Footsteps in Prayer

A journey through the Bible

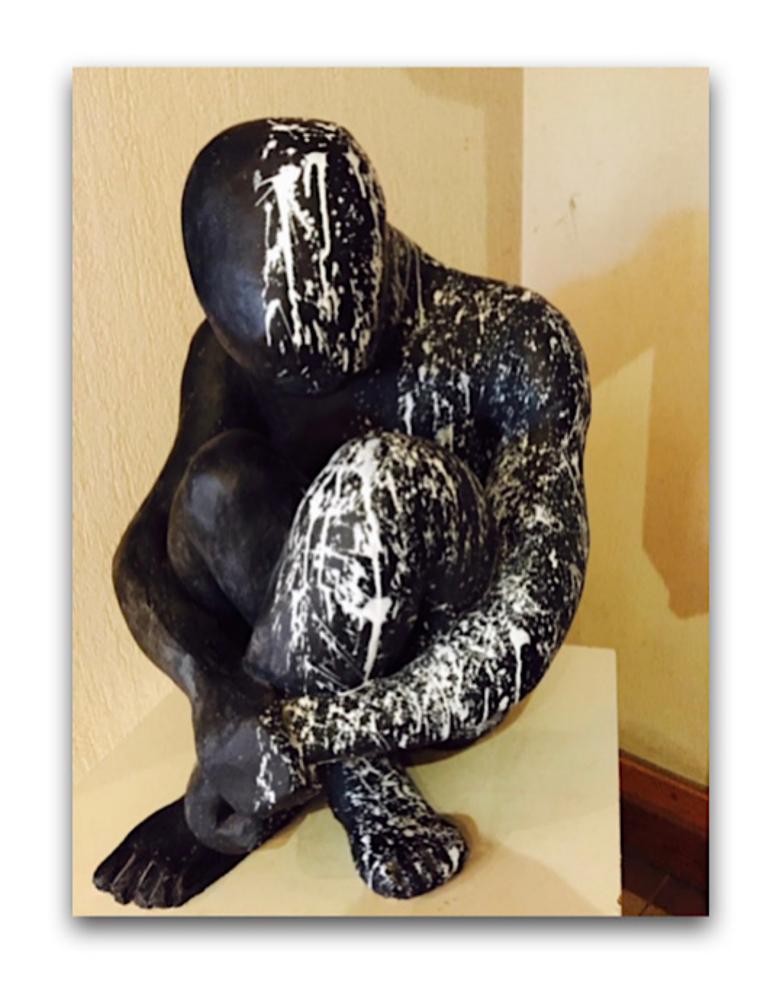
I and 2 Corinthians



- Find a place to sit quietly.
- Be aware of God's loving eyes watching over you.
- Sit in a relaxed position and come to a place of stillness.
 - How has the love of God impacted in your life?
 - How does it impact on your life now?
 - How would you like it to impact more deeply on your life in the future?
 - Ask God to be at work in you as you seek to share his love in the world.
- You might like to listen to this three part movement based on 1 Corinthians 13 by the Corner Room
 - <u>I Corinthians 13: 1-3</u>
 - <u>I Corinthians 13: 4-10</u>
 - <u>I Corinthians 1: 11-13</u>
- You might like to listen to the 2 Cellos play <u>Love Story</u> or to Selah sing <u>O the deep deep love of Jesus</u>.



- You might like to listen to:
 - Day 1: God's Own Fool sung by Michael Card then click here.
 - Day 2: I stand in awe sung by Martin Layzell then click here.
 - Day 3: Your Spirit sung by Tasha Cobbs Leonard then click here.
 - Day 4: Cornerstone sung by Hillsong then click here.
 - Day 5: We are one in the Spirit sung by Frisk Luft then click here.
 - Day 6: Love never fails sung by Janine Jones then click here.
 - Day 7: Broken vessels sung by Hillsong then click here.



Day 1: <u>I Corinthians I</u>

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.



- Read this passage from 1 Corinthians 1.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
- You might like to note these down in your journal.
- When you have finished click here to continue.

Day 2: <u>I Corinthians 2</u>

However, as it is written:

"What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived"—
the things God has prepared for those who love him—
these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

- Read this passage from I Corinthians 2.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
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Day 3: <u>I Corinthians 3</u>

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames. Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

- Read these words from I Corinthians 3.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged in this time of prayer?
- How has the Spirit been at work in your heart as you have prayed?
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Day 4: <u>I Corinthians 12</u>

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

- Read these words from I Corinthians 12.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged?
- How has the Spirit been at work as you have prayed?
- You might like to note these down in your journal.
- When you have finished click <u>here</u> to continue.



Day 5: <u>I Corinthians 12</u>

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.

- Read these words from I Corinthians 12.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged?
- How has the Spirit been at work as you have prayed?
- You might like to note these down in your journal.
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Day 6: <u>I Corinthians 13</u>

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

- Read these words from I Corinthians 13.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged?
- How has the Spirit been at work as you have prayed?
- You might like to note these down in your journal.
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Day 7: 2 Corinthians 4

For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But 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. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.



