

城北華人基督教會 國語部每日靈修

Daily Hope

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但願使人有盼望的神
因信將諸般的喜樂平安
充滿你們的心使你們借
聖靈的能力大有盼望

新錄羅馬書十五章十三節



2019.12.22 (Sunday) Devotion

Title: [Two Steps to Handle Temptation]

“Accept God’s salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17 NCV).

If you want to be able to handle temptation, you need to claim the promises of God that he has given in his Word about temptation. Everybody ought to memorize 1 Corinthians 10:13: *“God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it” (NIV).*

I’ve had many people tell me, “I couldn’t help myself. It was impossible to resist. I had no choice but to give in.” When you say that, you’re calling God a liar! God says he’ll always offer an escape from the temptation you face. It may be tough and painful. It might even be embarrassing. But there will always be a way out. God makes sure of it! That is his promise.

Satan is constantly battling for your mind. That’s where the battle happens. When God gives us an idea, it’s inspiration. When the Devil gives us an idea, it’s temptation. You choose every day which thought you’re going to dwell on.

You can change your mind by replacing the temptation with truth, and truth is found in the Bible.

The Bible says to resist the Devil. How do you do that? By preparing for the temptation. Ephesians 6:17 says, *“Accept God’s salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (NCV).*

There are two things you need to do in order to handle temptation. Salvation is the first step: “Accept God’s salvation as your helmet.” What does a helmet do? It protects your head and your mind, and that’s where the battle is going on. Before you can say no to the Devil, you have to learn to say yes to Jesus Christ. You’ve got to have

his power through salvation.

The second step is to receive God’s Word to use as a sword. Truth is the antidote to temptation. You can keep your Bible on the coffee table at home, but when you’re at work and you are tempted, what good is it going to do you? No good at all! You need to get the truth that is in that book into your mind.

Without a doubt, the single most effective tool to combating temptation is to memorize Scripture. If you don’t have any verses memorized, you’ve got no weapon for the fight! When the Devil comes along, how are you going to counter him? He’s not afraid of your opinion, but he does fear the truth. The sword of God is God’s truth, but it only becomes a weapon when you memorize it.

Talk It Over

- What are some goals you can set this week for memorizing Scripture?
- What are some memorization strategies you used in school? How can you apply them to Scripture memorization?
- Who can be your accountability partner as you memorize Scripture? Why is it important to have someone like this?

2019.12.22 (週日) 靈修

題目: [應對試探兩步驟]

「並戴上救恩的頭盔，拿著聖靈的寶劍，就是神的道。」（以弗所書 6:17）

如果你想要能夠應對試探，你就該宣告神的應許，就是祂已在聖經中賜給你有關試探的經文。每個人都應該記住哥林多前書 10:13：「你們所遇見的試探，無非是人所能受的。神是信實的，必不叫你們受試探過於所能受的。在受試探的時候，總要給你們開一條出路，叫你們能忍受得住。」

很多人告訴我：「我不能自制，無法抗拒。我別無選擇，只有讓步。」當你這麼說的時候，你就是在說神是個騙子！試探或許很難，或許很痛苦，或許很尷尬。但是神說當你面對試探時，總有一條出路賜給你。神保證了！這是祂的應許。

撒但持續挑戰要奪去你的心思。心思就是戰場。當神賜給你一個意念的時候，是一種啟示。當撒但給你一個意念的時候，就是一個試探了。你每天都要選擇專注於哪一種意念。

你可以用真理代替試探來改變你的意念，而真理就在聖經中。

以弗所書 6:17 說：「並戴上救恩的頭盔，拿著聖靈的寶劍，就是神的道。」聖經說要抵擋撒但。你要怎麼做？要為試探做準備。

你應該做兩件事來因應試探。

第一步是救恩：「戴上救恩的頭盔」。頭盔的作用是什麼？保護你的頭腦和意念，而那裏就是爭戰之處。在你能對魔鬼說「不」

之前，你必須學會對耶穌說「是」。你必須藉著救恩來得到祂的權能。

第二步是接受神的道作為寶劍。真理是試探的解藥。你可以將聖經放在家中的咖啡桌上，但是當你在工作時受到試探，這有什麼用呢？一點用也沒有！你該把聖經中的真理放在自己的心裏。

毫無疑問，對抗試探最有效的單一工具就是背記經文。如果你記不住任何經文，你就沒有武器來戰鬥！當魔鬼來襲，你要怎麼反制？牠不害怕你的意念，但牠害怕真理。神的寶劍就是神的真理，但是只當你記住經文，它才會成為武器。

生命反思

- 你這週背誦經文有什麼目標？
- 你在學校的時候有什麼記憶方法？你可以用這些方法來背經文嗎？
- 誰可以作你背經文的可靠搭檔？為什麼說有這麼一個人很重要？

靈修筆記

2019.12.23 (Monday) Devotion

Title: [The Key to Improving Your Relationships]

“Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28 TLB).

