

June 2022

Thank you so much for your faithful support this month. We truly appreciate you, and the Lord will use your giving for the kingdom as we place it in His hands with faith. Here's where we are in....

Circumstances

I think the verse that most describes this month for us is Galatians 6:7-10, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature; from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit; from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we don't give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Also, 1 Corinthians 15:58 similarly says, "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Looking straight into it, notice in Galatians where it says "let us not become *weary*" and think of Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

As I look back to June, I remember there were three times tears of gratitude dripped from my eyes. Many of these times had to do with work at pre-school. I've worked harder than before, taking on more responsibility, which was an encouraging chance to step up some. I had worked really hard for the first paycheck I got for the summer, and it was much bigger than the usual amount, which was such a blessing from the Lord. I felt as if the Lord was telling me, I see you. The next time, I teared up at the end of 2 weeks going into the weekend because the Lord helped me through it. I just played Christian music in Spanish, mopped the floors, and thanked God. The last time I teared up, I was in the car listening to the radio to a song called Sparrows by Cory Asbury <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6B7-Tb6JL48>.

Anyhow, that makes me think of Psalms 56:8, "You have kept record of my days of wandering. You have stored my tears in your bottle and counted each of them." God holds our tears as precious, and in the end, every one of them will be wiped away, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:4

Here are more verses about God recognizing our tears:

Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, "Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is right in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the Lord came to him: "Turn back, and say to Hezekiah, the leader of my people, Thus says the Lord, the God of David, your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will heal you. On the third day from now you shall go

up to the house of the Lord. I will add fifteen more years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David." 2 Kings 20:5-6

Exodus 3:7-8, The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey...."

I'm not encouraging to stir up emotions with self-will, but when you're hurting or stressed, or it's hard, I am saying it's okay to cry to the Lord. "Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!" Psalms 126:5 Blessed is he who is poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

In Fundraising

We are encouraged that God puts it on people's hearts to give and how they respond. Through all this fundraising process, we can honestly say and see how God is faithful. We thank Him and thank you. As of May, we have \$83,310 with pledges and one-time gifts. This is 79.3% of the target goal, and by God's grace, one more supporter has joined!

We have been participating in small groups hosted from Huancayo, Peru, by pastor Beto Fernandez online for a time now. These have encouraged us and helped us participate with other Peruvians in some inductive Bible study groups, reading the Book of Acts. Pastor Beto has about approximately 200 people participating in his online Bible studies.

Praise the Lord; He is giving me things to encourage and share with others (Bible studies) when I felt like I didn't know what to share, who, when, or where in the present. But by his grace, he is clarifying those things more and more. One verse that encouraged me in this regard was Dt. 33:3 (This is Moses speaking to the Lord), "Surely it is you who love the people; all the holy ones are in your hand. At your feet they all bow down, and from you receive instruction."

Spiritually

"For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again." Prov. 24:16
I have thought about this verse some. This is a strike to instant gratification, I believe. For instance, you start a small group, and sometimes no one shows. Not quitting but persevering is patience. Say when things don't go our way or the way we planned or okay, the plans don't work, and it all went bad; this is when we are prone to anger/stress and need patience. The fast-food and immediate gratification of culture has or can affect us. Results may not come immediately; it's even like this with prayer many times (the Lord wants us to persevere in prayer). We have to do our best and our part, let go and leave the results up to God for his glory. It can be discouraging when there aren't results. But this verse comes to mind, Habakkuk 3:17-18, "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails, and the fields

produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior." When there are obstacles, don't give up! Along with this proverb at the top, this verse accompanies it beautifully, "But if we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard-pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." 2 Cor. 4:7-9

Other related scriptures on patience are known. It's interesting that perseverance, patience, and even endurance are used interchangeably in James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-5. But James 1:2-4 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith develops perseverance (patience). Perseverance/ Patience must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing."

The other thing many of us, including me, have to fight with daily is complacency. Romans 12 says to not conform to the patterns of this world but be transformed in the renewing of our mind. Then we will be able to test and approve of what God's will is- his good, pleasing, and perfect will.

Hopefully, the verses below encourage us to step out of our comfort zone if we have been cooped up there for too long. First, to seek God with ALL our hearts as it says in Jeremiah 29:11-13 and seek his kingdom and his righteousness first, and have the hunger and desire to find Him in our lives above all else, and all these other things shall be given to you as well (clothing, food, etc.)

Romans 12:6- 8, 11-12, "We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. ...Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

"For this reason I remind you to fan into the flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying of hands." 2 Timothy 1:6

This was a good push that God gave me, saying step into what I put in your heart to do. Through these passages above, the Lord told me, If you have been given a gift, use it. If the spirit is leading you, now go. If you feel you have the desire to do something for others and Christ, do it. Be a faithful servant. May the Lord give us all courage to live out the verses above. And give us both the want and the will to act in order to fulfill his purpose. (Phil. 2:13)



Father's day

