

LIGHTHOUSE



Issue 12 | February 2024



HIS STRENGTH IN OUR WEAKNESS

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The Lighthouse e-Magazine is a bi-monthly e-magazine. You'll discover something unique and fascinating in every issue of our magazine.

We provide inspirational messages from experienced people, testimonials, and personal stories, as well as fun activities like Bible puzzles, quizzes, and historical facts. You are always welcome to share your stories and experiences with us.

By the grace of God, the Lighthouse team proudly marks the successful publication of 12 issues, extending heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed authors and contributors for their pivotal role in each triumph. As we embrace the dawn of a new year, we anticipate exciting developments for our readers.

Our e-magazine extends an open invitation to individuals with a profound passion for sharing the transformative power of God's word and personal experiences in uplifting others. Join us in this noble mission, becoming a beacon of hope for those in despair, and fortifying their faith through your inspiring articles, write-ups, poems, and more. Together, let us illuminate the path towards faith and encouragement.

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I CAN DO
all things
THROUGH
Christ
WHO
Strengthens
ME

-Phil. 4:13 (KJV)



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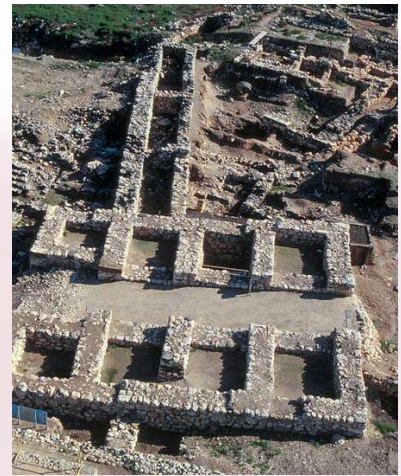
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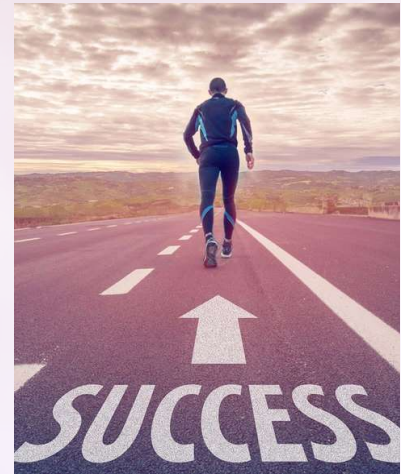
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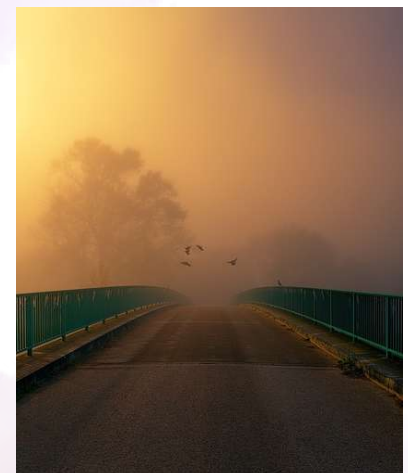
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EDITOR'S NOTE

His Strength in Our Weakness

Another year has gone by, and we have just welcomed the New Year 2024. The theme for the year 2024 that has been prayerfully chosen is "His Strength in Our Weakness." This theme has been taken from the verse in Philippians 4:13: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (NIV). Though the context of this verse is about how Paul is content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want, we can still apply it to our every circumstance.

Lord Jesus has told us in certain terms that in this world we will have trouble, but He has encouraged us to take heart as He has overcome the world. Our God is faithful and can do no other than help us overcome the world as we trust in Him. In that, we realise His strength in our weaknesses.