Do you want to know the key to better relationships in life?

You must learn to serve.

The root of most relational problems is self-centeredness. You must deal with other issues, but the root is almost always self-centeredness. We want what we want, when we want it. Neither person will budge—and that causes conflict.

That’s why you need to step out of your own perspective and learn to serve others. Serving other people changes you, and it changes your relationships along the way.

One of God’s greatest lessons he wants you to learn while you’re on this planet is how to be unselfish. It’s a lifelong course of study. Unfortunately, so many people go a whole lifetime without learning it.

You can choose to live differently, though. You can learn to be unselfish. How? It’s simple, really: You copy Jesus.

Jesus says it like this: *“Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28 TLB).*

Next time you read about the life of Jesus in the Bible, notice how he dealt with others. Watch how he always put others before himself. When you imitate his attitude, you live your life not for your benefit but for the benefit of others. Jesus consistently showed this throughout the Gospels.

Learn to do that and you'll improve your relationships. You'll not only become more like Jesus, but you'll also become more respected and loved by your friends. People want to be around those who are constantly trying to serve others and not just furthering their own agenda.

Don't try to be interesting; be interested. Be interested in others. If you do that, people will think you're the greatest person in the world. Most people are only interested in themselves. When you're interested in them, they will value you—and maybe even consider you the greatest conversationalist who ever lived.

The Bible says of serving unselfishly, *“If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too”* (Romans 14:18 NLT).

Unselfishness will transform your relationships.

Talk It Over

- Who in your life serves as a good example of serving unselfishly?
- When do you find it most difficult to interact unselfishly with others? Why?
- Which relationship in your life can you improve this week as you serve the other person unselfishly?

2019.12.23 (週一) 靈修

題目: [無私改善人際關係]

「正如人子來不是要受人的服事，乃是要服事人，並且要捨命，
做多人的贖價。」（馬太福音 20:28）

你想知道人生中改善人際關係的關鍵嗎？

你必須學會服事。

大多數人際關係問題的根本就在以自我為中心。你必須處理其他問題，但根本問題幾乎總是以自我為中心。當我們想做某事時，我們只要自己想要的，沒有人會絲毫讓步，這就造成了衝突。

因此，你應該走出自己的視野，學習服事他人。服事他人會改變你，在這個過程中你的人際關係也會改善。

神要你學會的最重要功課之一，就是當你存活在世時如何做到無私。這是一生的功課，不幸的是，很多人一輩子都沒有學過。

然而你可以選擇活得不一樣。你可以學習怎樣變得沒有私心。這其實很簡單：效法耶穌。

耶穌這樣說：「正如人子來，不是要受人的服事，乃是要服事人，並且要捨命，作多人的贖價。」（馬太福音 20:28）

下次你在聖經中讀到耶穌生平時，注意祂是如何與他人相處的。看看祂總是怎樣把他人放在自己前面。當你效法祂的態度時，就不再為自己的益處，而是為他人的益處而活。耶穌在福音書裏一貫是這樣示範的。

學會這麼做，你的人際關係就會改善。你不僅會變得越來越像耶穌，而且會更為你的朋友所尊敬和愛戴。人們喜歡接近那些一直試著服事別人的人，而不是只關心自己議程的人。

不要自求有趣，而是要感興趣，真正對他人感興趣。如果你這樣做，人們會把你當做這個世界上最棒的人。大多數人只關心自己，當你關心他人的時候，他們會看重你，甚至有可能把你當做他們最好的傾談對象。

關於無私服事，聖經這樣說：「在這幾樣上服事基督的，就為神所喜悅，又為人所稱許。」（羅馬書 14:18）

無私將重塑你的人際關係。

生命反思

- 在你的生活中，誰是無私服事的好榜樣？
- 什麼時候你會發現很難無私地與他人互動？為什麼？
- 在這一週中因你無私地服事他人，你生活中哪一種關係得到改善？

靈修筆記

2019.12.24 (Tuesday) Devotion

Title: [Take Baby Steps to Spiritual Maturity]

“Let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us” (Hebrews 12:1 TLB).

