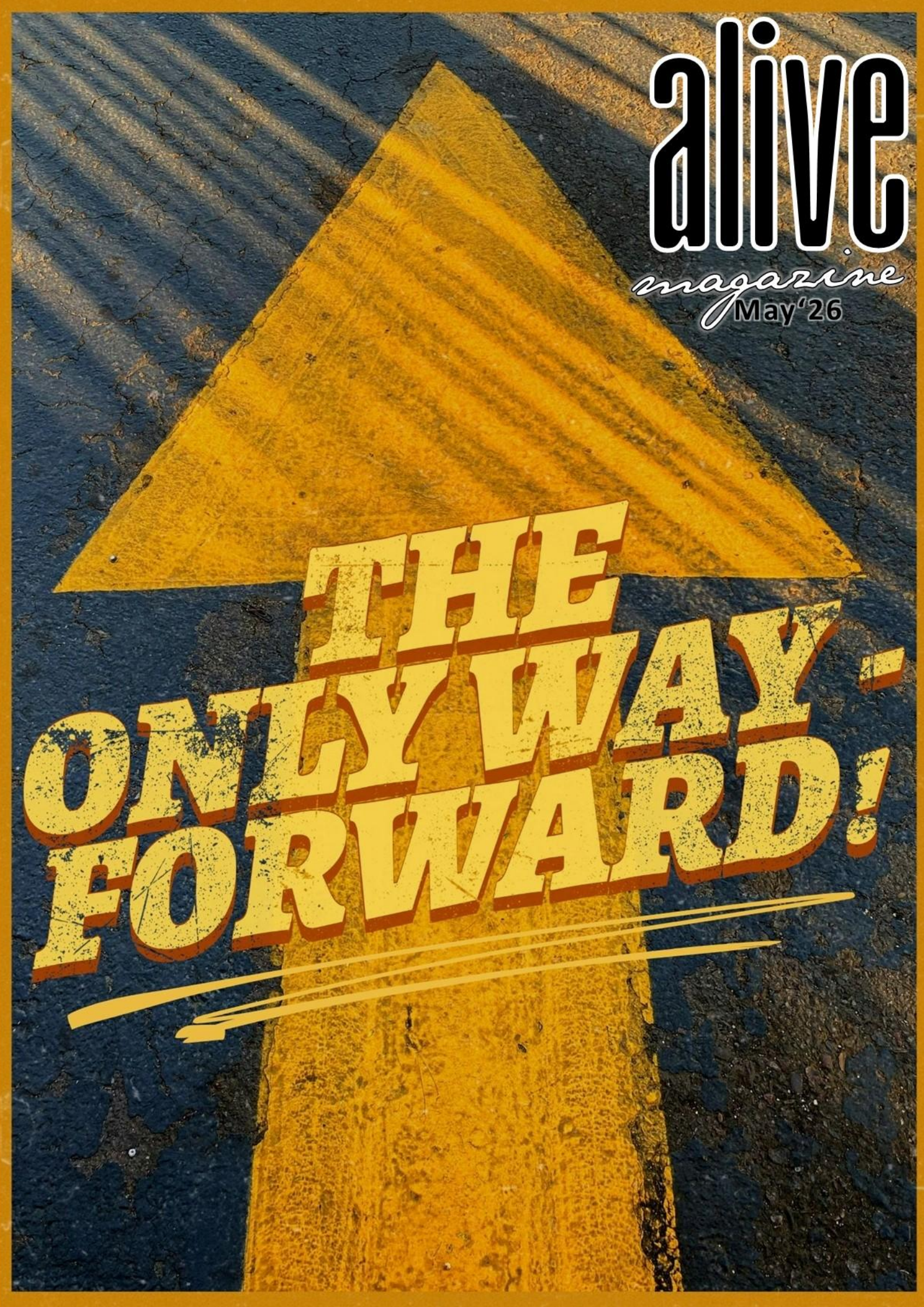




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May '26

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WHAT IS THE PLEASING AROMA

TO THE LORD
(GENESIS 8:21)?

In Genesis 8:20–21, Noah has just emerged from the ark into a world cleansed by floodwater. His first recorded act is to build an altar and sacrifice a burnt offering of clean animals and birds. Scripture states the scent of this offering was a “pleasing aroma” to the Lord. This significant moment reveals the priority of Noah’s heart. Before planting, building, or securing shelter, Noah worships the Lord. His sacrifice expresses gratitude, dependence, and acknowledgment that life is a gift from God. The pleasing aroma of his offering signals that God accepts Noah’s worship, and the Lord responds with mercy, grace, and favour. (John 5:6, NKJV).



BY:GOTQUESTIONS.ORG

The description of an offering as a “pleasing aroma to the Lord” appears throughout the Old Testament (Exodus 29:18, 25, 41; Leviticus 1:9, 13, 17; 2:9; 4:31; Numbers 15:3). The original Hebrew words translated as “pleasing aroma” refer to a distinct fragrance from a sacrifice that gives pleasure or satisfaction to God. As the smoke rises to God’s nostrils, He smells it—a relatable human experience—and is pleased. This anthropomorphic language communicates God’s acceptance of it. It is a figurative way of saying that the Lord took notice of Noah’s sacrifice and accepted both Noah and his offering. The idea behind the expression is that the sacrifice emits a soothing, tranquil aroma, bringing peace between God and the worshiper.