There have been numerous accounts in the Bible wherein ordinary men and women have achieved greatness just by trusting in God and His timely provisions. I have been reading the account of David and his battle with Goliath and am amazed at the way our God, Jehovah, freed the Israelites from the impending defeat at the hands of the Philistines. For forty days, Goliath came out and bellowed his challenge to the Israelites to send one man to do battle with him. The winner would enslave the loser's country and take possession of the land. David was zealous for the Lord and was furious that this infidel would take the name of the Lord Jehovah in vain. David's response was awesome: he said to Goliath, you come against me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the Name of the Lord Almighty. David's complete trust in God was evident in that he refused the armour provided by Saul and, armed with just a sling and a few stones, killed Goliath. In David's complete weakness, humility, and dependence on God, he realised the strength and awesomeness of a true and living God.

May I encourage each of us to look to God each day, asking Him to help us when we feel frustrated by circumstances, challenged by temptation, or to give us words to speak when we feel tongue-tied? We will see Him at work in our lives too. God partners with us, and we will realise that if we have done well, it is because God has helped us flourish. This year, my prayer for each of us is to rely completely on His leading and not on our understanding. Let our responses be like David's: "We come in the Name of the Lord."

This Lighthouse edition has several enlightening and thought-provoking articles and puzzles that I believe will surely rejuvenate you, refresh you, and increase your faith as you abide in Him and walk in obedience to His good pleasure in your lives. I pray that you will be blessed as you navigate your way through the lighthouse.

-Mr. Dev Daniel
Editor-in-Chief
Lighthouse e-Magazine

HEY YOU

Just Remember

YOU ARE
Blessed

YOU ARE
Strong

YOU ARE
Brave

GOD IS YOUR
Strength

GOD IS YOUR
Power

People's Group
Pagadai



Pagadai people are Dalits, who are a religiously diverse population in India and mostly practice Hinduism. They are a schedule caste in Tamil Nadu, descended from Tamil royals who were taken prisoners during a war and returned as the Kannada-speaking Madiyars and Tamil-speaking Chakkiliyars. Most of the group resides in Tamil Nadu, with a minority in neighbouring states. They speak Telugu and Tamil, are 60% literate, and work as sweepers and agricultural labourers.

The Pagadai are endogamous, support cross-cousin marriages, depend on women for financial assistance, and eat beef and pork. They rely on indigenous and traditional medicines. Evangelical Christian population of 2%, but less than 5%.

E-MAGAZINE KNOWLEDGE CHALLENGE

This quiz tests your understanding of the latest insights and information from our published articles in the December 2023 issue. Try it out!



- 1) In the article by Mrs. Salini Manohar, Christmas is the answer and antidote to both _____ and _____.
- 2) What does the author of Hebrews say in Heb. 13:5?
- 3) The song "12 Days of Christmas" features _____ presents, with Christmas being the only one, with each gift being given every day of the year.
- 4) Christmas Day is observed on January 7 in nations such as _____, _____ and _____.
- 5) The first string of electric lights was made by _____.
- 6) In the article "Faith Makes Things Possible, _____ is a combination of a force and a feeling that moves us into action and gives us a deep sense of assurance.
- 7) What does Romans 8:31 say?
- 8) In the article by Mrs. Esther, what were the final concluding lines?
- 9) The word "advent" is derived from the Latin word "adventus," which means _____ or _____.
- 10) The apostle Paul beautifully encapsulates the essence of hope in which Bible verse?

Answers in Pg. 21



BIBLE PUZZLE

- Click the image or [Click here](#)
- Take a screenshot after completing the Word Search.

Send your answers to
lighthousebi@gmail.com (or)
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Q	T	L	J	G	R	A	C	E	L	F	C	H	T	N	J	A	W	M	F
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HIS STRENGTH IN OUR WEAKNESS



-Mrs. Sneha Jayachandran

“

Redeemer is
remedy for our
weakness.

”

“

Crowned King crucified on
cross to save the world;
Crowned Queen Esther
locked inside golden bars to
save God's people.

”

“

Divine power
within us, why
looking for
Petromax.

