life and service can be exhausting, but spiritual renewal comes not from more effort, but from more presence—His presence. It is in stillness and solitude that our souls are restored.

Luke 5:15–16 tells us that even when the crowds increased, Jesus “often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” If Jesus, the Son of God, regularly retreated to spend time with the Father, how much more should we? The secret place is not optional for a vibrant relationship with God — it is essential.

The psalmist captured this longing in Psalm 27:4, declaring, “One thing have I asked of the Lord...to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.” Time with God is not merely a discipline; it is a delight. It’s where clarity is found, wounds are healed, love is deepened, and strength is renewed.

When we neglect time alone with God, our light dims, our hearts grow weary, and our direction gets blurred. But when we answer His call to “come away,” we are revived, refilled, and refocused. Intimacy isn’t built in haste — it grows in the quiet, when we linger long in His presence.

Reflection Questions:

1. How often do you intentionally withdraw to spend quality time alone with God?
2. What distractions do you need to lay aside to nurture your intimacy with the Father?

Prayer:

Dear Father, thank You for continually inviting me to draw near. Help me to prioritize Your presence above all else. Teach me to quiet the noise and retreat into fellowship with You. Let my heart long for the secret place, and may our time together transform me daily. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Recommended Action:

Set aside at least 30 minutes today to be alone with God — no phones, no distractions. Read a portion of Scripture slowly, worship, journal, and simply sit with Him. Make this a daily habit and watch your intimacy with Him deepen.



NAKED AND NOT ASHAMED

Genesis 2:25, Hebrews 4:13–16, Psalm 139:1–4, 23–24

APRIL

23

Memory Verse:

“And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.”
Genesis 2:25 (ESV)



The phrase “naked and not ashamed” found in Genesis 2:25 describes more than a physical state—it speaks of perfect vulnerability, total openness, and complete trust. Before sin entered the world, Adam and Eve lived in uninhibited intimacy with God and with each other. There was nothing to hide and nothing to fear.

However, after the fall in Genesis 3, shame entered the human story. Adam and Eve hid from God, covered themselves, and felt exposed. That same shame often keeps us distant from God today—masking our struggles, faking strength, and presenting curated versions of ourselves in prayer and worship.

But God doesn't want pretense; He desires authentic relationship. Hebrews 4:13 tells us that “no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Yet, in the very next verses, we are invited to approach His throne with boldness—not fear or shame—because Jesus understands our weaknesses and intercedes for us.

David demonstrated this kind of raw vulnerability in Psalm 139 and again in verses 23–24 when he prayed, “Search me, O God... see if there is any wicked way in me.” He wasn't afraid of God seeing the worst in him—he welcomed it, because he trusted in God's love and mercy.

Vulnerability with God isn't weakness; it's the doorway to deeper intimacy. 2 Corinthians 12:9 reminds us that God's grace is sufficient, and His strength is made perfect in our weakness. When we are honest with God about our pain, doubt, sin, or confusion, He doesn't turn away—He comes closer.

God already sees it all — our fears, our failures, our hidden hurts. When we stop hiding, stop pretending, and let Him into the real places of our hearts, that's when transformation happens. That's when intimacy deepens. To be “naked and not ashamed” before God is to be fully known, fully loved, and fully free.

Reflection Questions:

1. Are there areas in your life you're hiding from God out of fear or shame?
2. How can you practice being more emotionally honest and spiritually vulnerable with God this week?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for loving me fully — even in my brokenness. Teach me to stop hiding and to come boldly into Your presence, just as I am. Help me to trust in Your love enough to be vulnerable and open before You. Search my heart, cleanse me, and draw me deeper into intimacy with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Recommended Action:

Find a quiet place today and talk to God about something you've been holding back — whether it's fear, sin, doubt, or pain. Write it in a journal or pray it aloud. Allow yourself to be spiritually “naked and unashamed” before Him, knowing He receives you with grace.



THE KISS OF WORSHIP

Luke 7:36–50, Psalm 2:12 (AMP), John 4:23–24

APRIL

24

Memory Verse:

“I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.”

Psalms 146:2 (NIV)



Worship is often misinterpreted as a song, a raised hand, or an outward display during church services—but in its deepest essence, worship is intimacy expressed. It is the heart of a lover poured out before the One it adores. In the Bible, worship is tied to the word *proskuneó*, which literally means **“to kiss toward”** or **“to bow in reverence.”** True worship is the kiss of the soul to the Creator—gentle, sacred, and deeply intimate.

Worship is the natural expression of the soul to the wonder, majesty, greatness, love, and glory of God. It is our heart pouring sincere gratitude, honor and affection for our God.