The deeper implication of this God-pleasing aroma lies in what it symbolises. The fragrance represents the substitutionary atonement for sin. More specifically, Noah's sacrifice functions as a propitiation, or satisfaction, of God's righteous requirement for sin.

For Noah, the sacrifice was an expression of gratitude for all that God had done for him and his family, and a prayer for ongoing protection. The results of the Lord's pleasure in Noah's sacrifice are profound. God promises, "I will never again curse the ground because of the human race... I will never again destroy all living things" (Genesis 8:21, NLT).

The pleasing aroma to the Lord appears consistently throughout Israel's worship in connection to various offerings, including animal sacrifices, food offerings, drink offerings, and fellowship offerings (Leviticus 3:1-5; 7:11-18; 23:18). Such offerings please the Lord because they demonstrate obedience to God's command, renewed devotion, and a confession of personal faith. When Israel offered sacrifices without obedience or sincere devotion, God rejected them (1 Samuel 15:22-23; Isaiah 1:11-17; Hosea 6:6; Amos 5:21-24). The Lord declares that He takes no pleasure in sacrifices and offerings when the people's hearts are far from Him (Isaiah 29:13).

These early biblical pictures of God's acceptance of, and pleasure in, a substitutionary sacrifice for sin set the stage for the more perfect sacrifice of His Son, Jesus. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul states that Christ "offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God" (Ephesians 5:2, NLT). Our Saviour is the flawless picture of obedience and self-sacrificing love. Jesus fulfills what the Old Testament sacrificial system pointed toward. His life and death rise before God as the supreme expression of submission, devotion, righteousness, and mercy. The aroma is pleasing because Christ's sacrifice accomplishes reconciliation between God and humanity (Romans 5:10-11; Colossians 1:19-22).



WHAT IS A PLEASING AROMA TO THE LORD?

Paul also applies this imagery to believers, describing the generous gift-giving of the Philippian church as “a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God” (Philippians 4:18). Acts of kindness, generosity, and service become spiritual sacrifices that God receives with delight. The aroma is not literal; it is the beauty of a life shaped by Christlike love. Paul had this in mind when he urged believers to present their bodies as a “living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1). The pleasing aroma becomes a metaphor for a life surrendered to God’s purposes.



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WHAT IS THE PLEAS

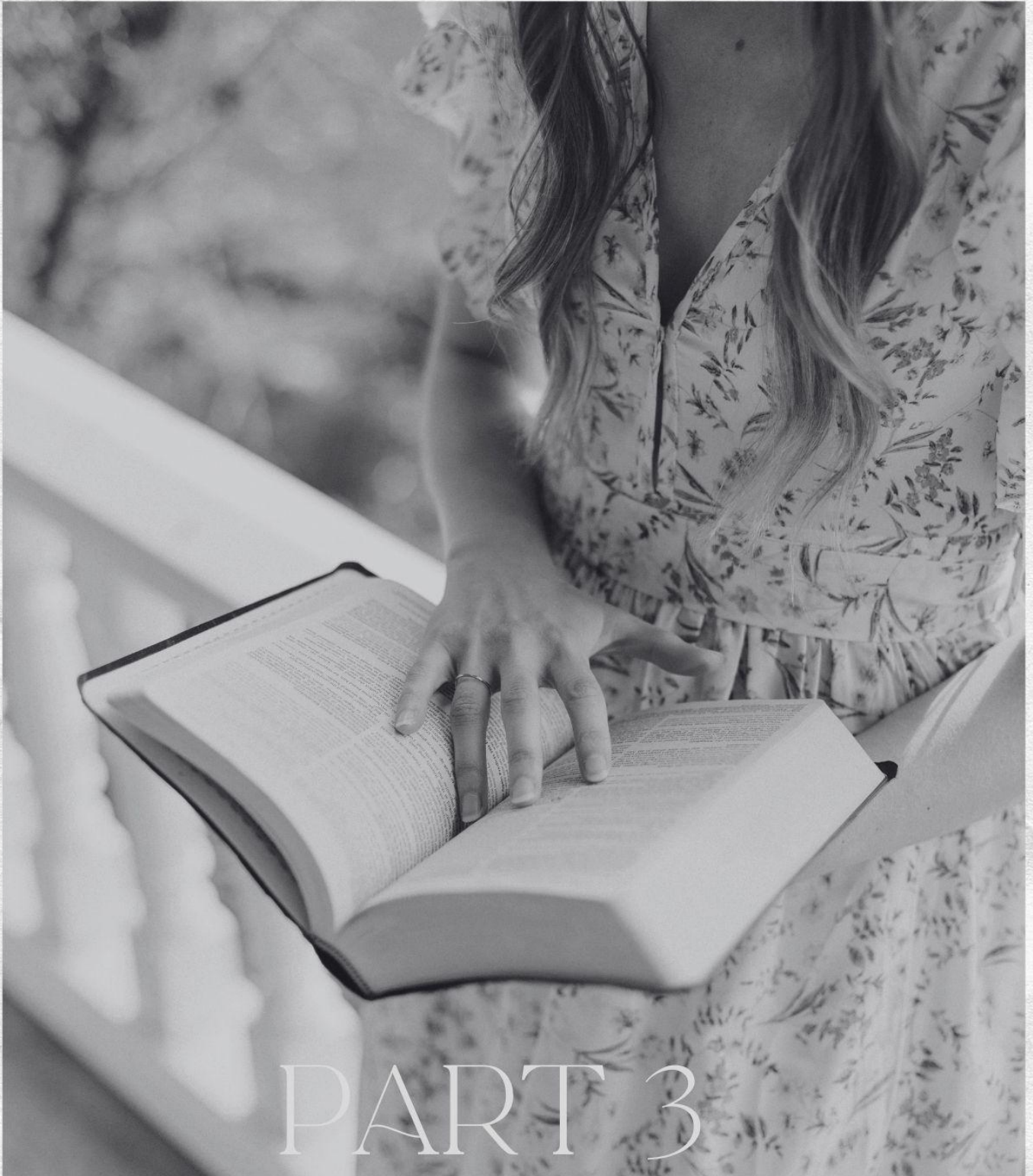
Genesis 8:21 invites us to reflect on the kind of aroma our lives are producing. God delights in humility, service, justice, mercy, and wholehearted devotion. Sacrifices offered without these qualities are rejected, but even small acts of love offered in sincerity rise before God as something beautiful. May we live in a way that reflects Christ, whose life was the ultimate fragrant offering.

