



CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

LESSONS LEARNED FROM A TERMITE



On a flight from Omaha to Seattle last October, I read a fascinating article about termites. It was an airline magazine, and I was killing time until the plane took off when I saw the article. I almost turned the page. But something (or Someone) kept me from moving on until I read the article.

You're already aware that termites are among the tiniest creatures on the planet. What you may not know is **they cannot exist alone**. They can only live in colonies. Colonies may number from one hundred up to one million individual termites.

Normally, in a single colony, there will be three different groups: 1) The Reproducers. 2) The Soldiers and 3) The Workers. Each has a specific task, and none are more important than the others. What is most important is they are completely interdependent upon each other. In other words, there are no "Lone Ranger" termites. Because, if one gets off by himself, he dies.

Surprised? There's more ...

Termites have kings and queens. Usually one royal pair per colony. The queen is considerably larger than all the other termites. She can grow to an enormous size, sometimes as much as 20,000 times the size of her workers. And, in some species, the queen possesses the capacity to lay approximately 30,000 eggs a day. (Look out lumber yards!!)

Given enough time, termites will burrow their way through

wooden structures until there is nothing left but a shell. By themselves they're almost completely harmless. But once they colonize, they possess colossal capabilities to achieve what appears impossible.

What's the point? I believe there are some incredible parallels between these tiny little creatures and those of us who call ourselves Christians.

Still with me?

Solomon wrote in [Proverbs 6:6](#), "Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise!" Perhaps there's wisdom in checking out the termite and considering its ways. Here are some lessons we can learn from the termite:

- 1) Christians, like termites, cannot exist alone. God made us relational beings.
- 2) Christians, like termites, have specific, individual tasks. None are more important than the others. Most important of all, we realize we are completely interdependent upon one another.
- 3) "Lone Ranger" Christians, like "Lone Ranger" termites, die when they get off by themselves.
- 4) Christians, like termites, have defined leadership. When leaders do what God designed them to do and the rest do what God designed them to do, the entire body can grow, multiply, and achieve the impossible.

Now, I'm not trying to bug you with all this. I'd just like to see us live up to the potential God has placed within us as His church and accomplish the impossible.

Learning a lesson or two from the **termite** would be a great place to start.

Blessings,

Pastor David



Your identity reveals your character and your destiny. Jesus' identity was questioned in Luke 9. Peter responded with a firm conviction of Jesus as the Christ. Jesus was able to support his claim by coming back to life after his death on the cross. After his resurrection, Jesus commissioned his followers to go into all the world and make disciples. In this series of exciting messages from Luke chapters 9-12 we will consider who Jesus is and how his identity affects us. Jesus is the Lord of all!

A Love That Redeems

Read Ruth 4:9-10 (NLT)

⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and to the crowd standing around, "You are witnesses that today I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. ¹⁰ And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the family property here in his hometown. You are all witnesses today."

Reflect

How do you see the love of Christ reflected in the story of Ruth and Boaz?

God gives us a glimpse of just how much He loves us by putting a love story in His Word—the book of Ruth. Note that the time of the judges was a mostly dark time during Israel's history. The people were overwhelmingly unfaithful to the Lord. And yet, in the midst of the violence, evil, and ugliness of sin that we find in Judges, we see a sliver of beauty and hope in Ruth's story.

The story begins in the time of the judges when there is a famine in the land, likely as discipline from the Lord. A Jewish man named Elimelech, his wife, Naomi, and their two sons flee from the famine in Bethlehem to Moab (enemy territory) in an attempt to survive. Unfortunately, while there, he dies and leaves Naomi a widow. His two sons marry Moabite wives named Orpah and Ruth but unfortunately, the sons die and leave their wives childless widows as well.

At this point, Naomi bitterly felt as if God must not be on her side, but she couldn't have been more wrong! She heard that the famine in Israel has passed so she decided to return to Bethlehem. She urged her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab and remarry. So Orpah kissed Naomi good-bye and left her. But Ruth refused to leave Naomi's side. She said, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." (Ruth 1:16).

Ruth had every opportunity to selfishly look out for her own interests. As a young widow, remarriage was her only hope of financial security. But she selflessly pledged to leave her own home and gods behind to remain faithful to her mother-in-law and friend, Naomi. Significantly, she also vowed to serve Naomi's God, Yahweh, instead of the pagan gods of the Moabites. Notice the contrast between the faithfulness of Ruth (a foreigner) and the unfaithfulness toward God of many of Israelites at that time.