In Luke 7:36–50, we see a woman of questionable reputation pour out her love on Jesus. She washes His feet with her tears, dries them with her hair, kisses them repeatedly, and anoints them with expensive perfume. What she did was awkward, raw, and undignified—but Jesus called it beautiful worship. While others saw sin, Jesus saw love. Her kisses weren’t just physical; they were spiritual—they were expressions of honor, repentance, gratitude, and deep affection.

Jesus longs for this kind of closeness with us—not performance, but heart connection. He said in John 4:23–24 that the Father is seeking worshipers who will worship in spirit and truth. That means worship that flows from a sincere, unhidden heart—worship that is not just a song, but a kiss; a holy affection offered by someone who knows they are fully known and still loved.

In a world that teaches us to hold back our emotions, worship calls us to pour out everything at His feet. We’re invited to love Him with abandon—like David who danced before the Lord, or Mary who sat at Jesus’ feet. True worship doesn’t calculate dignity; it releases devotion.

Worship is our kiss to the King. It is our heart whispering, “I love You,” over and over again. It is our soul acknowledging the privilege we have to be His, and submitting in honor to the wonder of it all. May we never grow too familiar with God that we forget the wonder of bowing low and kissing His feet with our surrender and praise.

Reflection Questions:

1. When last did your worship move past routine into real intimacy with God?
2. What does “kissing the Son” look like for you in your daily walk?

Prayer:

Dear Father, I long to love You deeply — not just with my lips but with my life. Teach me to worship You in spirit and truth. Strip away performance and help me embrace the beauty of genuine, heartfelt worship. Let my heart be like the woman with the alabaster jar — unafraid to pour out everything before You. Receive my worship today as a kiss from a grateful child to a loving Father. Amen.



Recommended Action:

Set aside 10–15 minutes today to worship God alone. Don’t sing a rehearsed song — just speak to Him in your own words. Tell Him who He is to you. Let it be raw, real, and full of love. Pour out your heart at His feet.



WHISPERS IN THE SECRET PLACE

Psalm 91:1–2, Matthew 6:6, 1 Kings 19:11–13

APRIL

25

Memory Verse:

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

Psalms 91:1 (NKJV)



There is a sacred place in the heart of God that not everyone ventures into—a secret place, reserved not for the qualified, but for the willing. It is a space of closeness where the noise of the world is silenced, and the whispers of heaven are heard. Intimacy with God thrives in this hidden space, away from the spotlight, the crowd, and the clamor.

While we all have access to the Father and God desires to deeply commune with all His children, there are secrets and truths about our life that only those who seek diligently and dwell are able to access.

Jesus highlighted this in Matthew 6:6, where He taught, “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” The secret place is not just a physical room; it is the posture of a heart that seeks communion over convenience. It’s where we come not to perform, but to listen and be known.

In 1 Kings 19:11–13, Elijah encountered the Lord, but not in the wind, earthquake, or fire. Instead, God came in a gentle whisper. That whisper is the language of the secret place. It is soft, subtle, and only heard when we’re close enough to lean in. God often doesn’t shout above our distractions—He whispers to draw us nearer. He wants relationship, not rituals. He wants intimacy, not performance. This is why Jeremiah 29:13 says we will find Him when we search *“with all of our hearts.”*

Psalm 91 promises security, refuge, and protection for those who dwell, not just visit, the secret place. This means cultivating consistency in our time with Him. It’s in the quiet moments of prayer, worship, journaling, and silence that our roots grow deep in Him. The more time we spend there, the more sensitive we become to His voice, His nudges, and His love.

If your soul feels weary or distant from God, perhaps He is inviting you back into the secret place—where the whispers begin again. It is not about eloquence or perfection, but about presence. God is waiting to speak, and He longs to reveal His heart to you.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you cultivated a consistent “secret place” with God, or has it become crowded by life’s distractions?
2. When last did you intentionally lean in to hear God’s gentle whisper?

Prayer:

Dear Father, draw me back into the secret place with You. I long to hear Your whisper above the noise of the world. Quiet my heart, tune my ears, and deepen my desire to be close to You. Let my secret place become my most treasured dwelling. Speak, Lord—Your servant is listening. Help me to stay, in Jesus’ name. Amen.



Recommended Action:

Schedule a quiet time today — no phone, no music, no distractions. Just sit in God’s presence. Ask Him to speak, and journal whatever you sense or hear. Let this be the beginning of a consistent habit of secret-place intimacy.



UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP

John 15:4–5, 1 John 1:3–7, Psalm 27:4

APRIL

26

Memory Verse:

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”
John 15:4 (NKJV)



God didn't create us for occasional encounters; He made us for unbroken fellowship. From the beginning, the Father desired to walk with us—just like He did with Adam in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8). Sin disrupted that fellowship, but Christ restored it by reconciling us back to God through His blood (2 Corinthians 5:18).

The reconciliation that the blood of Jesus worked was so that we could return to the place of unbroken fellowship with God; a relationship that does not end after our morning devotion or in church, but continues in every moment of our lives.

Jesus' invitation in John 15:4–5 is not to visit Him once a week, but to abide—to dwell, to remain, to continue. A branch only bears fruit by staying connected to the vine. This is a picture of constant communion, not a fleeting connection. Unbroken fellowship means we carry God's presence into every part of our lives, not just in quiet times but also in daily work, relationships, decisions, and rest.

In 1 John 1:3–7, the Apostle John emphasized that our fellowship is not just with one another, but with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. He even says, “If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship...” This kind of fellowship is based on walking with God in honesty, purity, and intentionality.

David expressed his heart's deepest desire in Psalm 27:4: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life. He wasn't content with moments; he wanted abiding presence. God is not seeking performance from us—He desires relationship, a continuous rhythm of walking together, not just during prayer or worship, but moment by moment.

When we cultivate unbroken fellowship with God, we begin to see Him in everything and everywhere. We live in awareness of His nearness. Our decisions are shaped by His voice, our emotions are calmed by His peace, and our purpose is aligned with His will. The goal of intimacy is not a spiritual high — it is union with the Father, lived out daily and deeply.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you been treating your relationship with God as occasional or continuous?
2. What distractions or habits might be interrupting your fellowship with Him?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for inviting me into constant communion with You. Help me not to drift or live disconnected. Teach me how to abide — how to walk with You daily and intimately. Let nothing interrupt our fellowship. May my heart remain in rhythm with Yours, now and always. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.



Recommended Action:

Take a moment today to acknowledge God in everything you do — whether working, driving, eating, or resting. Whisper prayers throughout your day, involve Him in your decisions, and consciously remain aware of His presence.



REFLECTIONS

RESIDENT PASTOR'S TOPIC

TEXTS:

APRIL

27

THE HEART THAT HOSTS HIS PRESENCE

Psalm 132:4–5, Isaiah 66:1–2, John 14:23

APRIL

28

Memory Verse:

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.’” John 14:23 (NKJV)



God is not looking for buildings made by human hands to dwell in. His deepest longing has always been to make His home in the hearts of His people. From the Garden of Eden to the Tabernacle in the wilderness, and ultimately through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, God’s desire has been clear—He wants to dwell with us.

David captured this heart cry in Psalm 132:4–5, saying he would not rest until he found a dwelling place for the Lord. What a passion! However, ultimately, God’s will for us and His desire is not for us to build him external edifices or beautiful temples. He wants to make us His dwelling place.

Under the New Covenant, we are not merely finding a place for God—we become the place where God dwells. We are His temple (1 Corinthians 3:16), and our hearts are His sanctuary. It is easy to build a physical place ‘for God’ and not make a place for Him in our hearts or lives. The latter is what God desires.

In Isaiah 66:1–2, God poses a powerful question: “Where is the house you will build for Me? Where will My resting place be?” He then answers it—not with a location but with a disposition: “But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite in spirit, and who trembles at My word.” The heart that hosts God’s presence is not proud, distracted, or hardened. It is **tender, yielded, and reverent**.

Jesus confirmed this in John 14:23, promising that the Father and the Son will make their home with **anyone who loves Him and keeps His word**. This is not a one-time visitation; it’s a habitation. God’s presence doesn’t just come for emotional moments—it abides where He is welcomed and obeyed.

To host God's presence, we must live with a heart that is open, reverent, and responsive. It means making space—removing the clutter of sin, bitterness, distraction, and pride. It means treasuring His voice and adjusting our lives to it. The heart that hosts His presence becomes a resting place for His glory—a life that not only carries Him but reveals Him to others.

Reflection Questions:

1. Is your heart a place where God feels at home, or just a place He visits occasionally?
2. What are some things in your life that might be crowding out His presence?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, I want my heart to be Your home — not just a place You visit, but a place where You dwell and are pleased to stay. Cleanse me of anything that grieves or resists You. Teach me to live with reverence, humility, and deep love for Your presence. Be at home in me, in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



Recommended Action:

Set aside time today to do a “heart check.” Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything in your heart that may be resisting His presence. Confess and surrender it, then invite Him afresh to dwell richly in you. Create a consistent time and space to honor His presence daily.