Noah's offering was pleasing to the Lord because it came from a heart oriented toward God. It acknowledged His mercy and sovereignty. It expressed trust in God's promise to sustain life. The aroma of Noah's sacrifice symbolised restored fellowship between God and humanity after the flood of judgment. It marked a turning point in the biblical story, where judgment gave way to promise. It also established a pattern that runs through the entire Bible: God is pleased not by the scent of offerings but by the heart that offers them.



WHAT IS AROMA TO LORD

COMMUNION WITH GOD



PART 3

BY: PASTOR ED ROEBERT

CHAPTER 2

BECOMING STILL

In order to hear the still, small voice of the Lord within us, we ourselves must become quiet before the Lord. There has to be a stilling of all the other voices that so often demand our attention and a zeroing in on the voice of the Lord.

This doesn't happen that easily – especially when we haven't taken particular note of the Lord's voice over the years. It's almost like learning to walk or ride a bicycle. It's an art that needs to be learned.

LISTEN TO WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY TO US

God speaks to us in Psalm 46:10 and clearly says,

“BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD;”

Other translations of this verse are “CEASE STRIVING, LET GO, RELAX and know that I am God.” This statement says three very important things:

1. It is possible to KNOW GOD.
2. Pursuing this goal of knowing God involves being still, ceasing to strive, relaxing and letting go.
3. Getting to know God is not the product of effort, rather it involves waiting on Him; sitting in His presence; relaxing before Him and being quiet before Him.

We so often miss the importance of quieting our selves before God, as we approach Him. We tend to live such busy lives that we rush into His presence, blurt out a word or two of praise followed by a couple of quick requests and then we're gone again, just at the moment when God was getting ready to speak to us and have communion with us.

This kind of hurried approach will always result in our missing out on hearing God's voice and as a result we will always fail to enter into the realm of the Spirit, or have any in-depth communion with the Lord.



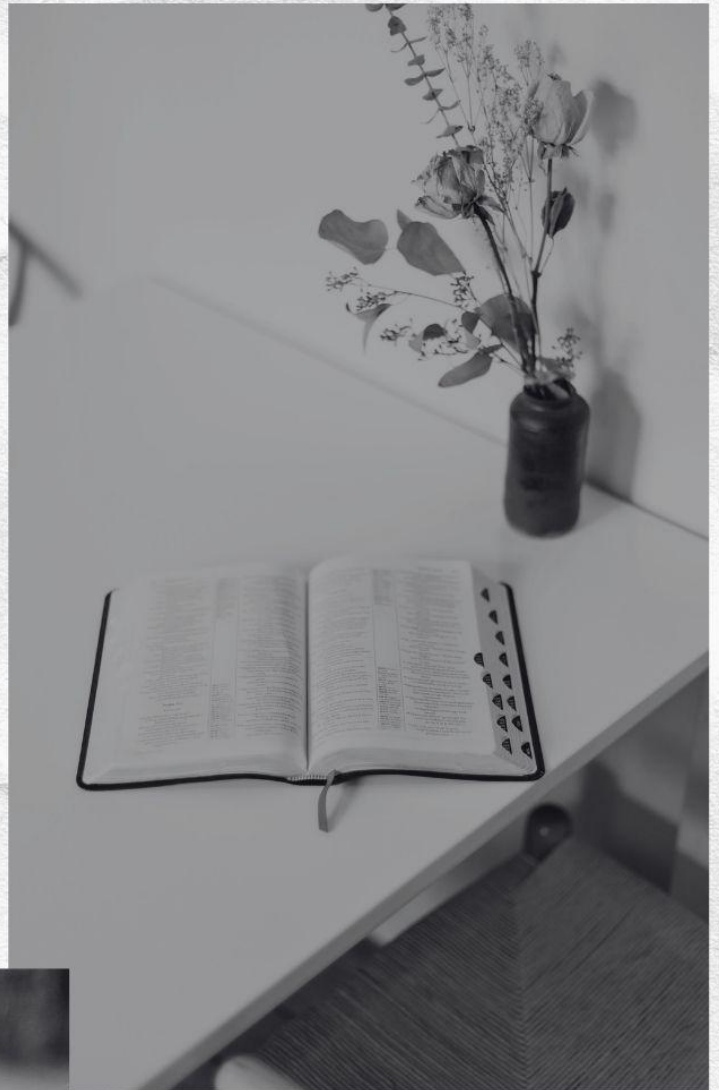
EXAMPLES OF BECOMING STILL

In order to hear God's voice we **MUST** learn to be still before Him. There are many examples in Scripture of this. Let's look at some of these.