It’s no accident that the Bible routinely refers to the Christian life as a race. Just like in a long-distance race, you must be patient to grow as a Christian. The Bible says, *“Let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us”* (Hebrews 12:1 TLB).

You won’t finish this race in a week, a month, or even a year—it will take your whole life. God’s plan for making you into the person he wants you to be requires a lifetime commitment.

You can’t short-circuit that kind of growth.

When you become a Christian, you start growing quickly. It’s like babies in the early months—they grow enormously fast during that first year. But you don’t continue growing as quickly the rest of your life.

Growth—both physical and spiritual—slows down. It’s stable and secure over a period of time. God isn’t in a hurry for you to grow. You might be, but he isn’t.

This is why you need to start with simple steps toward growth. If you take one or two baby steps every week, you’ll be much further down the road of growth at the end of the year than you would be otherwise.

Christian living isn’t one big leap across the Grand Canyon. It’s a journey of baby steps—one step at a time.

Talk It Over

- When it comes to your spiritual growth, where are you most impatient, and why?
- How have people close to you struggled with impatience in their spiritual journeys?

- What's one baby step of spiritual growth you can take this week?

[illegible]

2019.12.24 (週二) 靈修

題目: [屬靈成熟步步學]

「……存心忍耐，奔那擺在我們前頭的路程……」（希伯來書 12:1）

聖經通常指出基督徒的生活就像一場比賽，這並不意外。正如一場長跑比賽，你必須要有忍耐，以至成長為一名基督徒。聖經說：「存心忍耐，奔那擺在我們前頭的路程。」（希伯來書 12:1）

你不會在一個禮拜、一個月或者一年內完成這場比賽，這需要一生之久。神計劃使你成為祂要你成為的那個人，而這需要一生的委身。

你不能在這種成長中走捷徑。

當你成為基督徒，你開始快速成長，就像一個嬰孩在出生後的頭幾個月一樣，你受洗後第一年長得非常快，但是你不能在餘下的人生仍舊這樣快速地成長。

身體和屬靈兩方面的成長都開始減慢，在某一個階段穩定下來。神不要求你匆忙地成長，你自己可能這麼想，但神不是這樣想的。

這就是你需要一步步走向成熟的原因。如果你每週邁出一兩步嬰兒學步似的腳步，到年底的時候你會發現自己在成長的路上前進了很多；否則就不會。

基督徒生活並不是大躍進，一步就能跨越科羅拉多大峽谷；而是一個小步前進的過程，一次邁一步。

2019.12.25 (Wednesday) Devotion

Title: [Gather Your Team for Spiritual Growth]

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV).

If you want to go the distance in your relationship with Jesus, don’t run the marathon on your own. No one can run the race for you, but other people can—and should—run the race with you.

You’ll give up without support.

You don’t need 100 people with you. You don’t even need 10. You just need three or four people running with you, supporting you in all God wants to do through your life.

The Bible tells us, *“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV).

That’s why you need to be in a small group. You need people who can spur you on in your spiritual life. And you need to be able to spur on others.

When you’re in a small group where you’re loved and accepted by others, they’ll give you the courage to keep going in your spiritual journey. They will pray for you when you don’t even know how to pray for yourself. They’ll help you persevere in your race.

Do whatever it takes to find a group of people committed to that kind of friendship and support.

It could mean the difference between finishing the race and quitting.

Talk It Over

- How has having a team of people around you helped you do something difficult?
- What action can you take today to support the spiritual growth of someone else?
- Do you have three or four people who spur you on in your spiritual life? If something is keeping you from developing those kinds of relationships, how can you address that?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

2019.12.25 (週三) 靈修

題目: [靈命成長結伴行]