When they arrived in Bethlehem, it was the barley harvest. Because they were poor widows, Jewish law allowed them to glean grain that was left on the edges of the fields or that had fallen to the ground in the harvest (Leviticus 19:9-10). As God's providence would have it, Ruth ended up gleaning in a field that belonged to a relative of Naomi's husband. His name was Boaz.

Now, Boaz had heard of Ruth's faithfulness to his relative, Naomi as well as her decision to turn to the Lord, the God of Israel. As a result, he was happy to grant her permission to glean his field and ensure her safety.

There is a bright Scarlet Thread of redemption in the story of Ruth and Boaz. In Ruth 2:20, Naomi told Ruth that Boaz was a close relative, one of their "redeemers." Leviticus 25:23-25 explains property redemption to ensure that property remains in a family in the event someone dies or is financially at risk of losing the land. Deuteronomy 25:5-6 explains the law concerning a "levirate marriage" which made provision for a man's brother (or close relative in Boaz's case) to marry the widow and provide an heir for his dead relative.

At Naomi's urging, Ruth approached Boaz and asked him to be their kinsman redeemer, to which he agreed. Boaz redeemed or bought back the land that belonged to Naomi's husband and agreed to marry Ruth. This marriage ensured that any child born to Ruth and Boaz would be an heir for Elimelech, Naomi's late husband.

In Ruth 4, we read that Ruth and Boaz end up having a child which brought great happiness to grandma Naomi. The Lord's hand had not been against her all this time, after all! But wait, there's even more. The book of Ruth ends with a genealogy. Ruth and Boaz's son was named Obed, who became the father of Jesse, who became the father of King David. And if you read on, you eventually discover that Our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, comes from that very same family line.

Friends, can you see how God blessed the faithfulness of Ruth? A foreign woman went from poverty and childlessness to belonging to a wealthy, land-owning family, and a mother in the line of King David and eventually, the Messiah. That kind of blessing is available to us too. By Jesus' blood we have been redeemed out of our sin and brought into the family of God. Praise God for His faithful love toward us! His love redeems.

Pray

Lord, thank You for Your faithful love. Thank You for loving me so much that You were willing to suffer and die to redeem me from the curse of my sin and bring me into the family of God (Galatians 3:t13-14). Amen.

Mission Moment



Special Guest: Tommy White Visits May 21, 2023

We have a special guest coming to visit us on May 21, 2023 from Impact Campus Ministries, our newest mission we are supporting in 2023. Tommy White is the team leader with Impact Campus Ministries at the University of Utah.

ImpactU began nearly ten years ago, when each summer, a group of people from around the world gathered for a week to simply pray for the city, campus, and people of Utah. This eventually led Tommy and Jennifer White to take up the call to move to Salt Lake City and start a campus ministry from scratch.

The first year was spent networking, meeting several students and prepping for what would lay ahead. Year two produced ministry on the campuses of Westminster College and the University of Utah. Presently, ImpactU meets on campus and off campus, going where the young people are.

Impact Campus Ministries in Salt Lake City is made up of a diverse selection of young people. We enjoy community and friendship as we explore our spiritual roots and identities, believing that the God of the Bible loves us unconditionally and desires we seek after Him wholeheartedly. The strength of our ministry is found in meeting in small groups as well as one on one with students. We believe that building trust with one another enables us to face life's challenges with greater courage and conviction.

Tommy will be delivering the sermon message on that day. We will take an additional special offering at the end of the service so please consider extra giving for this ministry. We will follow-up with a potluck meal following our Bible classes. Please join us to learn about Impact Campus Ministries and their work toward building the kingdom of God.

SUNDAY LUNCH



Sunday May 21, 2023

Following Bible Classes

If Your Last Name Begins With:

- A-I Please bring a hot dish
- J-R Please bring a side or salad
- S-Z Please bring a dessert



Many Ways to Give at First Church of Christ



In Person

We love to see you!



