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ISAIAH 59:1-2

GOD AND SIN ARE NOT FRIENDS

Someone who is allergic to dust will stay away from a place full of dust and find a dust-free place. Someone who doesn't like the smell of durian will not try any food that has durian flavour. You can never be close friends with someone you are not comfortable with.

God and sin are not friends. They can never be together. When you choose to sin, it means you choose to stay away from God and will have to bear the consequences. If you choose God, you will stay away from sins, and by doing so, you have automatically positioned yourself in the right spot to receive the blessings of God.

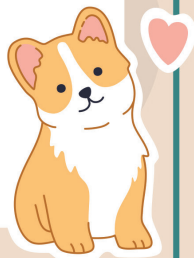
God loves sinners but He hates sins. God is telling us that He loves us because we are the apple of His eyes and He is always ready to listen to all of our problems anytime but it is our sins that separate us from God. It is not God who makes a distance from us.

Key verse:

*Isaiah 59:2a
It is your
evil that has
separated you
from your God.*

Prayer

*Dear God, thank
You for Your
forgiveness for
my sins. I am not
perfect so please
draw me to
always stay close
to Your love.
Amen.*





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ISAIAH 60:1-3

RISE AND SHINE

Being in the dark is not fun at all. Imagine you were inside a dark cave with no light from outside and no torchlight! You might stumble on the big rocks and bleed your knee. You may fall down to a pit and hopelessly get stuck there.

This is how our life will be without the light of God shining on us. Without God's light, we can stumble upon sin and it makes our life miserable. Even worse, our life will be about hopelessness, full of evil thought and filled with wickedness.

The world is getting darker. This is why the world needs the light of Christ's army to shine. You and I are part of Christ's army and it is our duty to shine in this dark world.

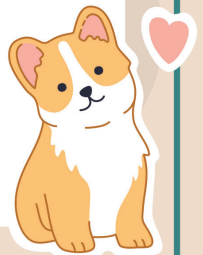
Let's rise and shine in this world. The glory of God rises upon you. Let's fight the darkness in the world with the light of Christ so that this world will be filled with God's glory. Together, we can make it happen!

Key verse:

*Isaiah 60:2b
But the Lord
shines on you and
people see His
glory around
you.*

Prayer

*Dear God,
continue to shine
on me with the
light of Your love
and forgiveness.
Make me reflect
Your light to
others. Amen.*





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ISAIAH 61

GOD OF GREAT EXCHANGE

Mishael ordered and bought a new sports bag from an online shop. However, when he received it, he realized the colour was not what he expected. He contacted the online shop and requested an exchange. Exchanging is an act of giving one thing and receiving another (especially of the same kind) in return.

According to verse 3, God exchanged the Israelites' ashes for a crown. God exchanged their sorrow for oil of gladness and God exchanged their spirit of sadness for spirit of praise! Yes, this is how God works in our life. He always exchanges for something better and greater!

Like Mishael who contacted the shop and requested for an exchange, we also have to come and ask God to exchange your current situation for a greater one. Ask God to exchange your anxiety for peace, your sadness for joy or your disappointment for blessings. Our God is a God of a great exchange!

Key verse:

*Isaiah 61:10a
The Lord makes me very happy. All that I am rejoices in my God. The Lord has covered me with clothes of salvation.*

Prayer

Dear God, I am so grateful to know that I have a God who can exchange my grief for comfort. You are always with me. Amen.





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ISAIAH 63:7-9

YOU ARE REDEEMED!

When you play at Timezone, you have to work hard to win the games so that you will get lots of tickets. Those tickets can be used for redeeming some prizes. The more tickets you get, the better prizes you can redeem. To redeem is to gain or regain something in exchange for payment.

You and I are redeemed by the blood of Jesus. It was made possible because Jesus died on the cross for us. Only by doing this, could God redeem us from sins and eternal death. Redemption can only be accomplished by God alone. No mere man can do it.