「又要彼此相顧，激發愛心，勉勵行善。你們不可停止聚會，好像那些停止慣了的人，倒要彼此勸勉，既知道那日子臨近，就更當如此。」（希伯來書 10:24-25）

如果你想在與耶穌的關係中走完全程，不要獨自跑這場馬拉松。沒有人可以代替你參加比賽，但是其他人可以並且應該和你一起參賽。

沒有支持，你會放棄。

你不需要 100 個人陪你，甚至 10 個都不需要。你只需要三四個和你同跑的人，在神要藉你一生做成的所有事上支持你。

聖經告訴我們：「又要彼此相顧，激發愛心，勉勵行善。你們不可停止聚會，好像那些停止慣了的人，倒要彼此勸勉，既知道那日子臨近，就更當如此。」（希伯來書 10:24-25）

這就是為什麼你需要一個小組。你需要能夠在靈命上激勵你的人。你也應該能夠激勵別人。

當你在一個被愛被接納的小組中，他們會給你在你屬靈旅途中持續前行的勇氣。在你不知道如何為自己禱告的時候，他們會為你禱告。他們會幫你在比賽中堅持下去。

盡一切可能，找到一個委身於這種友誼和支持的群體。

這可能意味著完成比賽與退出比賽的區別。

2019.12.26 (Thursday) Devotion

Title: [God Will Finish What He Started in You]

"I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6 ESV).

God always finishes what he starts, and that includes shaping your character. God has been molding your character to be like his Son's.

You were created to be like Christ.

But here's the best part: God will complete what doesn't get finished in this life. He'll finish your character and bring you to perfection in heaven.

The Bible says, *"I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ"* (Philippians 1:6 ESV).

That will be an amazing day! On that day, you'll see Jesus face-to-face. Every neuron in your brain will go on overload. And you'll be transformed to be like him.

All your weaknesses will be gone.

All your limps will be gone.

All your failures and frailties will be gone.

All your insecurities will be gone.

You will be transformed into perfection that day. You will totally reflect the glory of God.

Right now you're not what you ought to be. You are only a fraction of what you will be. But God says, "That's okay. I'm taking my time. I'm cheering you on at every stage. Just take every step with purpose,

because one day I’m going to finish what I began. And you’re going to be changed instantly into my likeness.”

That will be a day like no other.

The Bible describes that day like this: *“Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is”* (1 John 3:2 NLT).

We have all stumbled in this race of life. All of us have struggled. But our race is not over.

One day we will see Jesus face-to-face. And we’ll never be the same again.

Talk It Over

- What area of your life are you most looking forward to God perfecting when you get to heaven?
- How does understanding that God will finish what he started help you develop patience in your spiritual walk?
- How can God’s promise in Philippians 1:6 help someone else’s perspective? What can you do this week to share the hope of this verse with that person?

2019.12.26 (週四) 靈修

題目: [神必成全所動善工]

「我深信那在你們心裏動了善工的，必成全這工，直到耶穌基督的日子。」(腓立比書 1:6)

神總是有始有終，包括塑造你的品格。神一直在塑造你的品格，模成祂兒子的樣式。

你受造就是要像基督那樣。

但這信息最美好的部分卻是：神會成就人今生沒有完成的。祂會成就你的品格，使你在天堂得以完全。

聖經說：「我深信那在你們心裏動了善工的，必成全這工，直到耶穌基督的日子。」(腓立比書 1:6)

那將會是神奇的一天！在那日，你會面對面地看見耶穌。你腦中的每個神經元都會超載運行。你會全然變得像祂一樣。

你一切的軟弱都會消失。

你一切的不足都會消失。

你一切的失敗和脆弱都會消失。

你一切的不安都會消失。

你將在那日變得完全。你會完全反映出神的榮耀。

現在的你並不是你應該成為的樣子，而僅僅是你應有的樣子的一小部分。但是神說：「沒關係。我在安排一切。每個階段我都為

你喝彩。只要有目標地走好每一步，因為有一天我會成全在你身上所動的善工。你將會瞬間變得像我。」

那將是無可比擬的一天。

聖經這樣描繪那天：「親愛的弟兄啊，我們現在是神的兒女，將來如何，還未顯明；但我們知道，主若顯現，我們必要像他，因為必得見他的真體。」(約翰一書 3:2)

我們都曾在生命的賽程裏跌倒。我們所有人都有掙扎。但我們的賽程還沒有結束。

有一天我們將會與耶穌面對面。我們將永遠不再一樣了。

生命反思

- 當你進入天堂的時候，你最期待自己生命的哪個方面為神所完善？
- 明白神將會創始成終，這一點如何幫助你在屬靈操練中培養忍耐？
- 神在腓立比書 1:6 中的應許能怎樣幫助另一個人有所看見？本週你可以做什麼來與那人分享這句經文中的盼望？

靈修筆記

2019.12.27 (Friday) Devotion

Title: [Whatever You Do, Do It as a Ministry]

“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17 NIV).

