

June 2021

Thank you so much for your faithful support this month. We truly appreciate you and the Lord will use your giving for the kingdom as we place it in His hands with faith. Here's where we are in....

In Circumstances:

This month was full of non-stop work, that would be the best description. Many times the work we were doing felt as if it wasn't yielding any "reward"/fruit or result. The immediate verse that comes to mind is Galatians 6:9-10, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." It was interesting that many times the Lord sustained us to keep going even when we thought we didn't have anything left. It was as it says in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." That verse is a good summary of what happened this month. In the midst of everything, God sustained us by giving us strength and by providing! Psalms 86:16, "Turn to me and have mercy on me; give thy strength unto thy servant; save me, because I serve you as my mother did." (Most mothers are good examples of serving their kids, they do it with all they got and don't hold anything back).

It was as David says in Psalms 86,

"Hear me, LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Guard my life, for I am faithful to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to you all day long. Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you..." Psalms 116:16, "Oh Lord, truly I am your servant, I serve you as my mother did; because you have broken my chains." It should be humbling to think of yourself as a servant of God, a privilege but it also places us in the place where we belong, at his feet. Knowing we were bought at an incalculable price of the eternal life of Jesus the Holy Lamb of God, and our chains have been broken because we were prisoners to the law.

During this month, we learned a good bit about thankfulness. I am not a person to express much thankfulness in sappy emotions, but rather in my lifestyle and actions towards God. And it was during those tiring times of keeping on, when I asked myself, "Why do we really always do the best we can do?" I've heard it said before and definitely lived by it. But when we aren't seeing many results we ask why am I "killing" myself doing this. The Lord at the end of the month put it on my heart, it is out of gratitude! Romans 12:1, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship." Everything we have is given to us by God, our families, our jobs, our food, our shelter, and possessions, etc. So it is out of gratitude that we administer each and every gift well to the best of our abilities as his servants. "Love the Lord you God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

One of my prayers this month has been to have zeal for the Lord. "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord" (Rom. 12:11). Many times we can be zealous (passionate) to do a lot of things- taking care of family well, doing our jobs well, and further down the road accomplishing short and long-term goals/ dreams. Even for a missionary to be zealous to do missions, but I just asked the Lord to reorder that zeal for me to pursue just Him. I want to have zeal for God, not just to be a missionary (because my identity is in Him), I want to have zeal for His will, and not just doing things. And out of that zeal and passion for Him, the rest will flow. It's good to place all your zeal on God because His will/call for a certain task, place, or people can change for you. We are to follow Him into His will as servants of the Lord.

Lord and Savior really go hand in hand, it is refreshing to be reminded of this. The Lord in Psalms 18 is described as our Warrior, Deliverer, and Savior from the enemy that was stronger than we were. Psalms 85:12, "I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave."

In Judges, the Spirit would come upon a deliverer and given them the power to defeat the worldly nation that the Israelites were enslaved by. As the Spirit came upon Samson and Othniel and others, they would go

into battle and free Israel with the Lord's help. And ultimately, the Spirit came upon Jesus (Isaiah 42 & 61:1-4) who delivered all of us from the power of death, sin, and Satan. "I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." Acts 26:17-18. And ultimately, we are indebted to justice with the eternal grace and mercy of God with a life of thankfulness.

Mt. 8:14, "When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and waited (served) on him. When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a Word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

Her immediate response was to serve Him!

In Fundraising

As of May by God's grace and goodness, we have \$43,960.00 in pledges and one-time gifts. In the Partners account is 17,431.30 (part of the 43,960.00). That puts us at 44% of the launch goal. Thanks to the Lord 3 or 4 more people have asked and expressed interest in supporting, which is a huge blessing from the Lord. Please pray the Lord will lead and guide them on how to give.

The Lord encouraged me this month to "step out on the limb". I pictured climbing up a tree, being up high but clinging to the trunk, and the Lord telling me to walk out further on that branch, walk until the limb. I was reminded of Dt. 32:11, "like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young and spreads its wings to catch them and carries them in its pinions." In other words, God wants us to learn how to fly and we can't do that if we are hugging onto the tree.

What would this look like for you and me? For me, it was doing what the Lord put on my heart to do. I realize that when this happens sometimes we can get caught up in how great it would be if we actually did it, and then don't follow through on it. Then it just stays as a "good idea" and becomes nothing more. But thank the Lord, he gave me the courage to obey the prompts of the Spirit in my heart this month!

Another verse, that Rocio told me of was James 4:16, "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." This is a verse that also brings encouragement/ rebuke to some of us, who hear the voice of the Lord telling us to do things, and don't follow through. Our prayer would be Lord, give me the want and the will! May the promptings of the Spirit overflow into our lives and our surroundings, and not just stay in our heart- may we obey Him in faith expressing itself through love. 1 Jn. 3:18, "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

Spiritually: (The relationship between patience and peace)

Patience in the storm or calmness in the storm is called serenity. It means to be able to let go of the control of what happens and trust that God is in control and it will be okay. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." Mt. 5:9 When things are hard, be patient, take it slow and calmly. Lk. 12:7, "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

..." I have told you these things, so that you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world!" Grant us your peace oh Lord, that goes deeper down in the soul than any other "relief" knowing that You are with us! " , And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Amen!

