



# SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT

## DAILY DEVOTIONS

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14*

**APRIL 19 – APRIL 25, 2020**

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*Sunday, April 19, 2020*

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## **Just Do IT**

*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. James 1:22-24*

Sometimes, listening to sermons and reading what the Bible Says is the easy part. Implementing what the Bible says, on the other hand, can be much more challenging.

Some persons think just because you can memorize scripture you will do what it says, because you have the word in your brain permanently. Memorizing Scripture is a great way to be a “Doer of God’s Word”, but don’t let your efforts stop there. Actions speak louder than words. Take the time, especially while the world and others around you are watching to JUST DO IT! Show forth your faith in God.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for your Word. Help me to encourage others to follow you. Give me the ability to read and understand your Word. Help me to spend time daily in your word. Help me to forgive others and to even forgive myself when I fail to do all that you ask. Help me to follow you everyday and in every way. AMEN.

**Song.** Hold back the night. Give me strength to fight.  
I'll do Your will if You just say to my soul: peace, be still.  
O Lord, I love Your name. Every day You're just the same.  
I'll be all right if You hold back the night. (Hold Back the Night,  
Rev. Charles Nicks)

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*Monday, April 20, 2020*

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## **YES, PRAY FOR THEM TOO...**

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 1 Timothy 2:1-3*

In today's verse, Paul tells us that all leaders, from national to local, need our prayers. Especially at a time like this we need to be praying for our leaders. The world is depending on it. Prayer may not change their decisions or hearts, but it does please God, who is our ultimate leader and ruler. God can guide the leader and don't forget God has the whole world in HIS hands.

Praying for our leaders can be a daunting task, since they have so many duties and affect so many people. Sometimes we do not agree with the policies and strategies of our political system. They still need our prayers that they might receive the wisdom to lead in a way to enhance the world.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to pray for our leaders. Help their minds to think the right things. Guide their feet. Humble them under your almighty hand. Help me that I might stand for justice and in my praying still speak truth in love and not compromise your mission for our world. AMEN.

**Song:** Sovereign, Sovereign  
The Lord my God is Sovereign  
He can do whatever He wants to do  
He can do whatever He wants to do  
When He wants to (Sovereign, Daryl Coley)

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*Tuesday, April 21, 2020*

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## **IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY**

*When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God. Leviticus 19:9-10*

Sometimes in life we can become so fixated on our own problems and forget about others. Over the past month many changes have taken place but never forget about others around you. Let us remember that others are in this world experiencing what we experience. It is our job to look out for the needs of others. In the busyness of your day, don't forget to check on someone, encourage someone. Yes, we may have problems but there is always someone else growing through as well. Let's be our brother's keeper. If we have more than enough, be a blessing to someone.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to show forth your grace by being a blessing to someone else. Let me not be controlled by selfish ambitions and forget about others. I pray for those who are poor and even those experiencing the new normal in our crisis. Help me Lord. Be a provider. Thank you, Lord. AMEN.

**Song:** If I can help somebody, as I travel along  
If I can help somebody, with a word or song  
If I can help somebody, from doing wrong  
No, my living shall not be in vain (Mahalia Jackson)

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*Wednesday, April 22, 2020*

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## **LOVE: GOD'S LANGUAGE**

*Whoever does not love, does not know God, because God is love. I  
John 4:8*

God is love is a familiar thought and saying. With this we are reminded that God is love but when God is love we also must be demonstrators of that love. We must always show love in the deepest way possible toward everyone, because God showed us His love for us through Jesus Christ.

Let us use this time to imitate the love God has for us—to love as unconditionally as possible and show love in as many ways as we can. That looks different for every person and situation, but if we as God, God will give us the love we need. When we love God, God will allow us to be demonstrators of that passion for others.

**Prayer:** Father God, help us to love. Teak us in our finite minds to demonstrate your love to others. If when it is difficult to love. Help us love. Help us to know you through your love for us. Thank you God for your love. We praise you continuously for your grace. AMEN.

**Song:** You thought I was worth saving, So you came and changed my life  
You thought I was worth keeping, So you cleaned me up inside  
You thought I was to die for, So you sacrificed your life  
So I could be free, So I could be whole  
So I could tell everyone I know (WORTH, Anthony Brown and Group Therapy)

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*Thursday, April 23, 2020*

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## **FAITH IS THE KEY**

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:6*

Apart from faith, there are many in the Bible who could ever have been pleasing to God. Believing in God means that in your mind you embrace a hope in the invisible that has not been fulfilled. To have this hope in God means that we believe the promises of the Word of God. We approach God in full confidence that God will do just what He said. The reward desired by those who seek God is that we might please God. In our pleasing of God, we have joy just because we are doing the will of God. Trust God. Have faith. God will stand by His word.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you that I can have faith in you. Help me to please you by not trusting what individuals may say but to believe your report. Help me to have faith to see things not as they are but what they can be. Make me an instrument of peace and praise. Help me conquer every trial through faith in you. In Jesus name I pray. AMEN.

**Song:** I HAVE THE FAITH, THAT SEES THE INVISIBLE, EXPECTS THE INCREDIBLE, RECEIVES THE IMPOSSIBLE  
FAITH, THAT CAN CONQUER ANYTHING (Vanessa Bell Armstrong)

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*Friday, April 24, 2020*

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## **PATIENCE**

*Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Ecclesiastes 7:8*

God has a purpose and plan for your life. Never forget that. When looking at the circumstances of life we must remember the joy of when it is all over. When the trial is finished. When the prayer is answered. When the class is completed. Finishing is always exciting and better than starting. When you start a task, you don't know the details of the journey but when you finish you will have a story to tell of how you made it through. Trust in God that God did not bring you to this point without thinking about your ending. All in your path is allowing you to mature in faith and increase your clarity of who you are and who God is. Patience helps you learn the lessons you need to pass the tests of life and keep growing and going toward your destiny.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help me to keep going, growing, and learning all that you would have me to know on this journey. Give me the spirit to patiently walk on this journey toward my destiny. Thank you for the purpose and plan you have. AMEN.

**Song:** I've got a destination in my view, The road may be bumpy getting there, But I'm pressing through, I will enjoy this journey, No matter come or may, I'll become better and stronger, And wiser everyday (Destiny, Tina Campbell)

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*Saturday, April 25, 2020*

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## **REMEMBERING GOD'S GOODNESS**

*But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you Psalm 39:7*

As Christians, it is our duty to share hope with others. We may encounter individuals who seem to have no hope. So many are bogged down in difficult circumstances or struggling with inner conflicts as we adjust to the drastic changes and transitions of life. After this how will things be?

When you encounter someone who needs hope, you can and should hope in God. Prayer is a powerful tool that will help us in having hope and sharing hope. Sometimes one of the hopeful responses should not be to look at the circumstances of life but look at God's blessings. Take a minute and count the blessings. We can always lose hope looking at the problems but when you look at God you will be reminded that God has blessed you beyond your imagination.

**Prayer:** Gracious God, I know you are the reason I can have hope. Help me to reflect upon your daily blessings and to trust you. Help me to encourage others to hope in you. I thank you for every blessing and will continue to think about your blessings and the power you must keep right on blessing me. Thank you, GOD. AMEN.

**Song:** When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord (Count Your Blessings,  
Johnson Oatman Jr.)