God has called you to be a minister.

Maybe you’ll never preach a sermon. Maybe you’ll never officiate a wedding or a funeral. Maybe you’ll never lead a church.

But make no mistake about it: If you’re a follower of Jesus, you’re a minister.

God has called you to be a bi-vocational minister. What does that mean? Think of the word “bifocal.” Those are the glasses that allow someone to see two things at the same time—both far away and up close—with clarity.

When you follow Jesus, you do everything for two reasons, not one: to help others and to honor God. That makes you a bi-vocational minister, whether you’re a truck driver, an attorney, a janitor, or a stay-at-home parent. You have a job, but in that job, you work to help others and to honor God.

The Bible says it like this in Colossians 3:17: *“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (NIV).*

That Scripture reminds us that anything we do can be a ministry and a blessing if we honor God and help others through it. Whatever you do, do it in the name of Jesus. Taking out the garbage, changing a dirty diaper, and cleaning the living room can all be ministries.

As long as your motivation is right, the Bible says that whatever you

2019.12.27 (週五) 靈修

題目: [行萬事皆為事奉]

「無論做什麼，或說話或行事，都要奉主耶穌的名，藉著他感謝父神。」（歌羅西書 3:17）

神已為祂的事工呼召了你。

也許你永遠不會講道。也許你永遠不會主持婚禮或葬禮。也許你永遠不會帶領教會。

但有一點不要搞錯：如果你是耶穌的信徒，你就是在神家的事工當中。

神呼召你做雙職服事者。這是什麼意思？想想「雙焦距」(bifocal) 這個詞吧。這是一種眼鏡，可以讓人同時清晰明瞭地看到遠處和近處的東西。

你若跟隨耶穌，你做每件事都會有兩個理由，而不是一個：幫助別人和榮耀神。無論你是卡車司機、律師、看門人還是持家庭父母，這都會使你成為帶職業的服事者。你有一份工作，而在這份工作中，你要幫助別人並且榮耀神。

歌羅西書 3:17 說：「無論做什麼，或說話或行事，都要奉主耶穌的名，藉著他感謝父神。」

這節經文提醒我們，無論我們做什麼，只要藉著這事榮耀神，幫助他人，就可以成為事奉和祝福之事。無論你做什麼，都要奉耶穌的名去做。倒垃圾，換尿布，打掃客廳，都可以是服事。

聖經說，只要你的動機是正確的，無論你做什麼，都可以成為一種事奉。這意味著，當你出於對神的愛去做，那些瑣碎的工作就變成了有意義的工作。

當你從這個角度看待人生，你所做的每件事都變得不同尋常。

生命反思

- 聖經教導你每件事都是為主做，這如何改變你對那些你認為不重要的工作的看法？
- 作為一名雙職服事者，你所蒙的呼召對你看待工作的方式有何影響？
- 生活中有哪一項任務是你很難從幫助別人和榮耀神的角度去思考的？你為什麼這麼認為？

靈修筆記

[illegible]

2019.12.28 (Saturday) Devotion

Title: [Radicalism: Developing Spiritual Roots]

“Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it” (Hebrews 11:1 NCV).

Faith is visualizing the future in the present—it means seeing the future in advance. People say, “Seeing is believing.” God says the exact opposite: “Believing is seeing.” Some things you’ll never see unless you believe them first.

Every great achievement started when someone first believed it was possible. Faith turns dreams into realities. It makes reality out of what’s in your imagination. Nothing happens until someone believes it’s possible first.

Nearly 40 years ago, I stood in front of a small group of people for the first service of Saddleback Church, and I shared a dream God gave me for a church with 50 acres of land, a church that would minister to 20,000 people every week. People laughed. Frankly, I laughed, too. We all knew the price of land in Orange County. It seemed impossible.

But God did it. Everything God has done through Saddleback in the last four decades was impossible before it happened.

You need a dream, too. Your dream, your goal is an act of faith. When you’re tuned in to God and asking him what he wants you to do, you’re saying, “God, I believe you want me to accomplish this action by this time.” When you do that, you’re acting on faith.

