

alive

magazine

November '24

IT'S TIME TO
SPREAD
YOUR WINGS



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HOW CAN I GIVE BACK TO THE LORD?



As believers, we often experience moments when we are overwhelmed by God's goodness and grace. In those moments, a natural question arises: How can I give back to the Lord? How do we respond to His endless mercy and blessings?

The Bible gives us many examples of how we can honour and give back to God, not just through our words but through the way we live our lives. Below are five ways we can offer our gratitude and devotion to the Lord.

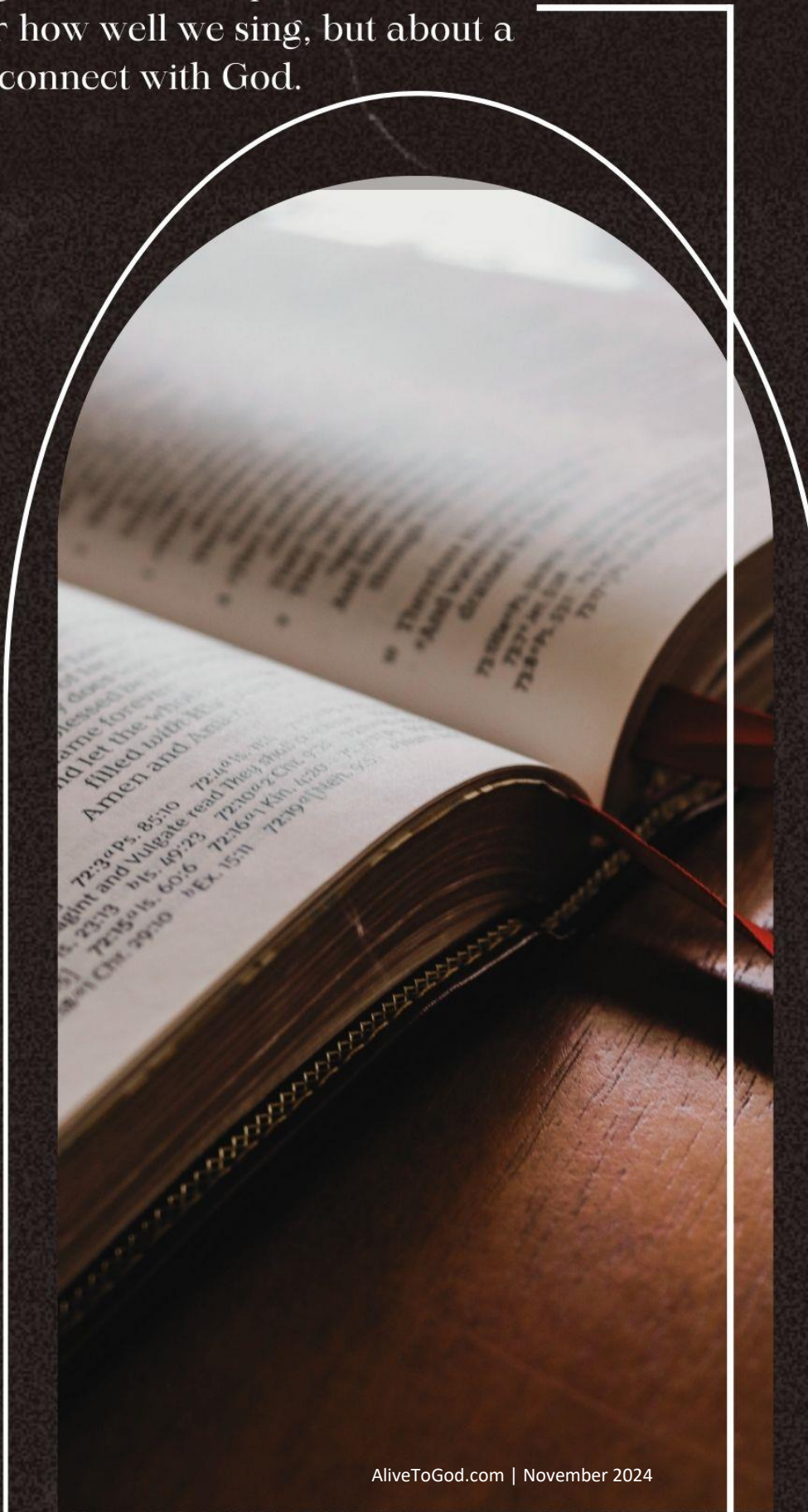
Prayer and Worship: A Heartfelt Offering

One of the most intimate and impactful ways to give back to the Lord is through prayer and worship. We can set aside dedicated time to spend with Him, pouring out our hearts in prayer and lifting our voices in praise. It's not about how long we pray or how well we sing, but about a sincere heart that longs to connect with God.