”

His strength gives us life; His strength gives us love;
His strength gives us hope; His strength gives us health;
His strength gives us wisdom; His strength gives willpower;
His strength gives us power; His strength gives us peace;
His strength purifies us; His strength prospers us;
His strength enlightens us; His strength lifts us;
His strength builds us; His strength blesses us;
His strength makes us; His strength molds us;
His strength equips us; His strength qualifies us;
His strength convicts us; His strength corrects us;
His strength prepares us; His strength straightens our path;
His strength gives us endurance; His strength takes us to eternal.

“

Admit your
weakness; adorn
the divine power of
God.

”

“

When God's strength
descends on you; your
weakness will ascend
from you.

”

“

Anointing makes
the weak strong.

”

Sports Day & *Christmas @* *HBI & College*



Holding the torch



Men's Volleyball



Women's Volleyball



Cooking



Preparing for the Event



Dr. Johnson
Principal
HBI & College



Mrs. Malini Asirvatham
President
HBI & College



Rev. James Kaiser
Director, CMCT
HBI & College



Dr. Thuthi Nesa Raja
Director, IT
HBI & College



HBI Worship Team



Winners of 2024 Cup



Villi Patu Team



Skit Teams



Singing "Silent Night" holding Candles

Tel Hazor



Source: Mark Gershom

Tel Hazor is an archaeological site located in northern Israel, near the Sea of Galilee. It holds significant historical and archaeological importance, particularly for its role in ancient history.

Historical Significance

Biblical References: Hazor is mentioned several times in the Bible, including in the books of Joshua and Judges. According to biblical accounts, Hazor was a major Canaanite city conquered by the Israelites under Joshua's leadership.

Archaeological Excavations: The site has been extensively excavated by multiple archaeological teams over the years. The most notable excavations were led by Yigael Yadin in the 1950s and 1960s.

Canaanite and Israelite Occupation: The archaeological layers at Tel Hazor reveal evidence of both Canaanite and Israelite occupation. The city was a prominent center during the Bronze Age and continued to be significant during the Iron Age.

Destruction Layers: Evidence suggests that Hazor was destroyed and rebuilt several times throughout its history. The destruction layers are indicators of violent events, possibly warfare or conquests.



Source: Maidain Project

Solomonic Gate

One of the significant discoveries at Tel Hazor is the monumental six-chambered gate dating back to the 10th century BCE, believed by some scholars to be from the time of King Solomon.



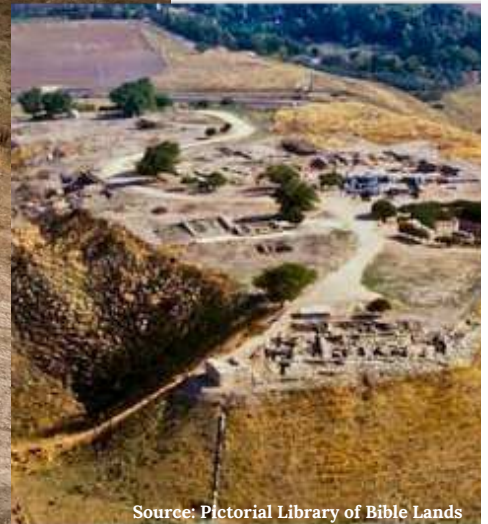
Ruins of gates at Hazor evidently dating to the time of Solomon

Source: Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania

Unearthed in 1992 at Hazor, a cuneiform tablet fragment speaks directly to the legendary King Jabin of Hazor. The ancient royal memo, hailing from the 18th century, hints at the enduring dynasty behind the name Jabin—a captivating tale of kingship through the ages.



Source: Crystalinks



Source: Pictorial Library of Bible Lands

Hazor was one of the most important and powerful cities in the ancient Near East. It played a crucial role in political, military, and economic aspects during different periods of history.

Source: Biblical Archaeological Society



Source: Maidain Project

Bronze Age City: The origins of Hazor date back to the Bronze Age, making it one of the largest and most important cities in the region during that time.