And faith pleases God.

What impossible task are you trusting God for?

Talk It Over

- What's one thing you once thought was impossible that you have seen God accomplish?
- What is one dream you're trusting God to turn into reality?
- What is your biggest fear when it comes to the dream or vision God has given you for your life?

[illegible]

2019.12.28 (週六) 靈修

題目: [憑信見事：培養屬靈根基]

「信就是所望之事的實底，是未見之事的確據。」（希伯來書 11:1）

信心是現在對將來的預見——就是提前看到未來。人們常說：「眼見為實。」神說的正好相反：「所信即所見。」有些事，除非你先信，否則你永遠不會看到。

每一項偉大的成就都始於有人信它是可能的。信心使夢想變為現實。是將你的想像化為現實。除非有人信它是可能的，否則什麼都不會發生。

大約 40 年前，我站在一小群人面前，參加馬鞍峰教會的第一次禮拜，我分享了神給我的一個夢想，那就是建一座佔地 50 英畝的教堂，一個每週能接納 2 萬人的教會。人們都笑了。坦率地說，我也笑了。我們都知道橙縣的地價。這看起來是不可能的。

但是神成就了這事。神在過去 40 年通過馬鞍峰所做的一切，在它發生之前都是不可能的。

你也需要一個夢想。你的夢想和目標就是信心的行動。當你與神溝通，問祂要你做什麼時，你是在說：「神啊，我相信祢要我在這個時候完成這件事。」當你這樣做的時候，你是在憑信心行事。

信心討神喜悅。

你正信靠神做什麼看似不可能的事？

2019.12.29 (Sunday) Devotion

Title: [How to Bear Fruit That Lasts]

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last” (John 15:16 NIV).

God’s mission is for everyone—including people like you and me. We don’t have enough missionaries in the world to fulfill God’s mission by themselves.

Jesus said of us, *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last”* (John 15:16 NIV).

Fruit is a metaphor for a successful, productive life. Jesus wants us to bear fruit that will last.

Most of what we do won’t last. No one will remember most of what you did 10 years after you die. People won’t care what movies you saw, what books you read, or how you spent your summers.

But Jesus wants you to do something that will last. Only two things really last: truth and people.

Imagine this scene one day when you get to heaven: A person comes up to you and says, “I just want to thank you.” And you say, “Thank me? I don’t even know you.” “You’re right, you don’t know me. But you helped in a ministry. You helped in a project, a humanitarian effort through your church. You did something that caused me to get to know God. I’m in heaven because of you. I’m your forever friend.”

Nothing you do is more important than helping people determine the destiny of their lives because it’s fruit that will outlast your life.

William James is credited with saying, “The greatest use of your life is to invest it in that which outlasts it.”

When you invest your life in people, who are going to last for eternity, you're bearing fruit that will last.

You might be a teacher. You might be an accountant. You might be a janitor. But your greatest calling is to use the gifts God gave you to make sure more people will go to heaven.

Talk It Over

- What are some things people pursue in this life that won't last even a few years after their death?
- If you're a follower of Jesus, what people played a part in your journey to God? Spend some time thanking God for those people.
- Do you know if anyone will be in heaven because you shared Christ with them?

[illegible]

2019.12.29 (週日) 靈修

題目: [怎樣結長存的果子]

「不是你們揀選了我，是我揀選了你們，並且分派你們去結果子，叫你們的果子可以長存。」（約翰福音 15:16）

神的使命是賜給每一個人的。包括你和我這樣的人。只靠地上的傳教士不足以完成神的使命。

耶穌告訴我們說：「不是你們揀選了我，是我揀選了你們，並且分派你們去結果子，叫你們的果子可長存。」（約翰福音 15:16）

果子是成功、有果效人生的隱喻。耶穌要我們去結果子並且讓果子長存。

我們所做的事大多不會長存。當你去世 10 年之後，你生前做過的大多數事沒人會記住。人們將不會關心你看過什麼電影；你讀過什麼書或者你是如何度過暑期的。

但是耶穌要你做能長存的事情。只有兩樣事是能長存的：真理和人。

請想像一下有一天你進入天堂的場景：一個人向你走來，說：「我正要感謝你。」你回答說：「謝我？我甚至不認識你。」
「你說的對，你不認識我；但是你在一項宣教事工中幫助了我。在一次人道救援項目中你通過教會幫助了我。你做的事使我認識了神，我如今在天堂是因為你，我是你永遠的朋友。」