When we worship, we acknowledge His greatness and our dependence on Him. In these moments, we offer ourselves as living sacrifices, just as Romans 12:1 encourages: "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." Worship draws us closer to Him and brings our hearts into alignment with His.

Serving Others: Following Christ's Example

Jesus Himself set the ultimate example of serving others. In Mark 10:45, He said, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."



When we serve others, we reflect the love of Christ and give back to God. This can take many forms—volunteering at church, helping those in need, or simply being available to friends and family in difficult times. Every act of kindness and service becomes an offering to God, a tangible way to honour Him by caring for those around us.

Using Your God-Given Gifts: A Stewardship of Talents

Each of us has been blessed with unique talents and abilities. Whether you're gifted in teaching, music, administration, or encouragement, God has given these gifts for a purpose. 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Using your gifts to serve within the church or in your community is one of the most effective ways to give back. Ask the Lord how He might want you to use your talents to build His Kingdom and be a blessing to others.

Generosity: Giving with a Cheerful Heart

Giving financially is another powerful way to honour the Lord.

We are reminded in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Generosity reflects our trust in God as our provider. Whether it's tithing to your local church, supporting a ministry, or helping someone in need, your giving becomes an act of worship. It's a way to acknowledge that everything we have belongs to God, and by giving back, we participate in the expansion of His work here on earth.

Living a Godly Life: An Offering of Obedience

Finally, one of the greatest ways to give back to the Lord is by living a life that honours Him. This means growing in our faith, striving to live according to His Word, and allowing the Holy Spirit to shape us into the likeness of Christ. Our daily obedience, our choices to forgive, love, and serve, are offerings that please the Lord.

Romans 12:1 calls us to present ourselves as living sacrifices—this includes our actions, attitudes, and decisions. By living a life that reflects God's heart, we glorify Him and make an impact on those around us.

Giving Back in Every Season

The Lord has given us everything—His love, His grace, and eternal life through Jesus Christ. While we can never repay Him for all that He has done, we can offer ourselves and our lives as expressions of gratitude. In every season of life, whether we are in a time of abundance or in need, we can still find ways to give back to the One Who has given us so much.

Take a moment today to ask the Lord how He might be calling you to give back. Whether it's through prayer, service, generosity, or using your gifts, He will guide you in the way you can best honour Him. Remember, it's not the size of your offering that matters, but the heart behind it.

May we all be inspired to live lives that give back to the Lord, reflecting His love and grace to a world in need.



WHAT DOES

“DO NOT THROW AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE”

mean in Hebrews 10:35?

Hebrews 10:35 states, “Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward” (ESV). The KJV and NKJV say “cast” instead of “throw.” The Greek word translated as “confidence” is *parrēsia*. This Greek term encompasses a sense of boldness and assurance. A form of the same word is used in Hebrews 4:16, where believers are encouraged to “approach God’s throne of grace with confidence.” Biblical confidence is not based on self-assurance or human strength but on the once-and-for-all sacrifice of Christ. Therefore, when the writer says, “Do not throw away your confidence” in Hebrews 10:35, the command is to maintain boldness and assurance, even amid persecution.



BY: GOTQUESTIONS.ORG



The epistle of Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians who were facing hardship and persecution. The trials had caused some of them to consider reverting to Judaism or abandon the faith altogether. Aware of their struggles, the writer of Hebrews encouraged them to remain steadfast in their faith and not return to their former ways. In this context, the warning not to “throw away your confidence” is especially poignant, speaking directly to the temptation to abandon the faith they had embraced

Hebrews 10:35 comes after a lengthy discussion on the supremacy of Christ’s sacrifice over the old sacrificial system. The Old Testament sacrificial system was temporary, and the sacrifices had to be repeated day after day. The sacrifice of Christ, however, was once-and-for-all, providing believers with direct and permanent access to God:

“Brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water” (Hebrews 10:19–22, ESV).

