

SCROLL DOWN FOR CANTONESE

KINGS NORTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday 29th December 2024 10am

A call to holiness - Review of Motto text

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Opening Scripture.

Hymn CH 825 Sing to the great Jehovah’s Praise

Scripture Isaiah 65:17-25 (page 752)

Prayer

Children’s talk

Chorus MP 200 Great is thy faithfulness

Notices

Lord’s prayer - offertory box home - pray reference to giving

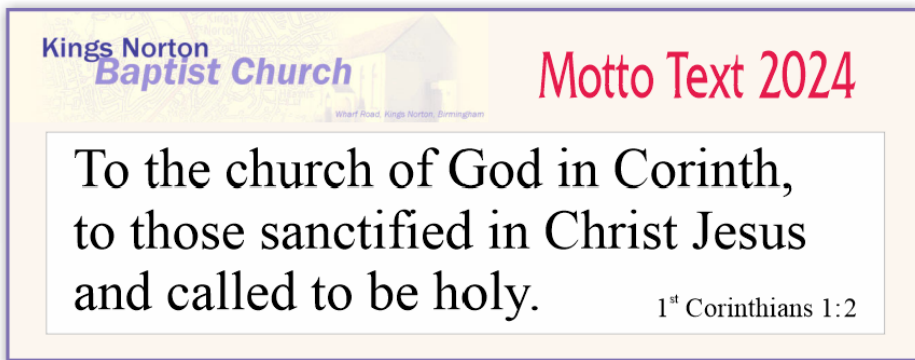
Reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (page 1145)

Hymn MP 239 Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord

Sermon *A call to holiness*

Hymn CH 824 My Helper, God! I bless His Name

Prayer _____ End



Message

As another year draws to an end, how has it gone for you? - We will have on the TV a year in review, the highlights, the low points.

Many have died, even more have been born. Devastating changes have taken place in the Middle East, in Gaza and more recently in Syria.

There’s been a change of government in a number of countries and now here at home after 14 years we have Labour in power.

Maybe in your family there have been changes, the loss of a family member, a success, or maybe a falling out. How about in your life?

What has changed there? You are undeniably a year older. But what other changes have there been?

I am not talking about your bank balance, your credit rating, your new employment or your promotion at work, nor your home improvements.

What about you? How have you changed? We are all human beings but as has been rightly said “we are human becomings” for we are all changing.

But how? In your deeds and character, we only leave the world with these.

1. Those outside are being moulded in to conformity to the world around and its gods.
2. Those Jesus Christ has set apart from the world, He has called to be conformed to His likeness.

To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, 1Co 1:2 So reads our motto text for 2024

to those sanctified in Christ Jesus - and called to be holy. This we had on Sunday 7th Jan 2024 as we started this year.

A calling is towards something – in this case towards Holiness

How has it been going? Today is the right time for a spiritual stock take.

Remember the marks on the door frame when you were growing up?

A Christian is one who has responded to the Lord's call on his or her life. A call to holiness - you have been called to be holy

God the Father has extended his sceptre to us and called us into conformity to His Son Jesus Christ. He enables us to do this by putting Christ's His spirit within us. His character and His nature are now to prevail over my sinful nature. Christ-likeness is the sign of a true follower.

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, Ro 8:29

The result is that the Christian's life is a life of battle.

The Spirit of Christ within a believer strives to exalt Christ in you - and yet that will not happen unless there is a constant killing off of self. A constant, ongoing, determined killing off, of self.

Years ago, the virtues of self-denial, humility, self-sacrifice and other centeredness were highly valued in British society. Not now. It is the opposite which is trumpeted everywhere.

'Self' is now the religion of the age. This makes seeking Christ-likeness even harder for the prominence of 'self' is so deeply engrained in our psychology. Most cannot see it, and the ugliness of it. It is something to battle against. While we are in the flesh it requires that constant *and ongoing* killing off of self.

Jonathan Edwards was a key instrument of God in the Great Awakening. In 1734 he started preaching to his congregation in Northampton, Massachusetts. He spoke much about this need of inner purity: cleanse yourself from every external impurity of speech and behaviour; never defile your hands in known wickedness; break off all your sins by righteousness; do not give way to impure lusts, set about the work of cleansing yourself, you must be steady in your reformation and the amendment of your ways and doings. Seek purity of heart in a constant and diligent attendance on all God's ordinances. Be often searching your own heart, and seek and pray that you may see the filthiness of it. If ever you are made pure you must be brought to see that you are filthy; you must see the plague and pollution of your own heart. Our heart is the great battle ground.

