

LIFESTYLEZ FAMILY MINISTRIES

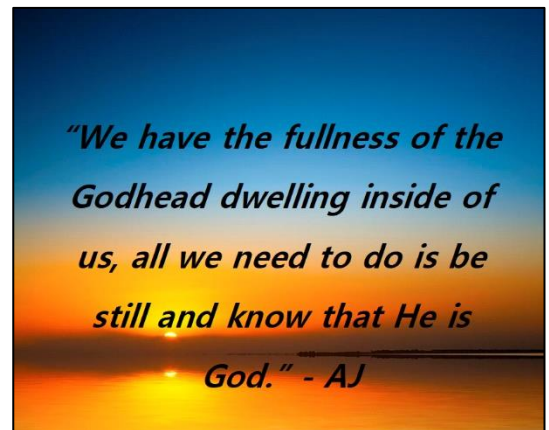
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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – WEEK 14

30 March 2025 – 05 April 2025

Dear Family,

What do you think is the greatest thing in the world? Some would say it is love, but of course so many things pass for love these days that that does not really say anything. Someone else might say, it is the world itself – the physical universe with all the creatures in it. Not bad. Some people will say that kindness is the biggest and best thing in the world. If you do a kindness, it enlarges you, and it helps the person receiving it. Then others would say that power is the crucial thing – getting it, using it, wielding it is what makes the world go round. But power abused is disastrous. But yes, power is important. So is knowledge. The more knowledge more people have the better the decisions that get made. But not always. Some people would claim that money rules the world, that it is the biggest thing behind everything that happens. That is a pity, because that makes the wealthy the most powerful people in the world. And often the poor people are people of better moral character.



Well, you may have your own idea, your own concept of what is the greatest thing in the world as well. Of course, you may well be thinking that there is so much that is the opposite – of good that is. Ugliness, evil, crookery, greed, poverty, exploitation, disease, conflict, violence, crime, child abuse, etc. We live in a world that is invaded by everything that is wrong, occupied by human stupidity, power abused, people trampled on, and little children violated and murdered. Then there is terrorism and war. The list is endless. Some might even suppose that evil in all its forms is the most real and supreme factor in human existence. It is certainly the most terrifying.

Well, Paul had a very interesting insight on this one. He had lots of them. In fact, he churned them out like a hen laying eggs. And some years ago, a man called Eugene Peterson took it upon himself to turn Paul's first-century Greek into twenty-first century English. His wording makes you think. This is what he made of one of Paul's great statements.

Do you think that anybody is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, nor hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: "They kill us in cold blood because they hate You. We are sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one". None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I am absolutely convinced that nothing – nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable – absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

There is no other competitor. The greatest thing in the world is God's love in Christ.

André Binneman
Senior Servant Leader

DAILY CONFESSIONS

With my God I will scale a wall, with my God I will storm a troop.
(Psalm 18:29)

My sun will not go down, nor my moon withdraw, for God is my everlasting light and the days of my mourning will be ended.
(Isaiah 61:10)

I believe God that it will be just as He told me.

(Acts 27:25)

No weapon formed against me will prosper and every tongue which rises against me in judgement God will condemn.

(Isaiah 54:17)

When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift a standard against him.

(Isaiah 59:19)

Above all else I will guard my heart for it is the wellspring of life.

(Proverbs 4:23)

I am confident in this, that He Who has started a good work in me is able to complete the work that He has started.

(Philippians 1:6)

At the Name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those in the heaven, and of those in the earth, and of those under the earth.

(Philippians 2:10)

The power of life and death is in my tongue. And if I use it, I will eat the fruit of it.

(Proverbs 18:21)

Lord, thank you that You set a guard over my mouth, and that You keep watch over the door of my lips.

(Psalms 141:3)

WHAT IS HAPPENING THIS WEEK – UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 10:00 – Prayer meeting, anybody is welcome. If there are any specific prayer requests, please send it through to us.

Wednesday 18:30 – Community / Fellowship groups. We spend some time together getting to know each other while drawing nearer to God. Anybody is welcome to join us and please invite a friend.

If you have friends or family in hospital or that are unable to travel that require prayer and counselling, please let us know.

If you are at all in any way uncertain of your salvation, please contact us so that we can walk this road with you to ensure that you do not miss out on this great opportunity and open invitation, to become a child of God.