Cultural Artefacts: Numerous artefacts have been unearthed at Tel Hazor, including pottery, sculptures, and inscriptions, providing insights into the daily life, religious practices, and artistic achievements of its ancient inhabitants.

STEPS TO ACHIEVING SUCCESS THROUGH PROACTIVITY IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



-Dr. Paul Ebenezer

Success is a journey, not a destination. Throughout this journey, individuals globally often prioritize various aspects of life, encompassing their public image, attire, dietary choices, social interactions, talents, skills, and techniques. However, often, they concentrate on their outward appearance rather than their inward character, which serves as the foundational element of success. Essential principles such as integrity, humility, justice, patience, simplicity, temperance, and courage constitute the bedrock of effective living. True success is attained as individuals learn and skilfully integrate these principles into their character.



Greatness in our lives begins from the inside out, emphasizing character over personality. Character forms the essential foundation, and personality should be firmly rooted in it. The challenge arises when individuals focus solely on outward appearances, seeking shortcuts and quick fixes. However, true success requires being proactive in building a strong foundation rather than taking shortcuts.

Does God desire His people to be proactive? Yes, I believe He does. David, whom Scripture describes as "a man after God's own heart," was profoundly proactive; he took initiative and made things happen. God encourages us to be proactive.

Does God Desire His People to be Proactive? Yes!

In essence, the steps for achieving success through proactivity in the Christian life, as taught by David (1 Samuel 17:12–50), include: **"Knowing the Heart of God," "Seeking the Honor of God," and "Trusting the Help of God"**

Knowing the Heart of God

Where did David's confidence in knowing that God would help him overcome Goliath come from? It came from the time that David spent with God in the fields with the sheep, playing his harp, and worshipping God. It stemmed from his past experiences of God's divine protection and intervention on his behalf.

Goliath is a man who neither fears nor acknowledges God, openly challenging the power of God and mocking the people of God. Reflecting on this and understanding God's heart, David could see that it would be God's intention in this situation to humble the Philistine, glorify God's name, and protect His people.

When we are contemplating a specific situation and seeking to discern the will of God, especially when considering whether to take the initiative and be proactive, it must begin with us understanding the heart of God about that kind of situation.

Seeking the Honor of God

"Who is this pagan Philistine anyway that he is allowed to challenge the armies of the Living God?" (v.26)

It is crucial to recognize that David did not decide to take the initiative to defeat Goliath based on Saul's attempt to entice soldiers with a self-centred reward—a wife and tax exemption—for accepting Goliath's challenge. David was not persuaded by the offered reward; instead, he was moved by the honor of God. Goliath was questioning the power and authority of the God of Israel, and David could not tolerate that.

We can also make a mistake by being proactive for the wrong reasons. As Christians, our drive and motivation should not be centered on what we can gain from our actions but on the honor and glory of God. This often means that our focus should not only be on what we set out to achieve but also on how we set out to achieve it. We must desire that God will be honored.

Trusting the Help of God

David says to Goliath in verse 45: **"Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head."**

David stands before Goliath, while grown men and hardened soldiers have been cowering in their tents for the past 40 days as Goliath taunted them and their God. He stands there with a shepherd's bag, a sling, and five small stones, while Goliath carries a sword, a spear, and a shield.

However, when Goliath mocks David's armoury, his reply is simple: God is going to overcome you, and I'm just here to clean up the mess. David's trust was solely in God's help.

When King Saul questioned what would happen if David went into battle without armour, David's response was, "The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine." The Lord will do it!

Any proactive individuals make the mistake of placing their trust solely in their abilities. David has shown us that our trust should be in God's ability. Therefore, as we step out boldly, our confidence ought never to be based on our abilities but always on the ability of God!

May I inspire you all by saying, "Do your best and let God do the rest"

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen!'"

-Matthew 28:18-20

God has given us a calling and a mission, and He expects us to make them happen. He does not call us to sit back and watch Him make His Kingdom come. Instead, He calls us to extend His Kingdom by making disciples of all nations.