HABAKKUK the Prophet.

Before he heard from God he set himself aside especially for this purpose.

Habakkuk 2:1 "I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. 2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it."



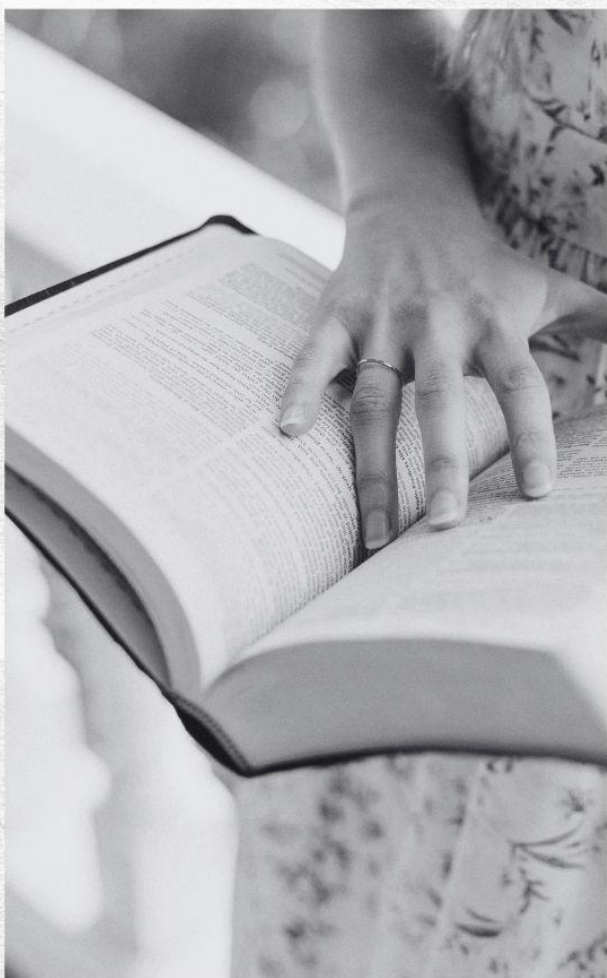
DAVID is perhaps THE classic example from the Old Testament.

It seems as though he would often go before the Lord and simply sit in His presence until the Lord would begin to commune with him. That is why again and again David encouraged us to WAIT on the Lord. In Psalm 27:14 he says, "Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart. Wait I say on the Lord."

JESUS spent regular times in a lonely place with His Father

To quote only one reference in this regard, we note Mark 1:35:

"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed."



Perhaps it was on occasions such as these that His Father showed Jesus all the things that He needed to show Him AND gave Him all the words that He wanted Him to speak. (Read John 5:19-20).

These three examples are only a few of the many in the Bible.

PROBLEMS WE ENCOUNTER WHEN WE WANT TO BE STILL

1) We must remove external distractions

We must find a place where we can be alone and undisturbed so that we can become quiet before the Lord and establish contact with Him.

This is obviously why Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." (Matthew 6:6). We need this kind of privacy.

2) We must handle inner distractions

So many voices demand our attention. These voices need to be stilled in order for us to hear His voice. But HOW does that occur? Let's consider some of the voices that need to be stilled:





The voice of CONSCIENCE

If, as you come before the Lord, you become aware of the fact that there is a problem (a sin) that is hindering your communion with God, take immediate action by way of confession and repentance. Be sure then to accept God's forgiveness and proceed with your communion.

The voice of the URGENT

Perhaps as you are waiting on the Lord, suddenly you become aware of an urgent task that you need to attend to. Write it down on a "TO DO" list and then once gain give your undivided attention to your communion with God.

The voice of your BODY

Go the bathroom before you begin waiting on the Lord. Find a comfortable chair in an area with adequate light and ventilation. It is not necessary to kneel. This you can do if you feel that the Holy Spirit is leading you to do so. Don't let the voice of your body distract you from having communion with the Lord.





THE BIBLICAL BASE FOR BECOMING STILL

I am amazed to see how much the Bible has to say about being still. Let's note some of the Scripture references. They say some very important things to us:

1. Stand still and let God become your victory

Exodus 14:13 "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, STAND STILL, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show you today: for the Egyptians whom have seen today, ye shall see them again no more for ever."

2. Wait quietly

Ruth 3:18 "Then said she, "SIT STILL, MY DAUGHTER, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

3. God's voice is a still, small voice

1 Kings 19:13 "And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire A STILL SMALL VOICE".

4. Quietly commune with God on your bed

Psalm 4:4 "Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and BE STILL. Selah".

5. The Lord will lead you into a quiet life, if you allow Him to shepherd you.

Psalm 23:2 "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: HE LEADETH ME BESIDE THE STILL WATERS".

6. Being still is the doorway into getting to know God

Psalm 46:10 "BE STILL, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth".

7. Quietness and confidence bring strength into your life

Isaiah 30:15 "For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and REST shall ye be saved; in QUIETNESS and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not".