How is the battle going for you?

For those who profess to follow Christ, we are to be urgent in this key area, only then will there be progress. Are you more Christ-like than you were 12 months ago? Are you more loving now than you were 12 months ago? Are you more patient now than you were 12 months ago? Are you more gentle, more kind? and more concerned for others? And just as importantly; are you less envious, less proud, less self-seeking?

Do you react better to those sudden or difficult situations, when words are said, and when you are upset - than you did 12 months ago?

Are you more set apart, more given over to the Lord now than you were 12 months ago?

✚ *In short, you are more like Jesus today than you were in Jan 2024?*

You cannot be holy, that is separated for the Lord, - unless you are separated from the world around and less entangled in it.

To make progress here you will have to recognize - and resist - the prevailing man centered, god-less worldview. It comes in strongly to your heart through the TV and through social media. Have you found the 'off' button on your TV remote? Are you very careful with your phone?

For example watch TV on Sunday afternoon, the Lord's day, and you will easily lose the battle to come to worship the Lord in the evening.

✚ *These are major battle areas for the Christian.*

How's the battle been going? Are you pushing the enemy back? Or is he making progress? Does he easily catch you out? If you are serious about pursuing Holiness you will find it hard. That is why we need to constantly fill ourselves with the Lord, to dwell with Him regularly in His word, be in prayer, find help and encouragement through fellowship with others - so that we will then desire the Lord more - and desire His way more.

Every Christian should have an avenue of service. Start small and have it grow. I wonder is your Joy missing? If so, not serving is likely the reason.

Serve - and you will become more conformed into His image so together we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ.

Eph 4:13.

become mature x2 That is change and growth in the right direction. Now your heart and mind will desire after the Lord more.

Let me give some examples

We are told of King **Jehoshaphat** that “**His heart was devoted to the ways of the LORD; and we are told in the same breathe furthermore, he removed the high places and the Asherah poles from Judah.**” 2Ch 17:6.

In other words not only did he build up true worship – but his devotion to the Lord caused him to confront and remove sin and anything that displeased the Lord. They go together.

King **Josiah’s** sought to reform the nation and **rebuilt the temple of God.** And when he did so he did it **according to its original design and reinforced it.** 2 Ch 24:13. In other words he did not do it the way he wanted, or how someone would like it, or to conform to the latest design fashion, no, he built it **according to its original design,** he did it the way the Lord had said it should be. **Let us not do the new thing, re-invent, or modernise Truth.**

King **Hezekiah** did what was right in the eyes of the Lord 2 Chr 30:2, the first thing he did was to reinstate worship, worship in the right way, with the right words using the words of the psalms of David, v30. And as a result **God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven, his holy dwelling-place.** 2Ch 30:27. Some of those kings like Josiah and Uzziah started well - but did not end well, but hear what they said about Hezekiah at the end of his life **These are not funeral platitudes** “**Hezekiah did .. what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God. In everything that he undertook in the service of God’s temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered.**” 2Ch 31:20-21

What of **Boaz**?, what of **Ruth**? They lived at the time of the Judges when everyone was doing what they wanted to do. Boaz, however, kept himself walking with the Lord, remember how zealous he was?

What of the Godly prophets of old? - Remember **Elijah** who said, “**I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.**” 1Ki 19:10

Elijah stood for the Lord in his generation when all seemed to be falling down around Him. There’s nothing passive there, we cannot roll along in the Christian life. Elijah spent himself in the battle for the Lord.

Holiness is not a pious serenity, but being set apart for the Lord’s honour.

The mark of God’s people throughout the ages has always been a life of holiness. Holiness - for it unites us to the Lord we love - and fits us for our eternal home - where we will live with Him forever.

On the shore of Galilee a young Peter with all his flaws was called to Holiness. Read His later letters and you can see how he progressed, how the Lord worked change in him. He progressed towards Holiness

In John 14 Jesus is about to depart to the Father and in speaking to his fearful disciples said: “**Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; I am going there to prepare a place for you**”. Joh 14:1-4.

But the previous chapter 13 is about how Jesus prepares them, how he prepares his disciples.