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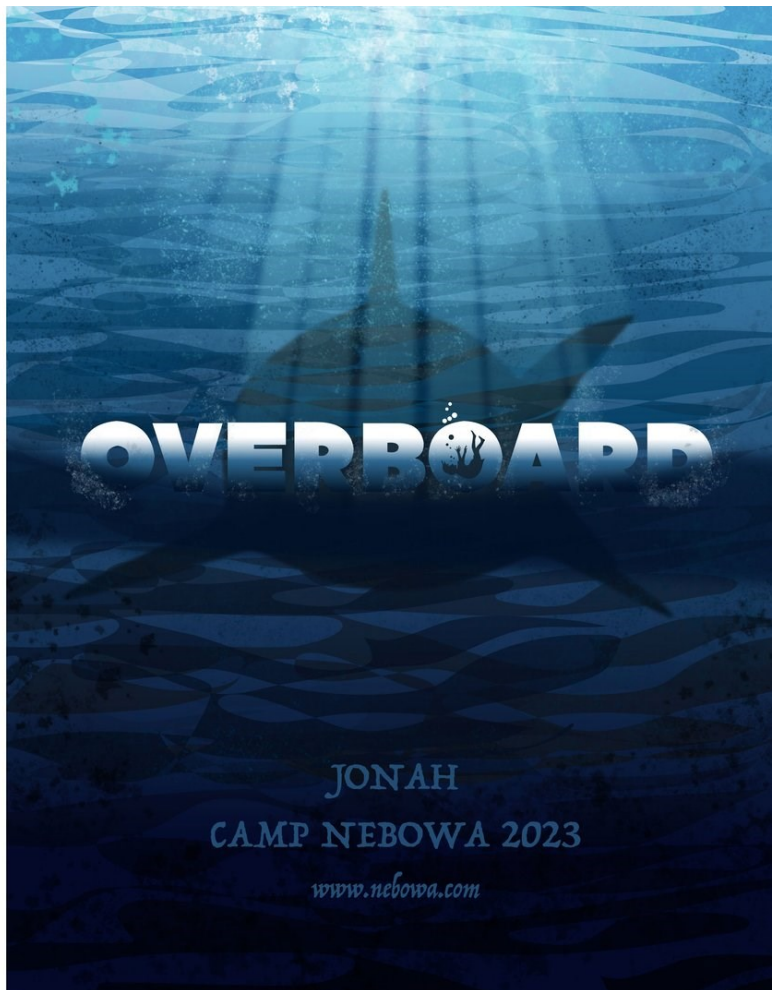
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Camps for All Ages

Camp Season is almost here! Guess what? If you want to go Camp Nebowa this summer, and we would love for you go, there are camps for all ages including adults. First Church of Christ is offering to pay half of your camp fees in 2023. You simply register online to the camp of your choice at www.nebowa.com and enter the discount code **cherokee50** on the check out page. We want everyone who wants to attend camp to have the best opportunity possible to go. If you have any questions please contact the church office at 712-225-2667



Awesome Sauce & Noodles

In an ongoing effort to keep camp costs low each year, Camp Nebowa asks for donations of food each year. This year the Mission Team has chosen to collect boxes of spaghetti noodles along with large jars and cans of spaghetti sauce. They will need A LOT of spaghetti and sauce throughout the whole summer. It is a popular dish at camp.

If you shop at Sam's Club the big gallon jugs of sauce would be ideal, however, any all sizes of jars and cans are welcome. Keep an eye out for when noodles go on sale and pick up as many as you can.

Please bring your donations to the church. You can leave them on the lobby table or in the church office. We would like to collect as much as we can by the end of May. We will continue to collect noodles and sauce throughout the camp season.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!!

May Activities

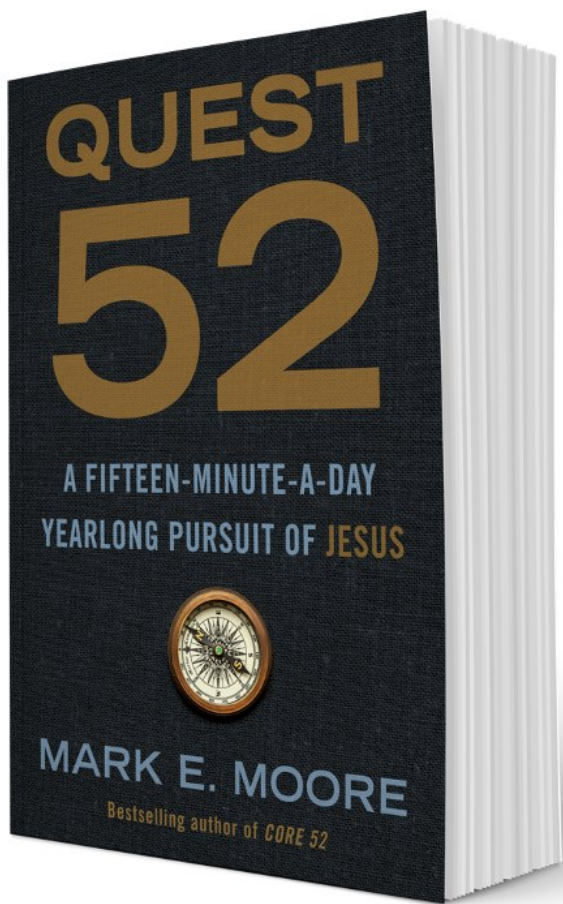
- May 7** - Board Meeting following Bible Classes
- May 4** - National Day of Prayer
- May 11** - Homemakers @ 9:30 a.m.
- May 14** - Mother's Day
- May 17** - Esther Circle @ 1:30 p.m.
- May 20** - MCS Birthday Party
- May 21** - Special Guest: Tommy White, Impact Campus Ministries
- May 21** - Potluck Meal following Bible Classes
- May 29** - Memorial Day