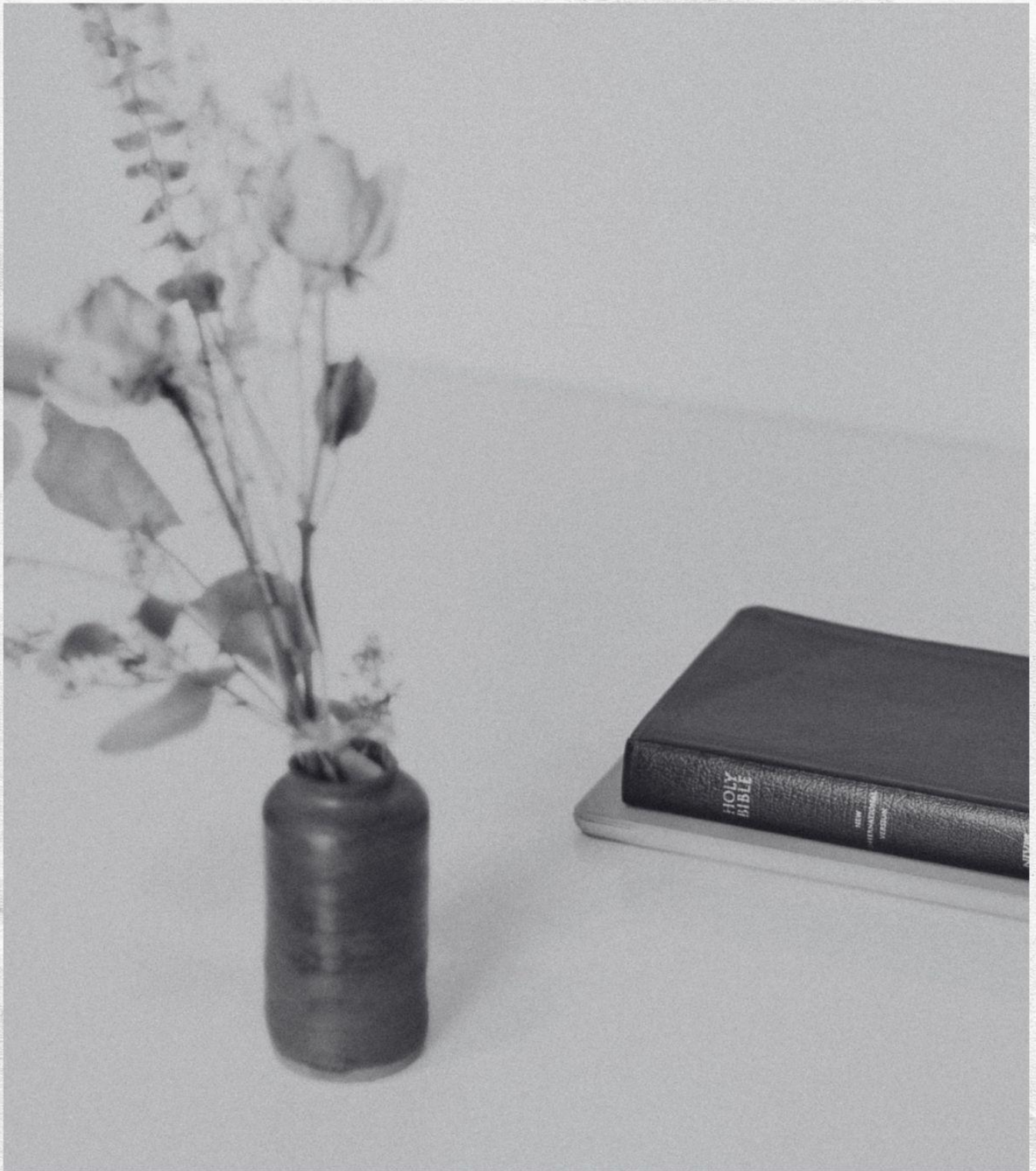
8. It's an art to be studied and learned

1 Thessalonians 4:11 "And that ye STUDY TO BE QUIET, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;"

9. God's plan is that we should as communities enjoy quiet and peace

1 Timothy 2:2 "For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead A QUIET AND PEACEABLE LIFE in all godliness and honesty".





10. A woman with a quiet spirit is of great value in God's sight

1 Peter 3:4 "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and QUIET SPIRIT, which is in the sight of God of great price".

The only CONCLUSION one can draw after taking note of these Scripture references is that IT IS IMPORTANT TO LEARN TO BECOME STILL.

Does this conclusion say anything to you? What are you going to do about it?

Life is a journey, and every one of us faces moments of change, challenge, disappointment, and opportunity. Along the way, there are things we celebrate, things we regret, and things we wish had turned out differently. Some people become trapped in the past, either living in past victories or being held captive by past failures. But God calls us to move forward. The Christian life is not a stagnant life; it is a journey of growth, faith, and continual progress. God always has more ahead for us. The only direction we can truly go in with God, is forward!

THE ONLY WAY - FORWARD!