✚ **As Jesus prepares heaven for me – so he prayers me for heaven. x2**

Jesus is at work in us **that we may share in his holiness.** Heb 12:10 He’s preparing His people to dwell with him. So let us look up, fix our eyes on things above, fix our eyes on Him.

This was Paul’s great goal, “**We proclaim him, x2 admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect, - or mature, in Christ.**” Col 1:28 Maturity should be all our goal. That is my goal. It is a long hard slog for me - for I am naturally so unholy.

That is the goal of this sermon. All sermons are to do something in you. May the Lord use these examples from his people, to give you a like zeal, a Christ-like zeal which should be the mark of every Christian.

So what was your goal in 2024? Did you - above all else – heed His call and seek after holiness? What will be your goal in 2025? Will it be that?

Have you grown in maturity, - and grown in Grace? we are told to **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.** 2Pe 3:18

✚ **It is a command. Your God requires it of you.**

When someone is growing in the faith it is obvious and a delight to see.

Think of a teenager. Do they not have a monstrous appetite? How many teenagers never stop eating? Why? Because they are growing.

Let us be hungry like them, Do you remember the words of the Psalmist Korah we had on Sunday evening who opened his heart saying: **As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?** Ps 42

See how central God is to him? He is the source of all life, how much we need Him, How much we who have **tasted and seen that he is good** should hunger and thirst after Him - that we, as image bearers, grow like Him.

Let us hunger like that teenager, always wanting more! And there is always more!

On Sunday evening I mentioned Mary.

When Jesus went to the home of Mary and Martha, Mary sat at Jesus' feet. Disciples would sit at their Rabbi's feet. It was a posture of humility and even a way of declaring to those around that this person is the one you are learning from. Luke brilliantly captures Mary's posture. This was what made Mary's action shocking to Martha. Mary had made her position clear, and Jesus said it would not be taken away from her. Mary sat at Jesus' feet hungry to learn, absorbing His every word, soaking it up.

Martha rebuked Mary, - the mystery is, why didn't Mary rebuke Martha?

Which one are you? **Charles Spurgeon points out that for the most part in our households Mary might well complain of Martha for family cares still cumber many and keep us away from Jesus' feet. Very seldom are Christians nowadays too much in the closet, too much with their Bibles, too much at prayer-meetings.**

Is he not right? Are not many who **profess to walk in the light** caught up with the **things of this world, its traps and allurements, wasting time**. "Martha, Martha, we may well complain to the Master of you! - for you have been too busy with the things of this poor, passing world to sit and learn from the Master."

✚ **We must be like Mary. She desired more of Him. That was more important then, it is more important now.**

If that is not important to you then ask yourself, 'why is it not so?'

A person's priority in life is seen in their conversation, their actions and use of time. If the Way of the Lord is not their true desire, it shows.

Other things will be. If that is you, then today is the day to change that.

You were made by the Lord – and for him. As Jesus said when he first spoke. **Repent - for the Kingdom of God is near.**

He commands you to **seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.** Mt 6:33 He will take care of those other things you need, - you trust him.

That is what repentance it, it is turning from self – to Him. x2. Seek His forgiveness, and if you do so genuinely then you will have it. and with that the door opens to the Lord God – and He will come to you.

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Ro 10:9

Many have stood at the front here and confessed "Jesus is Lord," and made a public statement "I will live under his Lordship" How about you?

✚ **Only then can you live the life of Holiness to which you are called.**

If you have come to the cross - then you have died too, and now you can be useful to the Lord, for he has a work for you.

Nehemiah was a man called of God – just as you and I are. He knew what the Lord had called him for, it is the same for every Christian, to build a kingdom. Not my kingdom, but His Kingdom. That's what Masefield Hall is all about. **Let your kingdom come, let you will be done.**

Seek first His Kingdom, and you will see the Lord keep His promises to take care of all your needs. You will be free and able to do what he has called you to do.

Do not listen to the devil who loves to convince us otherwise.

Be wary of distraction. Do not be busy pursuing your own interests when you have been called to serve something far greater.

Nehemiah had those who tried to hinder him in his calling "Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." But they were scheming to harm me; so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should

the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer." Ne 6:2-4

Balaam gave in when they sent a deputation a second time to ask him to come down. He caved in. Nehemiah didn't, nor should you or I.

