

**JAMES 4:13-17**

## LIFE IS SHORT. ETERNITY IS LONG.

James explained that our life is like a fog. A fog is like a cloud, but it is near to the ground, not high up in the sky. As the air gets warmer, the fog will slowly disappear. Yes, life is like a fog. It means it is only temporary and does not last too long.

James taught us to keep our hearts clean from the evil desire that makes us fight with one another. Let us be friendly and gracious with one another. Have pure and positive thoughts. Don't let hatred, jealousy and anger control us.

James also emphasised about building a friendship with Jesus even when it means you will be left and alienated by the world. Think about the eternity. Jesus is what we need more than anything. Come to Him in prayer, praise and worship daily.

Life in this world is short compared to the eternal life in Heaven.

Live by focusing on what is eternal.

Time is precious. Every minute counts. Let's live a life that is filled with God's love and with our love for God.

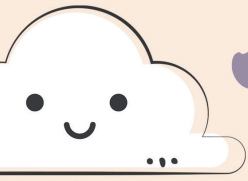
### **Key verse:**

*James 4:14  
You don't know what will happen tomorrow. Your life is like a fog. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away.*

### **Prayer**

*Dear God, draw me close to You. You are the centre of my life. Amen.*





1 PETER 1:3-9

## A LIVING HOPE

There are many people today who are being in a hopeless situation. People cannot survive long without hope. Hope helps us to keep on going even through painful experiences and fear of what the future may hold.

When we receive Jesus as our personal Saviour, we are given a gift, called a Living Hope. Jesus is our hope. Peter says that this living hope is secured by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and a promise to have an eternity with Jesus.

If we hang our hope on any temporary thing in the world, it can easily be shaken and destroyed.

After we know the hope of our future with Jesus, we become hope-filled people. We will become a very positive person who brings positive impact on the people around us.

No matter how bad our days or circumstances are, we are still hopeful to the Living Hope. Hopelessness will never again be in our dictionary. In Jesus Christ, we have an unshakeable and living hope even during difficult circumstances.

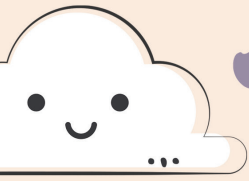
### Key verse:

*1 Peter 1:3b  
This new life  
brings us a  
living hope  
through  
Jesus Christ's  
resurrection  
from death.*

### Prayer

*Dear Jesus, you  
are my Living  
Hope. You have  
broken every  
chain and there is  
salvation in Your  
name. Amen.*





1 PETER 2:4-10

## A LIVING STONE AND A CORNERSTONE

A stone has the quality of having a great stability regardless of the weather or temperature around it. It has great strength regardless of how many times it has fallen. It has a long endurance throughout all the outside factors around it.

Jesus is a living stone. It means beside having the same quality of a stone, such as stability, strength and endurance, Jesus is also alive and gives life.

Stone has been used for many centuries as a foundation to build a building. Likewise, Jesus is the foundation of our spiritual house that is built upon it. Not only that, He also fills us with His Spirit of life.

We become the living stones because His Spirit is in us. Jesus is the cornerstone who keeps holding us up with stability, strength and endurance.

Jesus is the living stone.  
He's the foundation.  
He's the cornerstone.

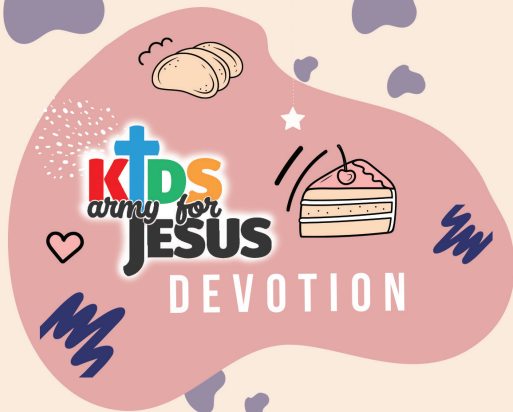
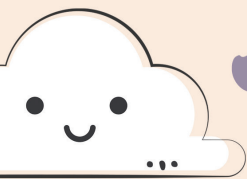
### Key verse:

*1 Peter 2:4a  
The Lord Jesus  
is the living  
stone*

### Prayer

*Dear Jesus, thank  
You for being  
my source of  
strength. Thank  
You for Your  
Spirit in me.  
Amen.*





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1 PETER 3:3-4

## LOOK IN THE INSIDE

An X-ray shows the inside of our body. Someone might look just fine on the outside, but in the inside, there is something wrong. The doctor will need to take an X-ray to check what is wrong inside and then he will be able to treat it accordingly.