**BY: ANDREW
ROEBERT**



THERE IS A MOMENT TO REMEMBER

Psalm 77:11

**'I will remember the
deeds of the LORD; yes,
I will remember Your
miracles of long ago.'**

It is good to remember what God has done for us. Looking back at God's faithfulness can strengthen our faith for today. We all have moments where God came through for us, protected us, provided for us, or carried us through difficult seasons. Those memories become landmarks of His goodness in our lives. Sometimes we need to pause and remember the miracles, breakthroughs, and blessings God has already brought into our lives. The 'good old days' can remind us that the same God Who was faithful then is faithful now. But we must never live only in yesterday's victories.

THERE IS A TIME TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND US

Philippians 3:13

**'But one thing I do: Forgetting
what is behind...' (NIV)**

Philippians 3:13

**'I focus on this one thing:
Forgetting the past...' (NLT)**

There comes a time when we must stop living in the past. Some people are trapped by regret, guilt, disappointment, or pain. Others are trapped by success and constantly compare the present to 'better days.' God does not want us stuck in what was. We cannot drive forward while constantly looking in the rearview mirror. The past may have shaped us, but it should not control us. God's grace allows us to release the past and embrace the future He has prepared for us.

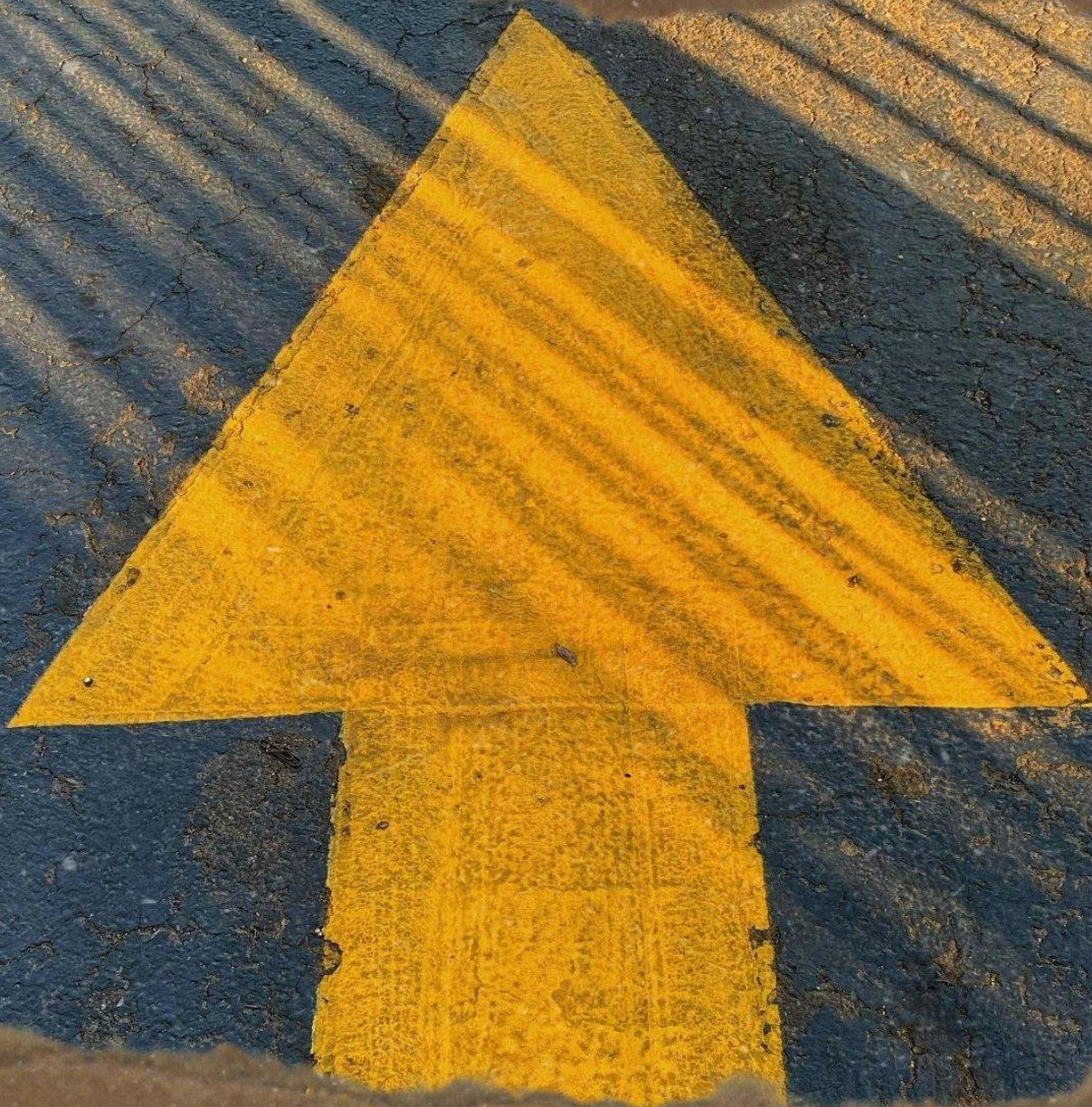
OUR FOCUS SHOULD BE ON WHAT LIES AHEAD

Philippians 3:13

‘But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.’ (NIV)

Philippians 3:13

‘I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.’ (NLT)



God always has something ahead for us. There are new opportunities, new seasons, new lessons, and new victories waiting for us. The enemy wants to distract us with what is behind us, but God calls us to look ahead with hope and expectation. Faith is forward-looking. When Peter walked on the water, he succeeded while his focus remained on Jesus. What we focus on shapes the direction of our lives. If we focus on fear, failure, or disappointment, we will become discouraged. But if we focus on God and His promises, hope begins to rise within us.