✚ “Sorry, I can't come, I am involved in a great building project”.

We are called to work for Him - Jesus said in John 7 “**He who speaks on his own does so to gain honour for himself, but he who works for the honour of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.**” Joh 7:18

Do not fear what others say, especially family, the Lord will honour you.

Because He is Holy - He's called you to Holiness that you may share in His holiness.

Let that characterise us at KNBC. Let all who profess His Name keep our eyes on Him. That's the right choice for this short life – to walk with God.

Daniel Wilson, Bishop of Calcutta said in his Journal, of 24th July, 1846: "I have been reading a volume of James Hervey's Letters, he is full of that thorough devotedness of heart, deadness to all earthly things, and longings after grace and holiness, which characterized the leaders of the revival in our church. Oh! That the spirit of Hervey might pervade our younger clergy and myself. To walk with God is the only spring of happiness and usefulness."

So whatever happened last year, let this year be for us all a year to **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen. 2Pe 3:18

END

金斯諾頓浸信會

2024年12月29日星期日上午10點

呼喚聖潔－座右銘文本回顧

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開篇聖經。歡迎大家

開篇經文.....

聖詩第 825 首 歌頌偉大的耶和華

經文 以賽亞書 65:17-25 (第 752 頁)

禱告

戶外睡滑梯見證兒童談話

合唱 MP 200 你的誠實何其廣大

主禱文 - 奉獻箱首頁 - 禱告奉獻

閱讀

哥林多前書 1:1-9 (第 1145 頁)

聖歌 MP 239 聖哉，聖哉，聖哉主

講道 呼喚聖潔

埃

聖詩 CH 824 我的幫助者，上帝！我頌讚祂的名

禱告 _____ 結束

訊息

又一年即將結束，你過得怎麼樣？ - 我們將在電視上回顧一年，講述亮點和低谷。

許多人死去，但更多的人出生。中東、加薩以及最近的敘利亞都發生了災難性的變化。

許多國家都經歷了政府更迭，而現在，在我國，工黨已經執政14年了。

也許您的家庭發生了變化，失去了一位家庭成員，取得了成功，或者是發生了爭吵。你的生活又如何呢？

那裡有什麼改變嗎？無可否認，你又長大一歲。但還有什麼其他變化呢？

我說的不是你的銀行存款、你的信用評級、你的新工作或你的工作晉升，也不是你的家居裝修。

你呢？你有何改變？我們都是人，但正如人們所說“我們都在不斷成為人類”，因為我們都在改變。

但如何呢？你們的行為和品格，我們留給世人的只有這些。

1. 外部的人正在被塑造以適應周圍的世界和其中的神靈。
2. 耶穌基督呼召那些與世界隔絕的人，要他們效法祂的樣式。

寫信給哥林多神的教會，就是在基督耶穌裡被分別為聖，蒙召作聖徒的人，林前 1:2 這是我們 2024 年的座右銘

對於那些在基督耶穌裡被聖化並被召喚成為聖潔的人。這是我們今年的開始，日期是 2024 年 1 月 7 日星期日。

召喚是為了某些事物—在這種情況下是為了聖潔

進展如何？今天正是進行精神盤點的最佳時機。

還記得你成長過程中門框上的痕跡嗎？

基督徒是回應主在其生命中的呼召的人。呼喚聖潔—你被召喚成為聖潔的人

天父已將祂的權杖伸向我們，並召喚我們效法祂的兒子耶穌基督。祂將基督的精神注入我們內心，使我們能夠做到這一點。他的性格和他的本性現在要戰勝我的罪性。像基督是真正跟隨者的記號。