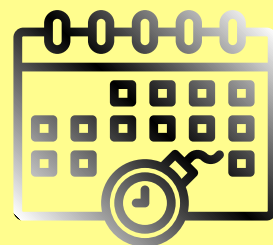


Small prayer WITH FAITH makes big differences

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BIBLE QUIZ

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Deadline
March 05, 2024

WHEN WE ARE WEAK, HE IS STRONG

One day, little Grace was walking through a lush wilderness with towering trees and babbling brooks.



As she ventured deeper, captivated by its beauty, she lost her way. It started raining heavily.



God Is On Your Side



“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

” -Mr. Jonathan
-Isaiah 43:2



- As Christians, we are all called by God to fulfil his plans and purpose in our lives.
- As we go on to do that, we face trials, problems, obstacles, etc.
- At times, we get exhausted, feel low, fear, and get sidetracked by not fulfilling his purposes.
- But God remains and strengthens us through his word in Isaiah 43:2.
- God is always with us and by our side forever.

Nehemiah - The Man Behind the Wall

- He was a cupbearer to the king of Persia.
- He was a Jew.
- He was known for being won through prayer and obedience.
- He was very close to the king of Persia, in which the king sought his advice since he was looking through that king had good food and drink, since poisoning through food can kill the king.

- He heard the news that the wall of Jerusalem was in very bad condition because of the sin of the Israeli people.
- Prayer to God before getting into action, and by his grace, he got permission from the king to go to Jerusalem, and along with him was the king's escort, who provided his useful resources to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.
- Provided timber from his royal forest.
- The governor of Samaria was against Nehemiah.
- Nehemiah posted guards to protect and labourers to work.
- Nehemiah was angry because of overtaxation and slavery.
- He showed his greatness by not receiving any salary from the taxes of the people.
- Then Nehemiah had to face a lot of problems and challenges, which he won through prayer and obedience.
- Despite all the problems, he could rebuild the wall of Jerusalem within 52 days.
- Rebuilding the religious life of the people

Problems Faced by Nehemiah

- The officials of Tekoa did not cooperate with him (Neh. 3:5)
- He was ridiculed by Sanballat and Tobiah (Neh. 2:17-19, 4:2-3)
- He received threats of violence from his enemies (Neh. 4: 7-8)
- A trap was laid to begin his mission of rebuilding the wall (Neh. 4:12)
- There was a plot to kill him (Neh. 6: 2-3)
- Insecurity from the enemies (Neh. 4: 11-12)
- False prophets tried to discourage him. (Neh. 6:14)
- Opposition from the Jewish Nobles (Neh. 4:19)
- False accusations from his enemies (Neh. 6: 5-9)



People try to mock us, try to create problems, send us problems, gossip against us, and don't want us to grow, but we have our God, who is with us wherever we go. He has called us; he is with us until the work is done and dusted, and he will be with us forever.



The Fiery Furnace

The mention of the Lord's presence and protection in the fire reminds me of the story of the three sons of Judah cast into the Babylonian furnace because they would not bow or bend to worship an idol. They were also preserved in the fire by the presence of God (Daniel 3:19-25).

Amy Carmicheal

- She was an Irish missionary.
- She started the Dhonavur Fellowship.
- She was known to save the girls from temples that gave them prostitutes.
- Amy's missions started through obedience and prayer, and she did everything that pleased our Heavenly Father.
- As she went into preaching God's word to the people in the community, there came a child to her, expecting help from Amy.
- She knew she would face a lot of problems; she knew that God was with her and went on saving lots of girls, eradicating the devadasi system and slavery against women in the community.
- Amy could have let this down, knowing that she was in danger, but she knows that God is with her, who is mightier than anything in this world.
- Not only preaching God's word but also becoming a social reformist by saving the lives of young girls in the community.