Spend an entire year with Jesus.

TAKE THE JOURNEY

QUEST 52



QUEST 52 HIGHLIGHTS THE KEY MOMENTS FROM JESUS' LIFE, REVEALING HIS IDENTITY, HIS EXPECTATIONS, HIS PRIORITIES, AND HIS ULTIMATE PURPOSE.

Each week features a hand-picked Gospel reading from the life of Jesus — plus an Old Testament passage foreshadowing his coming, a New Testament story revealing his impact, an invitation to discuss insights with fellow travelers, and practical ways to practice what you've learned.

The topics address relevant issues such as:

- Does Jesus really care about your pain?
- How can you know God's call on your life?
- What does Jesus say about social justice?
- How can you hear God's voice?
- What are ways to survive these difficult days?

This quest will enhance your understanding of Jesus in ways that will forever change how you make choices, engage with others, interpret today's big issues, and even view yourself!

It's not too late to join us on the journey. To purchase a book (\$12) or to learn more, contact Pastor David.

WE HAVE AN APP FOR YOU

DOWNLOAD IT TODAY IN APPLE APPS OR GOOGLE PLAY



May Celebrations

May 3
Felix A. (MCS Student)

May 8
Cale Curtin

May 12
Kaden S. (MCS Student)

May 13
Deanna S. (MCS Staff)

May 16
David & Angela Hall

May 22
Annalie Nelson

May 23
David Cougill



May 24
Kirk Nelson
Paige S. (MCS Staff)
Chance R. (MCS Staff)

May 25
Joe Draper

May 27
Sophia Kerns (BB)

May 28
Addison Huff (BB)

May 29
Rhonda L. (MCS Staff)



Cherokee BSA Scouting for Food

Scouting for Food is an annual community service effort supported directly by the Mid-America Council and partner organizations in our local communities. Under the Boy Scouts of America strategic pillar of being recognized as an advocate for youth and youth issues, Scouts across Nebraska and Western Iowa collect nearly 200,000 food items for those in need. This is the equivalent of approximately 114,000 meals. We are happy to partner with the Food Bank for the Heartland & your local food bank/pantry.

Locally the annual Scouting for Food event is going to take place Saturday, May 6, 2023. Cherokee Boy Scout Troop 107 will be posted at Fareway and HyVee in Cherokee to collect donations for the local Mid-Sioux Food Pantry between the hours of 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

If you would like to have your donations picked up at your home or donate in advance please contact Barry Nelson, Scoutmaster at 712-261-0592 with your name address.

Boy Scouts of America understand that in these tough economic times everyone is struggling even if they have not had to struggle in the past. The cost of food has essentially tripled over the past year on the tail doubling fuel prices. Families may have to choose between fuel for the vehicle to get to work or groceries. They may have to choose a roof over their head over groceries. The scouts of Troop 107 in Cherokee would like you to consider giving as generously as you can to help support those in our communities who are facing even more difficult economic issues.

Boy Scout Troop 107

Meets Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
First Church of Christ



Boys in 5th - 12th grades are invited to join.
For more information call (712) 225-2650

Quilt Batts

Quilting Guild

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month
at the First Church of Christ

7:00 p.m.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Meets at First Church of Christ
every Tuesday & Thursday
7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



If you struggle with addiction
this is the place to be.