- Read these words from 2 Corinthians 4.
 - What words or phrases strike you?
- Read these words again slowly.
 - Stay with one of the words or phrases that catches you and hold it in the stillness before God.
- What thoughts, feelings and images have emerged?
- How has the Spirit been at work as you have prayed?
- You might like to note these down in your journal.
- When you have finished click here to continue

- You might like to listen to this music by Sarah Groves:
 - Day I: He's always been faithful to me
 - Day 2: Come thy fount of every blessing
 - Day 3: Jesus you are beautiful
 - Day 4: Praise to the Lord
 - Day 5: When the saints
 - Day 6: Miracle
 - Day 7: Fairest Lord Jesus



Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.



Proverbs 15:33

Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes before honour.



Praying for the body - 1 Corinthians 12

Take a moment to look at the image to the right and copy it on to a piece of paper and cut it out. What does it say to you about body of Christ? Note these thoughts down on one side of the paper.

Take a few moments to consider the body of Christ in the world today.

Where do you see injustice? Where do you see disadvantage? Where do you see privilege? Note this down on the other other side of the paper.

Now take some time to look over your life..

Where have you experienced injustice?

How have you been privileged? How have you been disadvantaged?

By your economic circumstances?

By your education?

By your skin colour?

By your family background?

By your gender?

By your sexuality?

By your culture?

By your cultural history?

By your abilities?

By your age?

Bring your thoughts and feelings around these questions to God asking for his healing and restoration. Consider how God might be calling you to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with him today.

Creative prayer



One Body Many Parts Philip Beeby & Ryoko Mishima (Fair Use)

Jericho Road

A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. We are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's road side, but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. Compassion sees that an edifice that produces beggars needs restructuring. A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth.

Let us pray:

Ever present God, you called us to be in relationship with one another and promised to dwell wherever two or three are gathered. In our community, we are many different people; we come from many different places, have many different cultures. Open our hearts that we may be bold in finding the riches of inclusion and the treasures of diversity among us. We pray in faith.

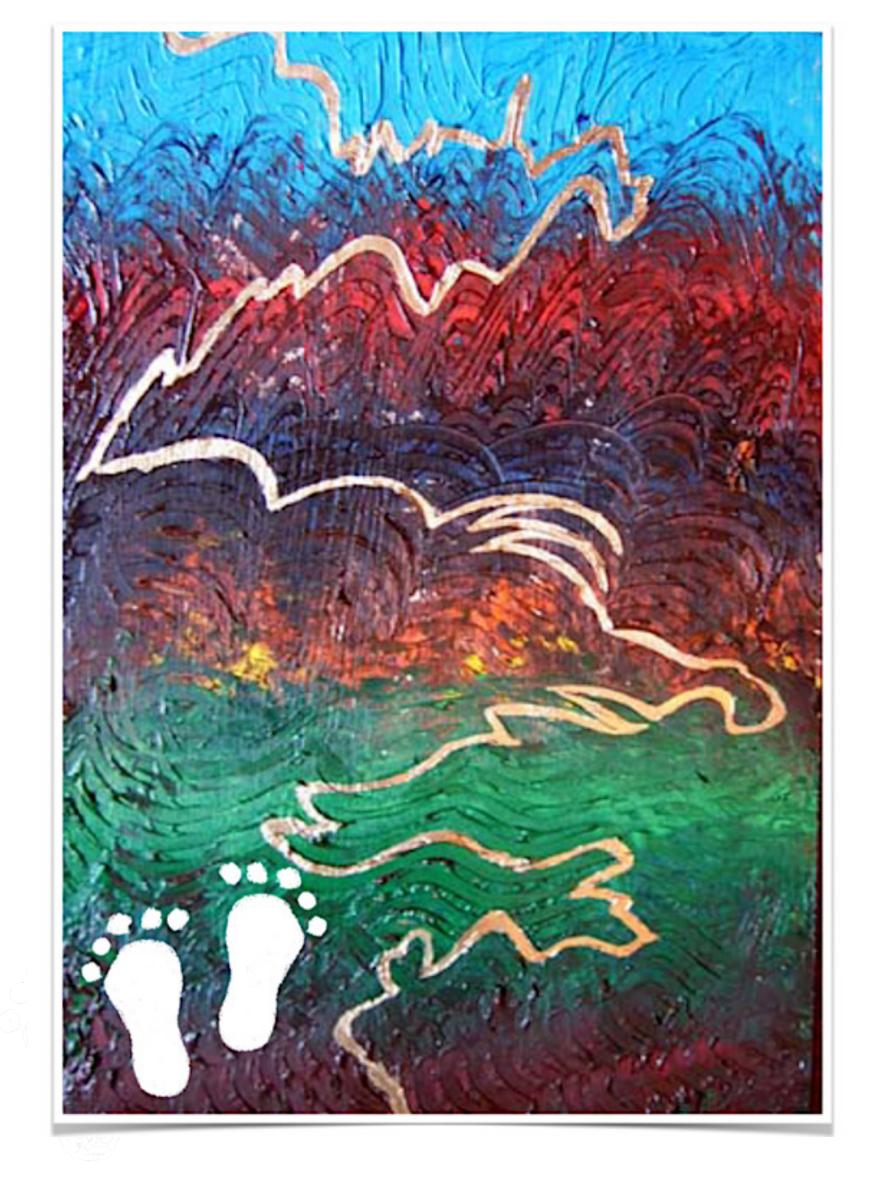


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A journey through the Bible

A graphic introduction to I Corinthians can be found here.

A graphic introduction to 2 Corinthians can be found here.



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This prayer station and other resources can be found at <u>The Prayer Room</u>