“ Despite many challenges, God was with Nehemiah and with Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego in the burning furnace. Despite the many dangers Amy Carmichael faced, God was with her. HE WILL BE WITH US TOO! ”

True-life incidents reveal God's unwavering support during trials, allowing us to use them for glorifying His name and fulfilling His purpose, as we are all chosen to serve His kingdom.

**LET'S REMEMBER ISAIAH 43:2
WHENEVER WE FACE CHALLENGES IN LIFE!**

Beyond the Heart's Reach

Love

-Ms. Suneera Lincy

At some point in our lives, everyone has experienced or will experience love. Love is a soul-to-soul connection. Because God is love, love is embedded in every human being. Love can be shown through family, friendship, or a relationship. Love is a dynamic force that changes with time, developing and strengthening as relationships grow.

The Bible offers deep understandings of what love is all about. 1 Corinthians 13 discusses love, specifically the love that God expects each of us to show to one another. Is it possible for us to love people in the way that God desires? We can never fully comprehend the depth of God's compassion and boundless love. Let's analyse a few contrasts between the love of this world and the real love that God has for us.



Conditional Nature

Human love is conditioned by mutual interests, behaviours, and outward appearances.

The Bible teaches in 1 Samuel 16:7 that God looks at the heart rather than the outward appearance. The infinite extent of God's love for us provides a sense of permanence and unwavering commitment. God's love is unconditional, eternal, and unaffected by our actions and worthiness, and it endures forever.

"But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

-1 Samuel 16:7 (NKJV)

Fluctuating Emotions

A person's level of love is dependent on the circumstances surrounding them. God's definition of love is kindness and patience. Envy, boasting, and pride are not signs of love (1 Corinthians 13:4). God's love is extended to all, demonstrating grace and forgiveness even when we fall short.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

- Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

Temporary Connections

Humans are ever-changing. People's love for us changes with time, and many will leave us under various situations, but God's love for us remains unchanging and He lives eternally. God's love is not arbitrary; it is purposeful, guiding us toward a divine plan.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

- Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)



Unwavering Commitment

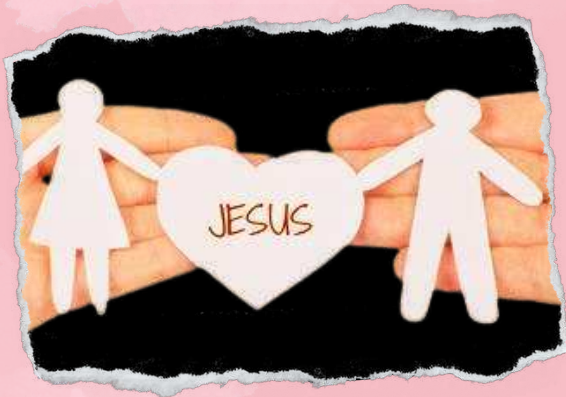
People often waver in their commitments when faced with challenges such as misunderstandings, financial issues, and emotional breakdowns. In Deuteronomy 31:6, God promises that He will never leave or forsake us. No matter what we go through, how miserable we are, or whether we have enough money, God's love never wavers, and He is always there to comfort and strengthen us, giving us hope to keep going through whatever challenges we face.



Transformative Power

Though human love can change a person for the better, it cannot save or completely redeem a person. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, in Christ we are a new creation. God redeems us from all our sins and restores our relationship with Him when we confess to Him. The old sins no longer have any power over us because we have become a new person in Him.

God-Centered Love



When we abide in God and allow His love to fill our hearts, the Holy Spirit enables us to love others in the same manner that God loves us. We receive the ability to love our friends, family, and loved ones with God's love and to be patient, kind, and forgiving. No matter what sickness, loss, or crisis arises, any relationship that has God at the centre will never fail. A godly relationship is one in which the man and the woman pray together, seek God's wisdom when making decisions, and build a home overflowing with love because God teaches them to love and forgive the way He does.

Let me conclude by posing this straightforward question:

WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE AN UNWAVERING, CONDITIONAL LOVE OR AN ETERNAL, UNCONDITIONAL LOVE THAT LASTS FOREVER?