May 2023 Worship Volunteer Schedule

7	14	21	28
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Angela Hall	Polly Fishman
Children's Sunday	Children's Sunday	Children's Sunday	Children's Sunday
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Angela Hall	Polly Fishman
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
Mike Sparks	David Hall	Kirk Nelson	David Hall
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
David Hall	David Hall	Sharon Henkel	David Hall
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Angela Hall	Marica Casey	Nancy Nelson	Angela Hall
Nancy Nelson	Mark Casey	Larry Heschke	Sharon Henkel
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke
Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial	Janitorial
Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duval
Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper

DATE	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
04/02/2023	\$2871.00	86
04/09/2023	\$3913.00	130
04/16/2023	\$2814.00	90
04/23/2023	\$1896.00	100

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May Chronological Bible Reading Plan

- 
- 2 Samuel 5:1-10
 - 1 Chronicles 11-12
 - Psalm 133
 - Psalm 106-107
 - 2 Samuel 5:11-25; 2 Samuel 6:1-23: 1 Chronicles 13-16
 - Psalm 1-2, 15, 22-24, 47, 68
 - Psalm 89, 96, 100, 101, 105, 132
 - 2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17
 - Psalm 25, 29, 33, 36, 39
 - 2 Samuel 8-9; 1 Chronicles 18
 - Psalm 50, 53, 60, 75
 - 2 Samuel 10; 1 Chronicles 19; Psalm 20
 - Psalm 65-67, 69-70
 - 2 Samuel 11-12; 1 Chronicles 20
 - Psalm 32, 51, 86, 122
 - 2 Samuel 16-18
 - Psalm 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64
 - 2 Samuel 22-23; Psalm 57
 - Psalm 95, 97-99
 - 2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 21-22; Psalm 30
 - Psalm 108-110
 - 1 Chronicles 23-25
 - Psalm 131, 138-139, 143-145
 - 1 Chronicles 26-29; Psalm 127
 - Psalm 11-118
 - 1 Kings 1-2; Psalm 37, 71, 94
 - Psalm 119:1-88
 - 1 Kings 1-2; Psalm 37, 71, 94
 - Psalm 119:1-88
 - 1 Kings 3-4; 2 Chronicles 1; Psalm 72

Strength

30-Day Bible Scripture

CHALLENGE

<p>Day 1</p> <p>Nehemiah 8:10 "...for the joy of the Lord is your strength."</p>	<p>Day 2</p> <p>Psalms 105:4 "Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore!"</p>	<p>Day 3</p> <p>Psalms 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."</p>	<p>Day 4</p> <p>Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."</p>	<p>Day 5</p> <p>Psalms 18:32 "It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect."</p>	<p>Day 6</p> <p>Ecclesiastes 7:19 "Wisdom strengthens the wise more than ten rulers of the city."</p>
<p>Day 7</p> <p>Psalms 28:7 "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him."</p>	<p>Day 8</p> <p>Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."</p>	<p>Day 9</p> <p>Psalms 18:2 "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."</p>	<p>Day 10</p> <p>Isaiah 40:31 "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."</p>	<p>Day 11</p> <p>Isaiah 58:11 "The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail."</p>	<p>Day 12</p> <p>2 Corinthians 12:9 "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."</p>
<p>Day 13</p> <p>Psalms 132:8 "Arise, O Lord, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength."</p>	<p>Day 14</p> <p>Psalms 119:28 "My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word."</p>	<p>Day 15</p> <p>Isaiah 40:29 "He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength."</p>	<p>Day 16</p> <p>Psalms 29:11 "The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace."</p>	<p>Day 17</p> <p>Psalms 84:5 "Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage."</p>	<p>Day 18</p> <p>Psalms 73:26 "My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."</p>
<p>Day 19</p> <p>Psalms 77:14 "You are the God who does wonders; You have declared Your strength among the peoples."</p>	<p>Day 20</p> <p>Proverbs 10:29 "The way of the Lord is strength for the upright, but destruction will come to the workers of iniquity."</p>	<p>Day 21</p> <p>Psalms 138:3 "In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul."</p>	<p>Day 22</p> <p>Psalms 140:7 "O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation, You have covered my head in the day of battle."</p>	<p>Day 23</p> <p>Psalms 27:14 "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!"</p>	<p>Day 24</p> <p>Deuteronomy 6:5 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."</p>
<p>Day 25</p> <p>Habakkuk 3:19 "The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills."</p>	<p>Day 26</p> <p>2 Samuel 22:40 "For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose against me."</p>	<p>Day 27</p> <p>Psalms 68:35 "O God, You are more awesome than Your holy places. The God of Israel is He who gives strength and power to His people. Blessed be God!"</p>	<p>Day 28</p> <p>Ephesians 3:16 "...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man..."</p>	<p>Day 29</p> <p>Psalms 125:1 "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever."</p>	<p>Day 30</p> <p>Psalms 71:16 "I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only."</p>