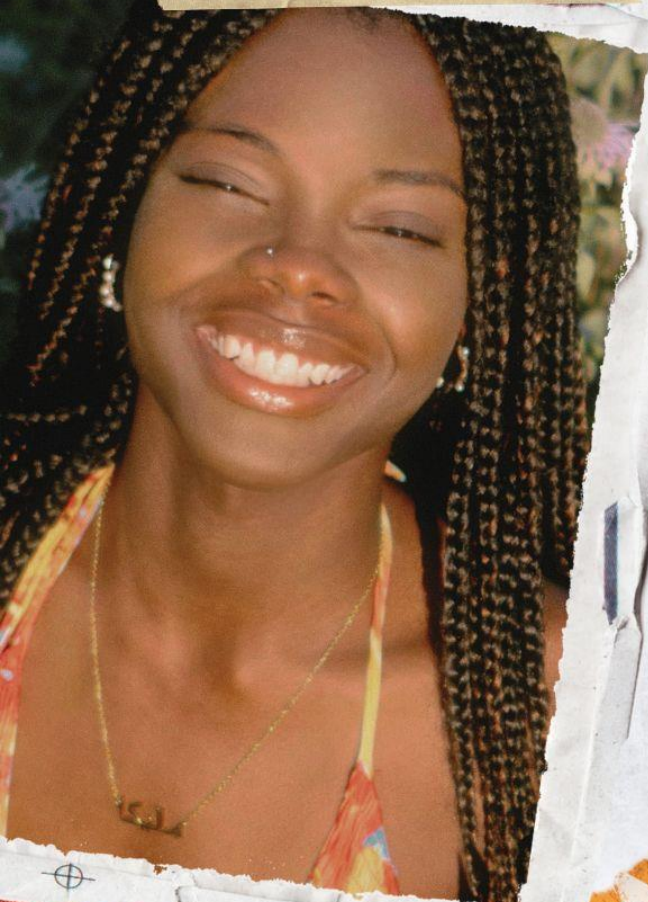
The exhortation not to “throw away your confidence” is firmly rooted in Christ’s finished work and the profound assurance it provides believers.

To not throw away our confidence means to remain steadfast in the faith. Believers must not abandon their boldness and assurance in Christ, even when circumstances might tempt them to do so. The trials we face are real and sometimes daunting, but the promise of reward is far greater. This reward is directly linked to holding on to our confidence in Christ.

Hebrews 10:35 says the believer’s confidence has “a great reward” (NKJV). It is an eternal reward, even. The following verse stirs believers to perseverance: “You have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise” (Hebrews 10:36, NKJV). The reward for perseverance is witnessing the fulfillment of all God’s promises, including eternal life and communion with Him. Confidence amid persecution is tied to our hope in the promises of God.

The promise of reward is a recurring biblical theme. In Matthew 5:11–12, Jesus spoke of the rewards awaiting the faithful. Paul also reminded the Corinthians that their labour in the Lord will reap a benefit: “My beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58, NKJV). The command, “Do not throw away your confidence,” in Hebrews 10:35 reminds believers that God sees and honours the perseverance of His people.

“It will be worth it all when we see Jesus;
Life’s trials will seem so small when we see Christ.
One glimpse of His dear face all sorrow will erase,
So bravely run the race till we see Christ.”
(from “It Will Be Worth It All” by Esther K. Rusthoi, 1941).



Scripture reading:
Deuteronomy 32:10-15

Key Verse:

Deuteronomy 32:11

'As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings.'



IT'S TIME TO
SPREAD YOUR WINGS

BY: ANDREW ROEBERT

In this story, God had done great and wonderful things for His people. He had brought them out of captivity and provided for them in a wonderful way. However, they were not yet ready for what God had for them. He was preparing them for the future He had in store for them. It was a time of preparation. Over time they had almost become comfortable in the wilderness when God had in fact prepared a great future for them. He loved His people just the way they were, but loved them too much just to leave them the way they were. In the same way, the Lord takes us through the seasons of our lives to bring us to a place where we can step into all the good things that He has prepared for us. However, it requires something from us. We can't just sit and wait for things to change. We have to rise to the occasion and step out in the future He has prepared. We have to embrace the transition and begin to spread our own wings so that we can reach the heights He has for us.