No matter what we have done or how severely we have sinned against God, God's love for us remains the same. All it takes is true repentance for God to embrace us with His unwavering, unending love, and that love is forever.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

ANSWERS FOR E-MAGAZINE KNOWLEDGE CHALLENGE IN PG. 07

- 1) Fear, Hope
- 2) God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (NKJV)
- 3) 364
- 4) Russia, Romania, the Ukraine
- 5) Thomas Edison
- 6) Faith
- 7) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (NKJV)
- 8) Faith does not make things easy, but it does make things possible.
- 9) Coming or arrival
- 10) Romans 15:13

Serving God in Faithfulness

-Mr. Isaac Newton

We hope this session will help you serve faithfully where God has called you!

As you begin:

- Read **Psalm 139:16**. As you consider your calling, how does this verse encourage you?
- Paul's example. As we think about significance, let us listen to how Paul measures his ministry. Let us read **1 Thessalonians 2:4-8**.

Whom was Paul seeking to please? Why?

What expectations might the Thessalonians have for Paul?

How did Paul relate to those he served? What kind of impact might that have made?

- **Seeking our own significance.** In contrast to Paul, sometimes leaders are tempted to get their significance from other people or from outward signs of success. When people try to get significance from others or from what they do, it often leads to burnout. It also breaks God's heart when they turn away from the significance God gives them and seek to find their own.

- **A significant reward.** In **Matthew 25**, Jesus shares a story about how we are to steward what God has given us. This includes our relationship with God, family, friends, self, health, time, and ministry. Three servants were given money. Two servants knew the master's character and invested wisely. The third servant, however, was fearful of his master. So the third servant did not use his money wisely.

Let's read what the master says to the two servants who knew he was good and so used his money wisely in **Matthew 25:23**.

- **Pressure to perform.** We have all seen someone do it better, be smarter, have a bigger budget, and have more followers. There are real pressures to look to other people or to outward signs of success to give us affirmation. a. Who affirms our ministry in this parable in **Matthew 25**? What does that mean to you?
- We are called to be faithful to what God has given us. God knows our resources, gifts, and limitations. He will not demand more than he gives. Now let us apply this to our ministries.
- Planting seeds of practice Before the next session, find time to be with God and examine his expectations of you, the expectations others have for you, and the expectations you have for yourself.

How does the master describe the servant? What does this say about what the master values?

What does the master think of his servant's work? What does he invite the faithful servant to share in?

What would it be like to hear "Well done, good and faithful servant" from God himself? Everyone should share one to two words describing what it would be like.

Decide when and where you will spend this time with God.

Share with someone in the group and pray for each other. If you are doing this individually, ask someone to pray for you.

- **Blessing.** May you hear the Father speaking "Well done" over you this week for all you do in the name of Jesus.