KEEP ON PRESSING ON

Philippians 3:14

'I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.'

Life is not always easy, and moving forward can sometimes feel exhausting. There are moments when we feel like giving up. But God calls us to keep pressing on. Progress may sometimes be slow, but slow progress is still progress. Every step of obedience, every prayer, every act of faith matters. Don't allow setbacks to stop you. Keep moving forward, even if it is one small step at a time. God honours perseverance and faithfulness.

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

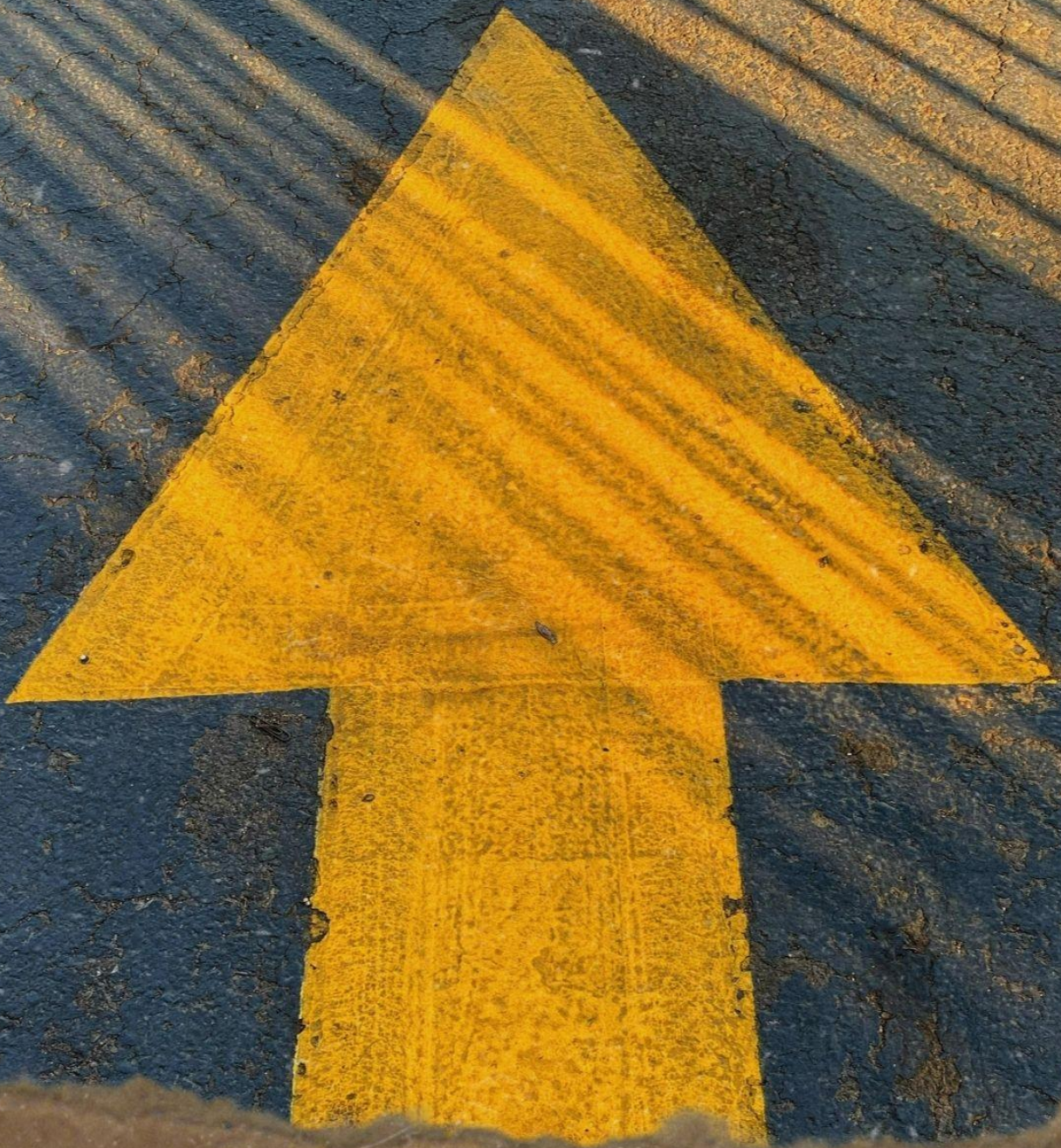
1 Timothy 6:12

'Fight the good fight of the faith.'

2 Timothy 4:7

'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.'

The Christian life involves spiritual battles. We battle discouragement, temptation, fear, doubt, and opposition. But we are not fighting for victory, we are fighting from a place of victory because Christ has already overcome. A good fight is a fight worth fighting and a good fight is a fight we win. Hold onto your faith, even when circumstances seem difficult. Don't surrender your hope or your confidence in God. Stay faithful through every season.