MOVING FROM THE WILDERNESS TO THE MOUNTAINTOP

Deuteronomy 32:10 (NLT)

'He found them in a desert land, in an empty, howling wasteland. He surrounded them and watched over them; He guarded them as He would guard His own eyes.'

In this verse we see how the Lord found His people in a desert land that was empty and a howling wasteland. Sometimes we have to go through seasons where nothing seems to happen. Seasons where we do not feel like we are making any progress and the little progress we are making is blown away by the howling winds of life. Even when we find ourselves in these types of seasons, the Lord is still there watching over us and protecting us as something that is valuable and precious to Him. But we must never settle for the wilderness lifestyle, we must never become comfortable in our wilderness because God has destined us for the mountaintops and beyond.

Deuteronomy 32:13

'He made him ride on the heights of the land...'

Your destination is not the howling wasteland nor is it the empty desert. Your destination is the heights of the land and the mountaintops of His favour. The question is; how does God move us from the wilderness to the mountaintop?

THE LORD IS STIRRING UP THE NEST

In this regard the picture of the eagle is used to illustrate the process. The eagle does not want her young chick to become contented on the rocky outcrop or on the cliff face. The parent bird knows that there is much more in store but that it is outside the comfort of the nest. God knows that there is much more for you, but it is beyond the comfort of what you are comfortable with, and outside of what you have become used to and dependent on. So, the parent bird begins to stir up the nest.

Deuteronomy 32:11

'As an eagle stirs up its nest...'

The place that was once the cozy, secure and comfortable place, becomes a bit disorientating and uncomfortable. She begins to break up the nest and scatter the sticks and feathers that made it comfortable. The parent bird knows that her offspring is ready to fly and so she strips away the security and comfort of what used to be, so that the young bird can begin to look beyond the comfort zone. In the same way, when the Lord sees His children clutching to the bare rocks of life and holding on to the few sticks of what used to be, He is edging us to the precipice and towards the new dimension that lies ahead. This is very often the way in which the Lord moves us from the wilderness to the mountaintop.

IT IS TIME TO SPREAD YOUR WINGS

When the current situation or our historical position becomes uncomfortable, it should be a sign to us that God is edging us upwards and onwards.

Deuteronomy 32:11

'As an eagle stirs up its nest and hovers over its young.'

It is time to then begin to spread your wings and expect the next progression in your development. The young eagle must be fearful at the prospect of leaving the comfortable and the secure for the great and wonderful 'beyond! But the parent eagle is not far away, she is setting the example of the prospect of flight. The verse says that she hovers over her young. This helps in edging the young bird forward, beckoning to them to take the next step, encouraging them to follow her example. In the same way the Lord hovers over you as you begin to spread your wings and trust Him for more and greater things.

Ephesians 5:1

'Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children.'

The possibilities of flight for the young bird is so much greater than the security of the nest. The possibilities that await us when we step out, at the promptings of God's leading, are limitless - the sky is not even the limit.



THE LORD WILL BE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY

As the little eagle ventures out beyond the nest and to the edge of the cliff, the parent bird prepares itself for whatever happens next. In the same way the Lord prepares Himself to come to our aid when we step out in faith and believe for the next step. The little bird has never flown before and now it's the critical moment. Jump and die or jump and fly. Perhaps on the first attempt the young bird will begin to fall because it is unaccustomed to flight. The mother immediately swoops down and flies below it and catches it on her wings.

Deuteronomy 32:11

'As an eagle stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, He spread His wings to catch them and carried them on His pinions (wings).'

If you feel fearful to step out and believe, just know that the Lord is there to catch you and lift you up.

Deuteronomy 33:27

'The eternal God is your Refuge, and His everlasting arms are under you.'

Even if your faith is failing you, just know that He will be with you all the way and He helps you transition from where you are to the next degree of glory. He will carry you and lift you up and in the process He will teach you about the mystery of the greater and more abundant life that He knows is part of your destiny. No one else can take you through this change except the Lord Himself.

Deuteronomy 32:12

'The LORD alone guided them...'

Without His presence and His help it is best we stay just where we are, but with His help we can soar to new heights and see things from His perspective.



THE LORD HAS GOOD THINGS IN STORE FOR YOU

Deuteronomy 32:13

'He let them ride over the highlands and feast on the crops of the fields. He nourished them with honey from the rock and olive oil from the stony ground.'