Both the first and second books in the **Back to First Love Basics Series**, “**Do You Know Jesus Christ?**” and “**Do You Know the Holy Spirit?**”, are now available in eBook format. Contact us for your free copies.

TAKE NOTE! We are launching our Complete Sanctification Seminar / Course in May 2025. Exact dates are still to be determined but stay on the lookout for this.

IN THE PRAYER CLOSET

We have six prayer points to focus on this week. It is important that we never lose the passion for prayer and the passion for God’s people we pray for.

Let us pray for our spiritual leaders.

Let us pray that the Spirit of the Lord will rest on them. Let us pray for a Spirit of understanding. Let us pray for a Spirit of counsel and might. Let us pray for a Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2)

Let us pray for an anointing to preach good tidings to heal the broken-hearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives who are bound. (Isaiah 61:1)

Let us pray that the Lord will be ready to perform His Word. (Jeremiah 1:12)

Let us pray for the protection of our spiritual leaders.

Let us pray that no weapon formed against them will prosper, that every tongue that rises against them in judgement God will condemn. (Isaiah 54:17)

Let us pray with supplication in the Spirit that utterance may be given to our spiritual leaders that as they open their mouths that they may make known the mystery of the Gospel. (Ephesians 6:20)

Let us pray for prosperity.

Let us pray that as the Word goes forth it will not return void but that it will prosper in the thing that it was sent. (Isaiah 55:11)

Let us pray that God will make all grace abound towards them to have abundance for every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

Let us pray that as they give of themselves it will be given back in good measure running all over. (Luke 6:38)

Let us pray that God will supply all their needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19)

Let us pray for the Body of Christ, our body.

Let us pray and ask God to fill our bodies with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. That we might walk worthy of the Lord by pleasing God and being fruitful in every way being strengthened with all might according to the power of His grace. Giving thanks to the Father who has made us partakers of His inheritance. (Colossians 1:9-12)

Let us pray for rulers and those in authority.

Let us pray and exhort first of all that supplications and prayers and intercessions be made for all men, for all rulers, and for all those who are in authority so that we can live a quiet and peaceable life in godliness for this is good and pleases our God who desires all men to be saved. (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

Let us pray that every soul stays subject to governing authorities. (Romans 13:1)

Let us pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Let us pray for the peace of Jerusalem; may they prosper who love you. (Psalm 122:6)

LIFESTYLEZ TRAINING CENTRE

Last week we started on a series that teaches us about the armour of God. We have been learning about the helmet of Salvation and how we need to apply it to be effective. This week we are looking at the breastplate of righteousness and it works in the same way, if we do not dress ourselves with it, we cannot reap the benefits of it.

The breastplate stands for the righteousness of God and how it works in us, and how we are to show it to others through us. So, the breastplate of righteousness gives us a mandate to speak.

Righteousness protects us from sin. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it springs the issues of life (Prov. 4:23).

Righteousness protects us from the flesh. I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me (Gal. 2:20).

Righteousness protects us from anger. Be angry, and do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your wrath (Eph. 4:26).

Righteousness protects us from ungodliness. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and Godly in the present age (Titus 2:12).

As the helmet of Salvation protects our thoughts and our way of thinking, so does the breastplate of Righteousness protect us from our emotions, our heart, and other vital organs.

DAILY BREAD

Day 1 – The Proud are Scattered.

“Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfilment of those things which were told her from the Lord. And Mary said, my soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations

will be blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever. And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her house."

Luke 1:45-56 (NKJV)

Today there are, like in all the previous centuries, tyrants who seized power in various areas, and who prey on and oppress the helpless and weak. They abuse their power to enrich themselves and ruthlessly suppress any opposition.

However, never despair about the state of the world. There is always hope. No matter how much power one person may get in this life, they will eventually be stripped of that authority. God is a harsh judge over the wicked. They may rule by force for a time, but their power and authority are always temporary. This is one of the messages that Christ's coming to earth holds for us, and it gives us reason for boundless joy.

Mary lived at a time when the Roman Empire ruled the then known world. The people who stood under this Empire yearned for their downfall. The words of Luke 1:51-53 express Mary's faith as she praises God for His mighty acts in her life - also in the history of nations.