Rooted in the Gospel

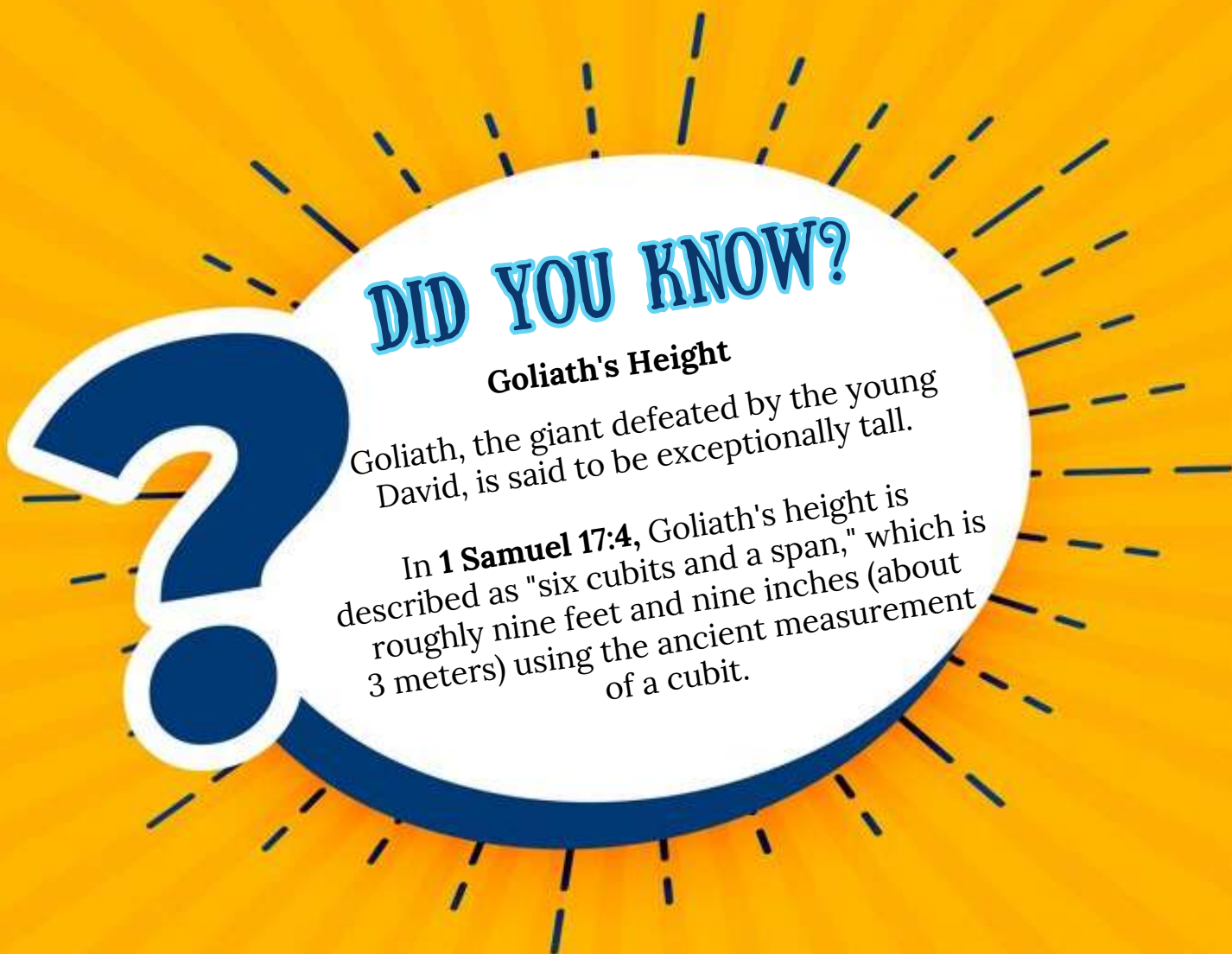
God uses weak and ordinary people to build his kingdom and to demonstrate the surpassing power of Jesus Christ! **2 Corinthians 4:7** says that God gives leaders to the church. Read **Ephesians 4:12, 16**. a. Whom do the leaders of the church equip?

- **During Your Time**

- Make a sheet with three columns.
- In the first column, write God's calling on your life.
- In the second, write down the expectations others have for you.
- In the third column, write down the expectations you have for yourself.
- Next, spend a few minutes thanking God for how he has accepted you and called you. Thank him for the unique gifts he has given you.
- Then, ask him which of these expectations line up with his will. Do they all fit into the calling, time, and family God has given you? You may ask a trusted friend to help you.
- If there are expectations that do not seem to line up with God's will, ask God: What does he want you to do about it? Ask him for the courage, wisdom, and strength to follow him. Then step out in faith.

Source:

This material is a section of the Timothy Leadership Training video and pdf course; if you are interested in studying this material as a group, please contact Mr. Isaac at (+91) 8438534525 or isaacbsf@gmail.com.





Vision

To be a guiding light to direct people to run their race with perseverance without being wavered by the storms or broken by dangerous perilous rocks.

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