God is like this X-ray machine. He sees things that we cannot see. He looks into our hearts. The Bible tells us that men look at the outward appearance, but God looks at what is inside.

You can't always tell what a person is really like through the outward look. Some people may look gorgeous on the outside, but they are actually very mean, hateful or hurtful in the inside.

The Bible says that our true and unfading beauty lies in the gentle and quiet spirit inside us. Come to Jesus daily. He is our Doctor that is willing and able to heal us if we are hurting inside.

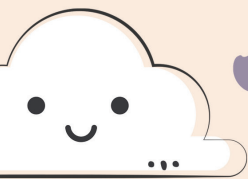
### Key verse:

*1 Peter 3:4  
No, your beauty should come from inside you—the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. That beauty will never disappear. It is worth very much to God.*

### Prayer

*Dear God, may your gentle and quiet Spirit always dwell in me. Help me not to judge others based on what I see on the outside.  
Amen.*





**1 PETER 4:7-11**

## LOVE COVERS OVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS

No matter how cheeky your little sister is to you, you will always forgive her. If she tears your favourite book, you might feel very angry for a while but eventually you will forgive her. It does not change your love to your adorable sister.

The Bible says that love covers over a multitude of sins. To cover sin is to forgive it and forgiveness is only possible when there is love.

The perfect example of how love covers a multitude of sins is when Jesus died on the cross. Before He died, He prayed to God "Father, forgive them". Yes, His perfect love has covered our sins.

When we forgive the wrongdoers, we are reflecting the love of God to them. If we love each other, we are willing to forgive each other.

The Bible also says: Do not be angry too quickly. This is also possible only if our heart is filled with love. Come to Jesus daily as in His presence, our hearts will be filled with His love.

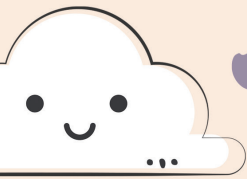
### **Key verse:**

*1 Peter 4:8  
Most important of all, love each other deeply, because love makes you willing to forgive many sins.*

### **Prayer**

*Dear God, may my heart be full of Your love so that I can forgive and love others.  
Amen.*





1 PETER 5:5-7

## GOD CARES ABOUT YOU AND ME

I cast all my cares upon You  
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet  
And anytime I don't know what to do  
I will cast all my cares upon You

This is a very simple yet powerful song. The Bible says we are to trust God and not in ourselves and to be anxious for nothing.

God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and able to handle all our cares. We should not hold onto our cares with our own strength. Give it to God as He has strong shoulders to carry all our burdens and big arms to always welcome us into His embrace. We don't have to keep our worries to ourselves.

We only need to come to Him and give them all to Him. We only need to turn them over to God. God Himself wants you to be happy and healthy. God Himself feels your pain and sadness. God Himself cares for you!

When there is Someone else who can help us, why should we suffer alone? Let's humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. In other words, trust in the Lord's power, recognising that our strength comes from Him and not ourselves.

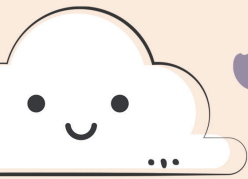
### Key verse:

*1 Peter 5:7  
Give all your worries to Him,  
because He cares for you.*

### Prayer

*Dear God, I cast all my cares, worries, burdens and fears upon You. I can't face them all by myself. I need You. Amen.*





2 PETER 1:3-8

## STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The Bible explains the stages of spiritual growth that indicate the level of our maturity.

The very first stage is having faith in God. Faith is like a small seed of trust to God even though we do not see God with our physical eyes.

The next step is growing our goodness by being obedient in doing God's commandments.

The next step is adding knowledge and understanding about God by reading and meditating on the Bible all the time.

It is followed by self-control. This is our ability to control ourselves from doing what God dislikes.

The next step is perseverance. It means do not give up on God and do not give up our faith, even when you haven't received what you have been waiting for.

Next, we need to try daily to be more like Jesus and to see ourselves through His perspective. This is talking about Godliness.

After that, show kindness which involves compassion, empathy and forgiveness.

Last but not least, add love.

When we have faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, Godliness, kindness and love in us, it means we have grown spiritually according to God's will.

### Key verse:

*2 Peter 1:8*

*If all these things are in you and growing, you will never fail to be useful to God.*

*You will produce the kind of fruit that should come from your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### Prayer

*Dear God, help me to show my love for You by doing the things You have taught me to do in Your word.  
Amen.*