因為他預先所知道的人，就預先定下效法他兒子的模樣，羅 8:29

結果是基督徒的生活就是戰鬥的生活。

信徒心中的基督精神努力在你心中高舉基督——

然而，除非你不斷地消滅自我，否則這不會發生。持續不斷地、堅決地消滅自我。

多年前，英國社會高度重視自我否定、謙卑、自我犧牲等美德。現在不要。到處都在宣揚相反的情況。

「自我」如今已成為這個時代的宗教。這使得尋求基督的形象變得更加困難，因為「自我」的突出地位已經深深植根於我們的心理中。

大多數人看不到它以及它的醜陋。這是需要努力對抗的。當我們還活著的時候，我們需要不斷、持續地消滅自我。

喬納森·愛德華茲 (Jonathan Edwards) 是上帝在大覺醒運動中的重要工具。

1734年，他開始向馬薩諸塞州北安普敦的教眾佈道。他多次談到內心純潔的必要性：淨化自己言語和行為上的一切外在雜質；永遠不要讓已知的邪惡玷污你的雙手；用正義斷除你的一切罪孽；不要向不純潔的慾望屈服，著手淨化自己的工作，你必須堅定地改造自己，修正自己的行為方式。透過不斷勤勉地遵守上帝的一切法令來尋求內心的純潔。常常省察自己的內心，尋求並祈禱以便看到其中的骯髒。如果你變得純潔，你必須看到你是骯髒的；你必須看到自己內心的瘟疫和污染。我們的心就是偉大的戰場。

戰鬥進行得怎樣？

對於那些自稱追隨基督的人來說，我們必須在這個關鍵領域採取緊急行動，這樣才會取得進展。您是否比 12 個月前更像基督了？現在您比 12 個月前更有愛心嗎？現在您比 12

個月前更有耐心嗎？你是否更溫柔、更善良？並且更加關心別人？同樣重要的是；您是否不再那麼嫉妒、不再那麼驕傲、不再那麼自私了？

與 12 個月前相比，當您遇到突發狀況或困難情況時、當您感到心煩意亂時，您的反應是否更好了？

與 12 個月前相比，您現在是否更加與眾不同、更加臣服於主？

簡而言之，今天的你比 2024 年 1 月更像耶穌？

你不能成為聖潔，即為主而分別出來，——除非你與周遭的世界分離，並且不那麼糾纏於其中。

為了在這裡取得進步，您必須認識並抵制普遍存在的以人為中心、無神的世界觀。它透過電視和社群媒體強烈地進入你的內心。您找到電視遙控器上的‘關閉’按鈕了嗎？你對你的手機很小心嗎？

例如，如果你在主日星期天下午看電視，那麼你很容易就會輸掉晚上來敬拜主的掙扎。

這些是基督徒的主要戰場。

戰鬥進行得怎樣？你在擊退敵人嗎？或者說他正在取得進步？他能輕易抓住你嗎？如果你認真追求聖潔，你會發現很難。這就是為什麼我們需要不斷地用主來充滿自己，經常在他的話語中與他同在，禱告，透過與他人的團契尋求幫助和鼓勵——這樣我們就會更加渴望主——更加渴望他的道路。

每一個基督徒都應有一條服事的途徑。從小事做起，不斷成長。我想知道您是否缺少了快樂？如果是這樣，那麼不提供服務很可能就是原因。

服事——你將變得更符合祂的形象，好讓我們在信仰和對上帝之子的認識上達到統一，變得成熟，達到基督豐滿的全部尺度。以弗所書 4:13。

變得成熟 x2 這是朝著正確方向的改變和成長。現在你的心和思想會更渴望主。

讓我舉幾個例子

我們被告知約沙法王「他的心專注於耶和華的旨意；並且我們也被告知，他也從猶大拆除了高處和亞舍拉柱。代下 17:6。

換句話說，他不僅建立了真正的崇拜，而且他對主的虔誠也使他敢於面對和消除罪惡以及任何令主不悅的事物。他們一起去。

約西亞王致力於改革國家並重建上帝的聖殿。當他這樣做時，他按照原來的設計進行並進行了強化。歷代誌下

24:13。換句話說，他沒有按自己想要的方式建造，也沒有按別人喜歡的方式建造，也沒有迎合最新的設計潮流，不，他按照原來的設計建造，他按照主所說的方式建造。是。我們不要做新的事情，不要重新發明或使真理現代化。

希西家王行耶和華眼中看為正的事，歷代誌下30:2，他做的第一件事就是恢復敬拜，以正確的方式、用正確的言語，使用大衛詩篇的言語，第30

節。結果上帝聽到了他們的禱告，因為他們的禱告到達了天堂，祂的聖所。歷代誌下

30:27。有些國王，例如約西亞和烏西雅，一開始很好，但結局並不好，但聽聽他們在希西家生命的最後階段是怎麼說的，這些並不是葬禮上的陳詞濫調“希西家所做的.....在耶和華面前是好的、正確的、忠貞的他的上帝。他所做的每一件事，都是侍奉上帝的殿堂，遵守律法和誡命，尋求他的上帝，全心全意地工作。因此他成功了。代下 31:20-21