Mercifully, there are many good rulers today. But no matter how evil, cruel, or violent some other rulers are, God will scatter them and overthrow their evil plans. Therefore, pray at this time that God will push the proud, cruel, and oppressors from their thrones – for His glory and for the benefit of humanity.

Remember; arrogant people do not actually get anywhere because they always think that they have already arrived.

Prayer. Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Almighty God, overthrow those who oppress the poor and weak, and establish peace and justice in the kingdoms of the world. In Jesus' Name, amen.

Day 2 – Show Tolerance, Love, and Understanding

"If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end, we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be clear to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. Do not rebuke an elder man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity."

1 Timothy 4:6-5:2 (NKJV)

Times are constantly changing, but in the last decade or two the pace at which the changes are occurring have increased. Children have exchanged toys for computers; journeys that once took weeks now only take hours; and communication methods have taken on a completely different dimension with modern technology.

This situation sometimes leads to frustration and irritation. There is frustration among older people who grew up with the old tried and tested methods, and there is irritation among younger people who see the old-fashioned methods, to which some people continue to cling, as an obstacle in the path of progress.

We live in a modern world. Young people who stay up to date with the latest technology are often the ones who are appointed to positions of seniority and authority, or who are quickly promoted in the professional world – often at the expense of older people who have fallen behind technologically. If you find yourself in a position of authority over an older colleague, you have a better chance of winning their favour by showing understanding and discussing any proposed changes with them.

Age, health, and stages of life have nothing to do with service or no service. During every season of life there are characteristics and qualities of life and experience that God considers valuable in your service.

Prayer. Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Lord Jesus, may your love be revealed in all my dealings with others, regardless of their age difference. In Jesus' Name, amen.

Day 3 – What of Your Sins That Have Been Forgiven?

“Therefore, putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbour, for we are members of one another. Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labour, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of out your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”
Ephesians 4:25-32 (NKJV)

God forgives sin! When we confess our sin with repentance in our hearts, He forgives us. And we experience a freedom that only God can give.

Even though you rejoice in the forgiveness you have received, the feeling of guilt about your sin sometimes is still with you. Maybe you have hurt someone, and even though you have apologised and are truly sorry, the pain you caused your fellow human being still haunts you. You long for the freedom that God gives you, but the memory of your misdeeds binds you to the past.

God has a wonderful way of dealing with the memory of the sins He has forgiven, but which still haunt you: He weaves them into the tapestry of your life – along with the forgiveness He has given you. And what could have been a depressing experience becomes a joy for you because you are reminded of the victory you have achieved in Christ. God is a master when it comes to restoring our character. The New Testament declares that when Christ enters your life, you become a new person. God promises that if we repent and turn from our sins, He will blot out our sins, and then He will give us times of refreshing (according to Acts 3:19-20). Your past sins will no longer haunt you. They will not succeed in dulling your joy in Jesus.

When Christ's hands were nailed to the cross, He also nailed your sin to the cross.

Prayer. Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Thank you that through Your love and grace I can move into the future, free from my sins. In Jesus' Name, amen.

Day 4 – Spiritual Growth Requires Humility

“Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation – as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also his epistles speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. You, therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

2 Peter 3:14-18 (NKJV)

Spiritual growth is essential if you want a deeper understanding of God. And in your growth process, you must make sure that you always realize how dependent you are on God.

Pride in our achievements is one of the great destroyers of our faith life. When you compare yourself to other people and start thinking you are better than them, you take a step backward in your spiritual life. And that will be the first step towards spiritual decline.

Our Lord and His teachings are the only standards by which you must measure yourself. His standards will keep you humble, because His perfection and Holiness reveal to you your imperfection and sin. This revelation may well cause you to feel depressed and give in completely to despair. You feel like you will never be able to meet Christ's standards. But as you grow spiritually and realize that you live in total dependence on Jesus Christ, you develop an attitude of humility. You build an unwavering trust in God. This will be reflected in your attitude towards life.

Spiritual humility does not imply a grovelling attitude toward God, toward other people, and toward life. Because you consciously depend on God and draw from His treasury of courage and strength, you can face life with more confidence. You know that with God you will be able to handle any situation that arises.

Prayer. Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Please help me, my Lord and my God, to grow into a deeper understanding of Your Will for my life. In Jesus' Name, amen.