沒有什麼比幫助人們決定他們的人生命運更重要的了，因為這樣的果子比你的今生更長久。

威廉·詹姆士曾說過：「生命最偉大的用處是投資於超越今生永遠長存的事物上。」

你可以是一位教師，一位會計，也可以是一位清潔工。但你最大的使命是用神給你的恩賜來使更多的人進到天堂。

- 人們一生追求的事物中，有哪些是在他們死後幾年內便不再存在了？
- 如果你是跟隨耶穌的，有哪些人在你歸向神的旅程中起作用？花些時間為他們向神獻上感謝。
- 有誰可能因為你曾與他們分享耶穌基督而會進到天堂？

靈修筆記

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

2019.12.30 (Monday) Devotion

Title: [Make Every Step Count]

“All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing” (1 Corinthians 9:25-26 NLT).

Spiritual growth must be purposeful.

We don’t know how many days we have left. Our next breath may be our last. So every step in our journey with Jesus should be taken on purpose.

We must be disciplined.

To become the person God wants you to be, you must deny yourself. I’ll be honest with you: You won’t get to do everything that other people do. You can’t follow everyone else’s plan and follow God’s plan at the same time. Being a disciplined disciple of Jesus means sometimes taking the more difficult path.

Olympic runners must give up all kinds of stuff that other people do in order to go for the gold. They must go to bed at a certain time. They must eat a certain way. They must train in a certain setting. They must deny themselves. They must count the cost.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:25-26, *“All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing” (NLT).*

Every step, Paul says, must be purposeful. That’s how you finish the race God has marked out for you.

Don’t be tempted by shortcuts. Stay on the straight and narrow path, and keep pressing forward toward your goal. Remember the purpose God has called you to. Remember the example of Jesus, who used his

2019.12.30 (週一) 靈修

題目: [與主同行，步步算數]

「凡較力爭勝的，諸事都有節制，他們不過是要得能壞的冠冕；我們卻是要得不能壞的冠冕。所以，我奔跑不像無定向的；我鬥拳不像打空氣的。」（哥林多前書 9:25-26）

靈性成長必須滿有目的。

我們不知道自己的餘日還剩下多少。或許下一次呼吸就是我們的最後一口氣。因此，我們與耶穌同行的每一步都要有目的。

我們必須受節制。

要成為神想要你成為的那人，你就當捨己。我老實告訴你們：你不可能做到別人做的每件事。你不可能在跟隨他人計劃的同時遵從神的計劃。作個受耶穌節制的門徒，意味著有些時候要走更艱難的路。

奧運選手為了得金牌，必須放棄其他人都做的事。他們必須在規定的時間睡覺；按規定進食；按特定方式接受訓練。他們必須捨己，必須為此付出代價。

保羅在哥林多前書 9:25-26 中寫道：「凡較力爭勝的，諸事都有節制，他們不過是要得能壞的冠冕；我們卻是要得不能壞的冠冕。所以，我奔跑不像無定向的；我鬥拳不像打空氣的。」

保羅說的是：每一步都要滿有目的。這樣你才能完成神為你標出的比賽項目。

不要為捷徑所試誘。正道雖窄，要行在其上不偏離，向著你的標竿直跑。要記住神呼召你的使命。要記念耶穌的榜樣，祂不為世事分心，而以在地上的時日榮耀神。

要讓每一步都能數算得上。

生命反思

- 什麼時候分心會減緩你的屬靈成長？
- 怎樣才能在你的屬靈旅程中變得更有節制呢？
- 當你跟隨耶穌時，什麼「捷徑」會試誘你？

靈修筆記

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery designed for writing.

2019.12.31 (Tuesday) Devotion

Title: [Trusting God When You Don't Understand]

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5 HCSB).

I know many people who ask God to guarantee their success before trying what he has asked them to do, but that's not faith.

Faith always requires risk. Faith means you obey even when you don't understand it.

For example, forgiveness never seems like a good idea before you do it, but it's one of the greatest tests of your faith. When someone hurts you, it may not seem right to forgive that person. It may not appear just. But forgiveness is always the right choice, regardless of whether or not you can understand it.