波阿斯怎麼樣？他們生活在士師時代，當時每個人都在做自己想做的事。然而，波阿斯始終與主同行，還記得他有多熱心嗎？

古代虔誠的先知又如何呢？ -

記住以利亞所說的話：「我為全能的耶和華上帝大發熱心。以色列人拒絕了你的約，拆毀了你的祭壇，用刀劍殺了你的先知。現在只剩下我一個人了，他們也想殺我。王上 19:10

當以利亞周圍的一切看似崩潰的時候，他卻在那個時代代表了主。那裡沒有任何被動的東西，我們不能在基督徒的生活中隨波逐流。以利亞為耶和華而戰，犧牲了自己的生命。

聖潔不是一種虔誠的寧靜，而是為了主的榮耀而被分別出來。

歷代以來，上帝子民的記號一直是過聖潔的生活。聖潔——因為它使我們與我們所愛的主聯合起來——並使我們適合永恆的家園——在那裡我們將永遠與祂一起生活。

在加利利海岸，年輕的彼得儘管有種種缺點，卻被召喚成為聖人。閱讀他後來的書信，你就會知道他是如何進步的，主是如何改變他的。他走向聖潔

在約翰福音第 14

章中，耶穌即將離開去見天父，祂對恐懼的門徒說：「你們心裡不要憂愁。相信上帝；也當信我。在我父的家裡有許多住處；我去原是為你們預備地方。約翰福音 14:1-4。

但前面的第 13 章是關於耶穌如何準備他們，如何準備祂的門徒。

正如耶穌為我預備天堂一樣，祂也為我祈禱天堂。x2

耶穌在我們心中工作，以便我們可以分享祂的聖潔。希伯來書 12:10

祂正在預備祂的子民與祂同住。所以，讓我們抬頭仰望，注視上面的事物，注視著祂。

這就是保羅的偉大目標，“我們傳揚祂，用各樣的智慧勸戒、教導各人，要把各人在基督裡完全全地、成熟地引到神面前。”歌羅西書 1:28

成熟應該是我們所有人的目標。這就是我的目標。對我來說這是一場漫長而艱苦的跋涉 - 因為我的天性就是如此邪惡。

這就是本次佈道的目標。所有的講道都是為了在你身上產生一些影響力。願主利用祂的子民中的這些例子，給你同樣的熱情，一種像基督一樣的熱情，這應該是每個基督徒的標誌。

那麼您 2024 年的目標是什麼呢？你是否最重要的是聽從祂的呼喚並追求聖潔？2025

年您的目標是什麼？會這樣嗎？

你是否已經變得更加成熟，並且變得更加優雅了？我們被告知要在我們的主和救主耶穌基督的恩典和知識中成長。彼後 3:18

這是一個命令。你的上帝要求你這樣做。

當某人的信仰不斷增長時，這是顯而易見且令人高興的。

想像一下青少年時期。他們的胃口不是很大嗎？有多少青少年從來沒停止進食？為什麼？因為它們正在成長。

讓我們像他們一樣飢餓，你還記得星期天晚上詩篇作者可拉做開心扉說的話嗎：上帝啊，我的靈魂切慕你，如鹿切慕溪水。我的靈魂渴望上帝，渴望活著的上帝。我什麼時候可以去見上帝？詩篇 42

看看上帝對他說有多重要？他是一切生命的源泉，我們多麼需要他，我們這些嚐過並看到他的善良的人多麼應該渴望他——我們作為形象的承載者，像他一樣成長。

讓我們像那樣飢餓

讓我們像那位青少年一樣飢餓，總是想要更多！還有更多！

星期天晚上我提到了瑪麗。

當耶穌來到瑪利亞和馬大的家時，瑪利亞坐在耶穌腳邊。門徒會坐在拉比的腳邊。這是一種謙卑的姿態，甚至是向周遭的人宣告這個人就是你要學習的對象的一種方式。路加巧妙地捕捉了瑪麗的姿勢。這就是為什麼瑪麗的舉動讓瑪莎感到震驚。瑪麗已經明確表明了她的立場，耶穌說她的立場不會被奪走。瑪麗坐在耶穌腳邊，渴望學習，吸收耶穌說的每一句話，並沉浸其中。