Day 5 – More Of Christ, Less of Me

“After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. For John had not yet been thrown into prison. Then there arose a dispute between some of John’s disciples and the Jews about purification. And they came to John and said to him, Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified – behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him! John answered and said, A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but I have been

sent before Him. He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore, this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease. He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 3:22-36(NKJV)

We as humans sometimes struggle to keep a balance between how important or unimportant we are. Some people are so full of themselves that they think God created the universe for their sake. Others are so humble that they never become in their lives what God intended them to be.

You find the right perspective by placing yourself next to Jesus Christ. John the Baptist was very famous in the eyes of people. He had an extraordinary personality. He wore a coat of camel hair and ate locusts and honey. His message was so honest that it shocked the religious leaders of his time. However, crowds followed him to listen to his sermons on repentance, conversion, and self-discipline.

John the Baptist's number of followers grew, but on the day Jesus began His ministry, John the Baptist stood aside. You knew his role was over. Now Jesus had to take centre stage. John's starting points were; He must become more important, and I must become less and less important.

The balance is therefore: Never attach so little value and appreciation to yourself by thinking too little of yourself. You should never attach too much value to yourself either. Get the right perspective by looking to Jesus. By glorifying Him in your life and serving His Kingdom, you will find your rightful place before God.

Because the humble person is not constantly fixated on their own importance, they can see the world as it really is.

Prayer. Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. God of love, Your grace is wider than the ocean and deeper than the sea. Grant that my life will not revolve only around my interests, but that You will become more. In Jesus' Name, amen.

Day 6 – God's Foreknowledge

"Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born, I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations. Then said I: Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth. But the Lord said to me: Do not say, I am a youth, for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."

Jeremiah 1:4-8 (NKJV)

There are people who think that God is simply a source of help that is available to them every time something goes wrong in their life. When a water pipe bursts in the house, they will call in a plumber; when their knees hurt, they go to the doctor. But when they are really in trouble, they call out to God. For them God is an emergency line that should be conveniently available to them in times of crisis.

Indeed, the psalmist exults: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:2). However, God is much more than just a refuge in trouble. He is the great "Before". Before the crisis hits you, He is already with you. Before you were born, He loved you and desired that you would become His child. Before you were born, He had already planned your life, He had laid out your path for you. When He formed you in the womb, it was a much greater miracle than simply the mixing of your father's and your mother's genes. It was an act of creation by God. His personal touch was upon you, and He engraved His Name on your life forever. God intended you to be. And He intended you to be you.

Among all the Billions of people on earth, you are unique. There is only one you. God loves you as if you were the only person on earth. He has always loved you; He loves you

now; He will love you forever and ever, wherever you may be. This is the dynamic of His foreknowledge at work in your life. Praise the Lord for His infinite love!

In Him we all have our origin; by Him we are all encompassed; and towards Him we are all on a journey.

Prayer. Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Loving Father God, thank you for planning my life. Fulfil your plans through my obedience to you. In Jesus' Name, amen.

Day 7 – Can You Control Your Moods?

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:13-16 (NKJV)

No one lives only for themselves. As you travel through life, you carry an influence and atmosphere with you that is sensed by other people. Whether you are aware of it or not: you influence the lives of the people you meet.

If you tend to constantly complain because nothing is ever right or works out, you will soon find yourself in the company of people who think just like you. Your life will inevitably turn into a miserable existence. However, if you truly appreciate the blessings of life, you will receive even more blessings for your positive and cheerful disposition. Your positive mood will be reflected in the world in which you live and work.

If you have a negative approach to life, you will attract other people to you who are just as negative as you. If you have an upbeat and positive approach to life, you will be a blessing to everyone you meet.

Do not ever think that as a Christian you can never feel discouraged and depressed. These are emotions that even the greatest heroes of faith experience. But as a Christian you are in control of your moods; your moods do not control you. You belong to the Redeemer and Savior. And He has promised to dwell in you. Even when your life reaches the low water mark, you can affirm and confess: I belong to Christ, and He belongs to me. Thus, your spirit is lifted and your outlook on life is enlightened.

Prayer. Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Lord Jesus, through the power of Your Spirit that dwells in me, I can triumph over all my moods. In Jesus Name, amen.

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Account Type: FNB Business Cheque
Account Number: 628 691 604 17
Branch Number: 250 655

"The Lord blesses you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26 (NKJV)