Sometimes the future can seem daunting, but God knows the end from the beginning. He knows, just like the parent eagle, that on the other side of the process of stepping out is a dimension that few creatures will ever understand or experience. The eagle was created to fly and soar to great heights. He was designed to catch the thermals (the upward drafts of warm air) and be carried effortlessly to places that virtually no other bird can reach.

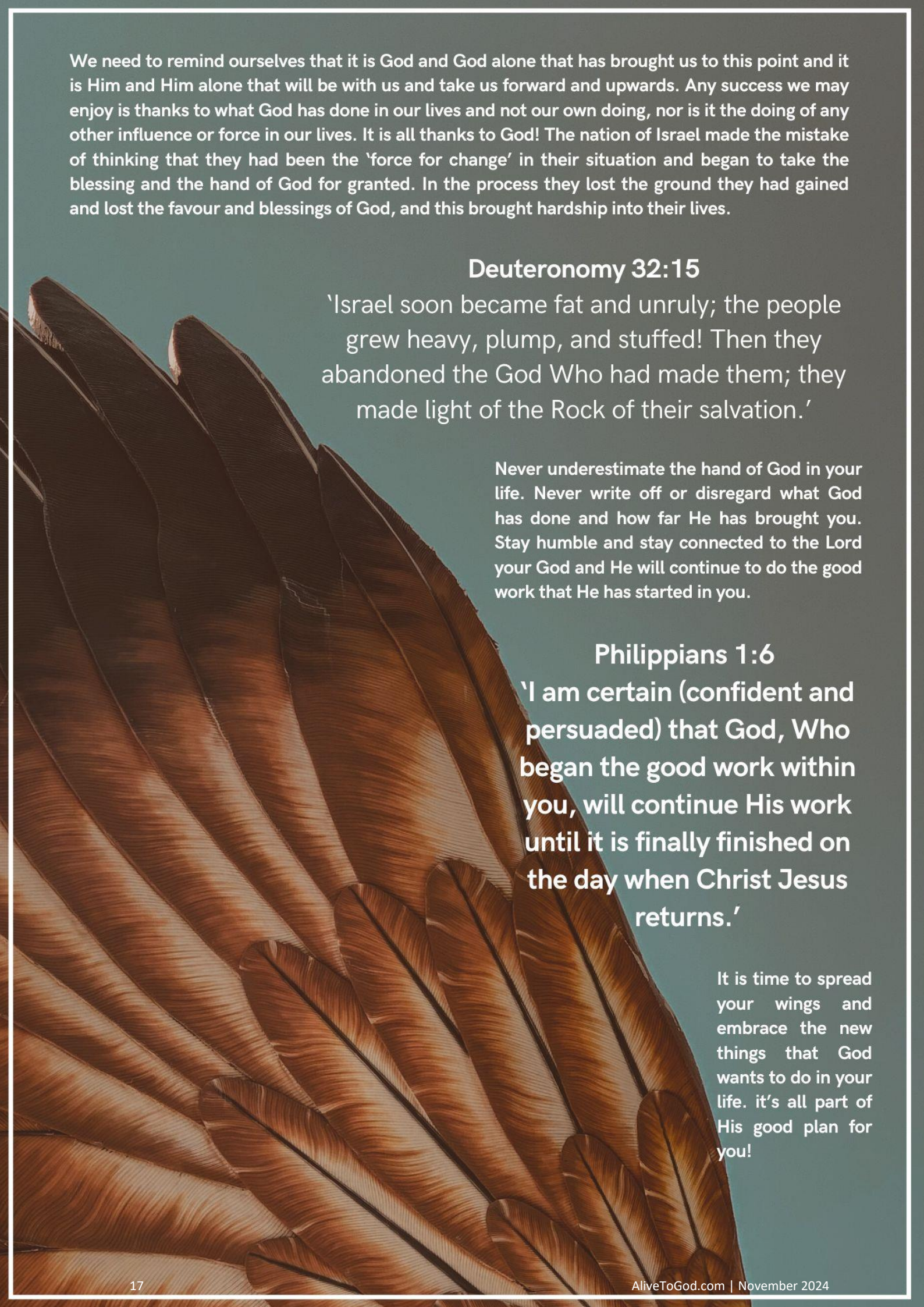
It is from this great vantage point that he can see things from a different perspective, have an understanding of how things really are and live to a ripe old age. As you spread your wings and begin to step out in faith and confidence in God, you can expect that He will lift you up and raise you to the newness of life. Why would you settle for clinging to earth's bare rocks, or staying a moment longer in the howling emptiness, or spending one more day in the wilderness, when you can and are designed to fly like an eagle?