馬大斥責瑪莉——神祕的是，為什麼瑪莉沒有斥責馬大？

你是哪一個？查爾斯·斯普爾金 (Charles Spurgeon)

指出，在我們的大部分家庭中，瑪麗很可能會抱怨瑪莎，因為家庭的煩惱仍然困擾著許多人，並使我們遠離耶穌的腳。如今，基督徒很少過於沉迷於宗教信仰，過於沉迷於聖經，過於沉迷於祈禱會。

難道他不對嗎？許多自稱行走在光明中的人，不是都陷入了今世的事物、陷阱和誘惑之中，浪費了時間嗎？

「瑪莎，瑪莎，我們完全可以向你的主人抱怨！——

因為你太忙於這個可憐的、短暫的世事，沒有時間坐下來向大師學習。

我們必須像瑪麗一樣。她對祂有更多渴望。這在當時更為重要，現在也更為重要。

如果這對你來說並不重要，那麼問問自己，“為什麼不這樣做呢？”

一個人生活中的優先事項可以從他們的談話、行為和時間利用中看出。如果主之道不是他們真正的願望，那麼就會表現出來。

其他事情將會如此。如果那就是你，那麼今天就是改變它的日子。

你是主所造的—也是為祂而造的。正如耶穌第一次講話時所說的。悔改吧—因為神的國已經近了。

他命令你先尋求他的王國和他的正義。太 6:33 只要你信任他，他就會照顧你的其他需要。

這就是悔改，從自我轉向他。

x2。尋求祂的寬恕，如果你真誠地這樣做，那麼你就會得到寬恕。這樣，通往主神的大門就打開了—他就會來到你身邊。

如果你口裡承認“耶穌是主”，心裡相信神使他從死裡復活，你就會得救。羅10:9

許多人站在這裡的最前線承認“耶穌是主”，並公開聲明“我將生活在他的統治之下”，你呢？

只有這樣，你才能過你被召喚的聖潔生活。

如果你已經來到十字架前—那麼你也已經死了，而現在你可以對主有用了，因為祂為你預備了一份工作。

尼希米是被上帝召喚的人—就像你我一樣。他知道主召喚他來做什麼，對每個基督徒來說都是一樣的，建立一個王國。不是我的王國，而是祂的王國。這就是梅斯菲爾德莊園 (Masfield Hall)

的精髓。讓祂的國度降臨，讓祂的旨意得以實現。

先尋求祂的王國，你會看到主信守祂的諾言，照顧你的所有需要。你將獲得自由並能做祂要求你做的事。

不要聽信那些喜歡讓我們改變想法的魔鬼。

警惕分心。當你被召喚去服務更偉大的事業時，不要忙於追求自己的利益。

尼希米曾遇到那些試圖阻礙他履行使命的人，“桑巴拉特和基善給我傳了這條信息：“來吧，我們在阿諾平原的一個村莊見面。他們卻圖謀害我；於是我派遣使者去回答他們說：“我正在執行一項偉大的工程，不能下去。我為什麼要停止工程而下去見你們呢？”他們四次給我發同樣的信息，每次我都給他們同樣的答案。尼 6:2-4

當他們第二次派代表去請巴蘭下來時，巴蘭屈服了。他屈服了。

“抱歉，我不能來，我參與了一個很大的建築項目。”

我們被召喚來為祂工作—耶穌在約翰福音 7

說「人憑自己說，是要得自己的榮耀；惟有為差他來者的榮耀，才是誠實人；他身上沒有任何虛假的東西。

約7:18

不要害怕別人說什麼，尤其是家人會說什麼，上帝會尊重你。

因為祂是神聖的—祂召喚你成為神聖，好讓你能分享祂的神聖。

這就是我們 KNBC 的特色。讓所有信奉祂名的人都注視著祂。這是短暫人生的正確選擇—與神同行。

加爾各答主教丹尼爾·威爾遜在 1846 年 7 月 24

日的日記中寫道：「我讀過詹姆斯·赫維的一本書信，他滿懷虔誠的心，對一切世俗事物麻木不仁，渴望恩典和聖潔，這是我們教會復興領袖的特徵。哦！哦！

所以，無論去年發生了什麼，願今年成為我們所有人在我們的主和救世主耶穌基督的恩典和知識中成長的一年。

願榮耀歸給他，從現在到永遠！阿門。彼後 3:18 結束