

October 2023 Newsletter

Thank you so much for all your prayers and 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 ...

News

A huge blessing this month was we got to spend some time with family. Mary Beth, my sister got married October 22nd to Dennis Wanyoike and my brother, Benjamin got married to Emily Suber November 4th. My parents, Arthur and Mary Alice came down from Peru and we were able to see them too! It was great to spend some time with all of them.

Circumstances

A prayer this month is for fear of the Lord to be in the way of the Lord with consistency, faithfulness, and steadfastness- though I am not perfect at this. Notice many of these Psalms below speak about staying on the right path and not straying. Sometimes, when we stray, it takes something very painful to get us back on the right path. Straying can happen without noticing or intentionally, as Psalms 19:9- 14 says, "The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold; they are sweeter than honey than honey from the comb. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servants also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression."

The Lord teaches us to pray in the Lord's prayer: "And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one." The enemy wants to lure us into death, deceive us into slavery, and destroy everything the Lord has given us by His grace. That's why it's so important to stay alert and of sober mind; your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour (1 Pt. 5:8).

Here are some verses David writes of the Lord's protection from the enemy, that though he feels vulnerable, he puts his trust in the Lord to uphold him:

- Psalms 94: 17-19, "Unless the Lord had given me help, I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death. When I said, "My foot is slipping," your unfailing love, Lord, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy."
- Psalm 37:23-24, "The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand."
- Psalm 86:11, "Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name."

Here are some verses about straying and how it is much more serious than we may think.

Psalm 95:10-11, "For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, "They are my people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways. So I declared an oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest."

Psalms 81:10-12, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth, and I will fill it. But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me. So, I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices. If my people would only listen to me, if Israel would only follow my ways, how quickly would I subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes! Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, and their punishment would last forever. But you would be fed with the finest of wheat; with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

Psalms 66:8-12, "Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver. You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance."

The Lord truly cares for us in ways we can't even imagine. But one of the things I see here is that He is hard on us when he needs to be, but it is out of his great love to bring us closer to Him. "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son (Heb. 12:5)."

A small conclusion is in Psalms 23. We see the good shepherd can use hardship to guide us, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me."

Spiritually

God also warns us many times, as does the Spirit within us, and these warnings help us keep alert. Here are some that have helped me this month. One verse I like as both a blessing and a warning mixed in is Psalms 85:8. But before verse 8, the Lord has shown favor to the land, restored the fortunes of Jacob, forgave the iniquity of the people and covered their sins, set aside his wrath and turned from his fierce anger. A little further down, verse 8 is a blessing and warning: "I will listen to what God the Lord says: he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants-but let them not turn to folly. Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land." Notice if one receives peace and turns to folly, the peace is forfeited. Thus, we have a part to play in God's restoration in our lives- receiving the wholeness and abundant life He wants to give us in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 25:14-15 says, "The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only he will release my feet from the snare... Deliver Israel, O God, from all their troubles." I don't know about you, but I desire for the Lord to confide in me, as he calls us to be faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms (1 Pt. 4:10). This means if we are faithful, He wants to and will show us more of Himself, His glory, and His kingdom.

Below, there is also an excellent warning to fear the Lord and keep on the straight and narrow path: "To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless,

to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the devious you show yourself shrewd. You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty. You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turn my darkness into light.” Ps. 18:25-28

Fundraising

We need to raise \$50,067.44 for our third year, and we are at 44.3% of that amount. If you feel the Lord Jesus is leading you to be in ministry with us financially, you can use the link below to contribute— <https://tnpartners.org> (Make a free account and choose the Ivey missionary to give). Blessings in Christ!!