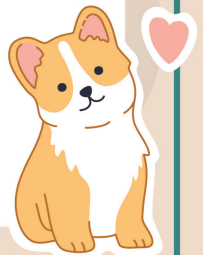
Just like how you protect and keep your Timezone tickets carefully so that you won't lose them, let's keep our faith to God carefully till we see God face to face.

Key verse:

*Isaiah 63:9b
In His love
and mercy He
redeemed them;
He lifted them
up and carried
them all the
days of old.*

Prayer

*Dear God,
thank You for
the eternal
redemption.
Let me live
my life with a
steadfast faith
and a heart full of
thankfulness for
Your
kindness.
Amen.*





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ISAIAH 64:1-4

GOD WORKS, YOU WAIT

The Priest Isaiah reminded the Israelites that God always works in unique ways. God's timing is always perfect. God's ways are something that no mere man can understand. God is not limited in energy, knowledge, or space.

God acts on behalf of those who wait on Him patiently. This promise is not only for the Israelites, but this is for you and me too! While you wait, God is working. He hasn't forgotten about you, but instead He is "working" on your behalf. The waiting time you have spent will not be in vain. It will be worth it. God's answer and work is definitely the best and will never be a disappointment.

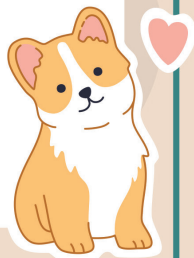
Whatever promise or breakthrough you are waiting for, don't stop waiting! Be it reconciliation in your family, restoration in your study or improvement of your grandparent's health, God is working! Rest in Him and wait confidently and expectantly that He will reveal His finished work to you soon.

Key verse:

*Isaiah 64:4
From long ago
no one has ever
heard of a God
like You. No one
has ever seen
a God besides
You. You help
the people who
trust You.*

Prayer

*Dear God, I wait
on You for the
breakthrough
that I have been
waiting for in my
life. I believe You
are working on it
right now.
Amen.*





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ISAIAH 65:20-25

BEFORE YOU CALL HIM, GOD WILL ANSWER

Has this ever happened to you: You really wanted to buy something and you were about to ask your mum if you could buy it. But right before you asked, your mum asked you if you wanted that, as if she could read your mind. Well, a mum always knows what her child wants or wishes. How much more our God does!

The Bible assured us that before we ask for His help, God already knew what we are about to ask. What a blessing to know that God knows our requests even before we tell Him. His ears are always ready to listen to every single word in our prayer.

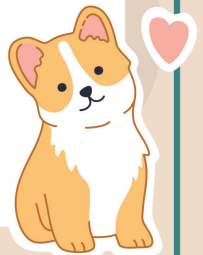
We can be confident that God is always ready and excited to listen to and answer our prayer. We have the assurance that every single one of our prayers matters and is important to Him. Never hesitate to come into His presence to pray.

Key verse:

*Isaiah 65:24
I will provide
for their needs
before they ask.
I will help them
while they are
still asking for
help.*

Prayer

*Dear God, help
me to make
prayer a priority
in my day.
Thank You for
the privilege of
having a God
who hears!
Amen.*





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ISAIAH 66:1-2

WE LIVE IN GOD'S FOOTSTOOL

A footstool is a humble piece of furniture or a support used to elevate the foot. This is normally not expensive and often overlooked thus this is not as valuable as a couch, sofa or dining table. In Bible times, something or someone that touched the feet was considered dishonorable.

'The earth is His footstool' means the earth, where we live, is so insignificant compared to how great and magnificent He is. It is amazing that while God called the earth His footstool, He was still willing to humble Himself to come down to the earth to accomplish His mission of love.

If God was willing to humble Himself to come to His footstool, how much more we have to be humble. Knowing how small we are in God's grand scheme, and yet He still loves us unconditionally, is such a grace.

Key verse:

*Isaiah 66:1a
Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.*

Prayer

Dear God, You are such a grand magnificent God, yet You are showing what a real humility is all about. May I be humble like You. Amen.