AT HIS FEET

Luke 10:38–42, John 11:32, Matthew 28:9, Psalm 27:4

APRIL

29

Memory Verse:*"And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word."***Luke 10:39 (NKJV)**

To be at the feet of Jesus is to take the posture of a true worshipper, a devoted disciple, and a surrendered heart. Throughout Scripture, we see that those who loved Jesus deeply and intimately often found themselves at His feet — listening, weeping, worshiping, and receiving.

In Luke 10:38–42, Mary chose the "better part" — sitting at Jesus' feet and hearing His word, while Martha was distracted by much serving. Jesus gently corrected Martha, not because service was wrong, but because she had allowed her doing to replace her being. Mary's choice reminds us that intimacy precedes impact — our first calling is to be with Him, not just to work for Him.

This is a vital reminder to us as believers to not let our work in the house of God take precedence over our devoting ourselves to learning at His feet.

Again, in John 11:32, when Lazarus died, Mary fell at Jesus' feet in grief and trust, echoing the sentiment that His feet are a place for honest hearts. Whether in worship or in pain, intimacy is expressed by choosing to bring our whole selves to Jesus — no pretenses.

Then in Matthew 28:9, after Jesus' resurrection, the women met Him, held His feet, and worshiped Him. There's something about being at His feet that marks a posture of humility and honor. It signifies that we are not just followers from a distance — we are drawn close, face to face, heart to heart.

King David expressed this longing in Psalm 27:4, desiring to dwell in the house of the Lord, to gaze upon His beauty and inquire in His temple. This is the heart of those who desire intimacy — not rushing past His presence but lingering at His feet.

In our fast-paced lives, it takes intentionality to slow down, bow down, and stay down. But this is where intimacy is nurtured. The feet of Jesus are not just a resting place — they are a learning place, a healing place, and a transforming place.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you been too busy doing for God that you've neglected simply being with Him?
2. What does sitting at Jesus' feet look like practically in your life today?

Prayer:

Dear Father, I want to be found at Your feet — learning, worshiping, and simply loving You. Teach me to slow down and choose what truly matters. Strip away every distraction that draws me from intimacy, and draw me into deeper fellowship with You. May Your feet be my favorite place, in Jesus' name. Amen.



Recommended Action:

Carve out at least 30 minutes today to sit quietly with the Lord — no requests, no noise, just stillness. Bring your Bible, a journal, and your heart. Worship, listen, and dwell at His feet. Make this a daily habit.



KNOWN AND STILL CHOSEN

Psalm 139:1–6, Jeremiah 1:5, Romans 5:8, John 15:16

APRIL

30

Memory Verse:

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV)



One of the deepest longings of the human heart is to be fully known and still loved—to be seen in the rawest places of our soul and not be rejected. In the world, we often hide our flaws, fearing that exposure may lead to abandonment. But with God, it's the opposite. He sees all—and still chooses us.

Psalm 139 gives us an awe-inspiring glimpse into how deeply God knows us. David writes that God has searched him and knows him intimately—his thoughts, his words before they are spoken, his comings and goings. There is no hiding from this kind of knowledge. And yet, God's knowledge of us doesn't disqualify us—it qualifies us for divine love and calling.

In Jeremiah 1:5, God tells the prophet that He knew him before he was formed. This is not a passive knowledge, but a purposeful one. God knew Jeremiah's weaknesses, fears, and inadequacies—and still consecrated him and set him apart for a mission. This same truth applies to us: God knew every flaw, failure, and fear you would have, and still He called you.

Paul echoes this in Romans 5:8, saying that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. The cross was not for perfect people—it was for the deeply flawed, the broken, the hiding. Jesus chose to die for us at our worst, not our best.

Then in John 15:16, Jesus declares, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you...” His choice wasn't based on merit, performance, or perfection. It was based on love. This divine selection is the foundation of intimacy—you are fully known, and still fully wanted.

Don't let shame or inadequacy drive you from God. He doesn't love an ideal version of you—He loves the real you. And in that truth lies the invitation to draw near, with confidence, to the One who sees all and still says, "You are Mine."

Reflection Questions:

1. Are there parts of your story you feel make you unworthy of God's love or calling?
2. How does knowing that God fully knows and still chooses you change how you approach Him?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for knowing me completely — my past, my struggles, my thoughts — and still choosing to love me. Help me to stop hiding and to come boldly into Your presence. Heal my heart from shame, and teach me to walk confidently in Your love. Let the reality of being known and still chosen transform how I live and love, in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



Recommended Action:

Spend time journaling today about the areas of your life you've tried to hide from God. Then, in prayer, open them up to Him one by one. Let His love affirm you, and say out loud: "***I am fully known and still chosen.***"





*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path*

Psalm 119:105

Reflections

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