Remember when you were a kid and your parents told you to do something that didn't make sense you? But now you can look back with 20/20 hindsight and understand your parents' perspective. That's how it works with God, too. Faith is doing what's right even when it seems absurd. Proverbs 3:5 says, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding” (HCSB)*. You never know the whole picture, but God does.

The Bible gives us a great example of this in the story of Gideon in Judges 7. Gideon took 300 Israelites to battle 135,000 enemy soldiers. The odds were 450-to-1. God had the soldiers take torches, trumpets, and clay pots—a command I'm sure Gideon thought was ludicrous.

Then, God told Gideon to put the clay pots over the torches so the light couldn't be seen at night and to go surround the enemy's camp. God said, “When I tell you to, blow the trumpets, break the pots, and let torchlight suddenly shine out in the darkness. It will look like a huge army is surrounding the camp. It will cause mass confusion, and the enemy soldiers will end up fighting each other.”

Gideon obeyed, even though it didn't make any sense! The Israelites blew their trumpets, broke their pots, and revealed the light from their torches. The enemy soldiers woke up in shock and started fighting each other instead of the Israelites. Gideon did what God told him to do, and the Israelites won the battle.

Sometimes God tells you to do something that appears foolish—like going into battle facing overwhelming odds. Faith is obeying God even when you don't understand what he's asking you to do.

You can't live by faith without risk. But God knows why he is asking you to do it. You can trust him.

Talk It Over

- What is the craziest thing God has told you to do? How did that turn out?
- The Bible says we shouldn't trust in our own understanding. Are there certain areas where you are particularly tempted to trust your own ideas rather than God's ideas? Why?
- What is your greatest fear when you're asked to obey something you don't understand?

2019.12.31 (週二) 靈修

題目: [即使不明白，仍要信靠神]

「你要專心仰賴耶和華，不可倚靠自己的聰明。」（箴言 3:5）

我知道很多人在嘗試神要他們做的事情之前，要求神保證他們成功。但這不是信心。

信心總是需要冒險。信心意味著：即使不理解，你也會順服。

例如，在你沒有做到饒恕之前，它似乎從來都不是一個好主意，但它卻是對你信心的最大試煉之一。當有人傷害了你，原諒那個人似乎是不對的。這可能並不公正。但無論你理解與否，饒恕總是正確的選擇。

還記得當你是個孩子的時候，父母讓你做一些你不明白的事情嗎？但現在以後見之明回顧，就會明白你父母的觀點。神也是這樣。信心是做正確的事，甚至看起來很荒謬。「你要專心仰賴耶和華，不可倚靠自己的聰明」（箴言 3:5）。你永遠不知道事情的全景，但神知道。

士師記第 7 章關於基甸的故事給了我們一個很好的例子。基甸率領 300 名以色列人與 13.5 萬名敵兵作戰。雙方比率是 450 : 1。神讓士兵們帶上火把、號角和空瓶——我相信基甸認為這一命令很可笑。

然後，神告訴基甸把空瓶套在火把上——這樣晚上就看不見亮光，並繞著敵人的營地走。神說：「我吩咐你的時候，你要吹號，打破手中的瓶，讓火把的火猛然從黑暗中照耀出來，看起來就像一支龐大的軍隊包圍了營地。這將引起混亂，敵軍最終會互相擊殺。」

即使這聽起來毫無道理，基甸還是順從了！以色列人就吹角，打破瓶子，露出火把的亮光。敵軍士兵被嚇醒了，開始互相廝殺，而不是與以色列人爭戰。基甸照著神所吩咐的去行，以色列人就得了勝。

有時神會叫你去做一些看似愚蠢的事，就像眾寡懸殊面對極大的變數仍要投入戰鬥。信心就是順服神，即使不明白神要你做的。

憑信而活就不能不冒風險。但神知道為什麼祂要你這樣做。你可以信靠祂。

生命反思

- 神曾經讓你做的最瘋狂的事是什麼？結果如何？
- 聖經說「不可倚靠自己的聰明」。是不是在某些方面，你尤其受到試誘，想信靠自己的意念而非神的意念？為什麼？
- 當你被要求在不明白的事上也要順服時，你最害怕的是什麼？

靈修筆記

各樣美善的恩賜和怎樣
全備的賞賜都是從上頭來的
從眾光之父那裏降下來的
立他並沒有改變也沒有轉

動的影兒
羅馬書二章十七節