NEVER FORGET WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR YOU

As the Lord takes you forward into a new season and into a different dimension, it is so important that you remember from where you have come and how the Lord has helped you and held you up.

Deuteronomy 32:12 (GNT)

'The LORD alone led His people without the help of a foreign god.'



We need to remind ourselves that it is God and God alone that has brought us to this point and it is Him and Him alone that will be with us and take us forward and upwards. Any success we may enjoy is thanks to what God has done in our lives and not our own doing, nor is it the doing of any other influence or force in our lives. It is all thanks to God! The nation of Israel made the mistake of thinking that they had been the 'force for change' in their situation and began to take the blessing and the hand of God for granted. In the process they lost the ground they had gained and lost the favour and blessings of God, and this brought hardship into their lives.

Deuteronomy 32:15

'Israel soon became fat and unruly; the people grew heavy, plump, and stuffed! Then they abandoned the God Who had made them; they made light of the Rock of their salvation.'

Never underestimate the hand of God in your life. Never write off or disregard what God has done and how far He has brought you. Stay humble and stay connected to the Lord your God and He will continue to do the good work that He has started in you.

Philippians 1:6

'I am certain (confident and persuaded) that God, Who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.'

It is time to spread your wings and embrace the new things that God wants to do in your life. it's all part of His good plan for you!

PASTOR RAY MCCAULEY

A VOICE THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE



The birth of Rhema Bible Church and the role of the founders, Pastors Ray & Lyndie McCauley was one of the groundbreaking stories of the church in South Africa.



Birthered at a time when large churches were Uncommon, it would rapidly become one of only two 'mega' churches to develop before the era of megachurches.

The country was in transition and the Rhema Church, and the ministry of Pastor Ray, would become a role player in the country's transition.

My earliest recollection was a service in a warehouse that was converted into a church. It was a powerful revival meeting with a tangible awareness of the presence of God. The lives of people were touched.

My late father, Pastor Ed Roebert (Pronounced: Ray-Bert), who was based in Pretoria, had begun to develop a working relationship with Pastor Ray and this association would grow to include other Pastors and ministries.

These men, together with others, would eventually formalise their association. They formed the IFCC (International Fellowship of Christian Churches). The coming together of different streams was not always a smooth process. At the launch the slogan was UNITY NOW – and sort out the differences later. That declaration of unity set them up for success and influence.



This unlikely 'band of brothers' would go on to influence the church in South Africa and play a role in the transition of the country.

Pastor Ray was the official spokesperson of IFCC. With the backing of the various players, the influence grew, and his voice became a voice to the nation.

IFCC represented about 700 churches and about 2000 ministries, Organisations and individuals who worked together to reach the country, as the political environment changed.

Pastor Ray McCauley will be remembered for a voice that echoes through time, and at a time of tremendous change. He will also be remembered as a voice that promoted the Gospel and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, which carries the ultimate power for change in the lives of people.



All Images sourced from:

<https://www.facebook.com/ray.mccauley77/>

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TIMELESS CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



RoebertMinistries.co.za

FREE DAILY BIBLE VERSE

Deuteronomy 32:II

'As an eagle stirs up its nest,
hovers over its young, spreading
out its wings, taking them up,
carrying them on its wings.'



HOLY BIBLE

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OFFER SUPPORT TO OTHERS THROUGH
PRAYER, THIS IS THE PLACE.

Prayer Community

[HTTPS://ALIVETOGOD.COM/PRAY/](https://alivetogod.com/pray/)

We also encourage you to extend your
support to others by lifting them up in
prayer. It's as simple as clicking the "I PRAYED
FOR THIS" button, and a notification will be
sent to them, letting them know that
someone is holding them in prayer.

Together, through our collective prayers and
support, we can create a community filled
with warmth, love, and genuine care. Thank
you for being a part of it!



IMPACT 103

LET HOPE COME ALIVE

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