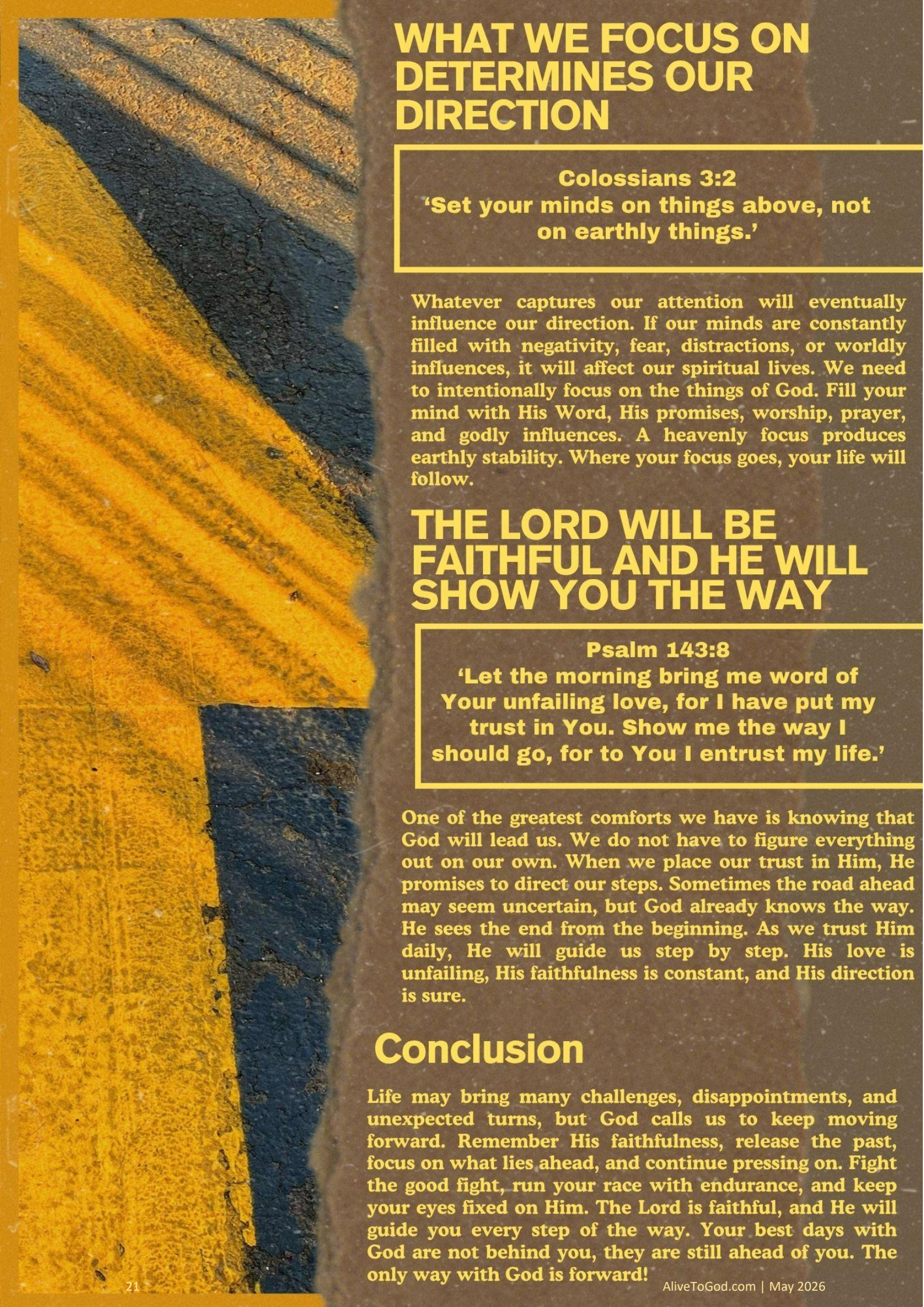


RUN THE RACE TO WIN

1 Corinthians 9:24

'Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.'

The Christian life is compared to a race. Athletes train with discipline, focus, and determination because they want to finish well. In the same way, we should live intentionally and wholeheartedly for God. Don't live carelessly or half-heartedly. Run your race with passion, commitment, and endurance. God has placed a unique race before each one of us. Don't compare your journey to someone else's journey, simply remain faithful to the path God has given you.



WHAT WE FOCUS ON DETERMINES OUR DIRECTION

Colossians 3:2

'Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.'

Whatever captures our attention will eventually influence our direction. If our minds are constantly filled with negativity, fear, distractions, or worldly influences, it will affect our spiritual lives. We need to intentionally focus on the things of God. Fill your mind with His Word, His promises, worship, prayer, and godly influences. A heavenly focus produces earthly stability. Where your focus goes, your life will follow.

THE LORD WILL BE FAITHFUL AND HE WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY

Psalm 143:8

'Let the morning bring me word of Your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in You. Show me the way I should go, for to You I entrust my life.'

One of the greatest comforts we have is knowing that God will lead us. We do not have to figure everything out on our own. When we place our trust in Him, He promises to direct our steps. Sometimes the road ahead may seem uncertain, but God already knows the way. He sees the end from the beginning. As we trust Him daily, He will guide us step by step. His love is unfailing, His faithfulness is constant, and His direction is sure.

Conclusion

Life may bring many challenges, disappointments, and unexpected turns, but God calls us to keep moving forward. Remember His faithfulness, release the past, focus on what lies ahead, and continue pressing on. Fight the good fight, run your race with endurance, and keep your eyes fixed on Him. The Lord is faithful, and He will guide you every step of the way. Your best days with God are not behind you, they are still ahead of you. The only way with God is forward!

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