

Celebrating 75 Years

Pastor Claude Lainey

February 9, 2025

When we look back: we can see His faithfulness!

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

1 John 4:18–19 (NIV)

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

We don't want to lose sight of His faithfulness

1 Samuel 7:12 (NLT)

Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means "the stone of help"), for he said, "Up to this point the Lord has helped us!"

God is faithful in Character

2 Timothy 2:13 (ESV)

If we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

God is faithful to his Word

Joshua 21:45 (NIV)

Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

1 Corinthians 3:6–7 (NIV)

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

1. Don't let the clouds distract you!

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT)

Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.

2. One step at a time

Zechariah 4:10 (NLT)

Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand."

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)

So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.

3. We were all given a trust

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV)

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:1 (NIV)

So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

4. The need for perseverance

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

John 15:5 (NIV)

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Charles Spurgeon – "The farmer cannot make the seed grow, but he can provide the right conditions. The same is true in the spiritual life."

Galatians 6:9–10 (NIV)

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Hudson Taylor – "God's work, done in God's way, will never lack God's supply."

5. God will make it grow!

Psalm 126:5–6 (NLT)

Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy.

⁶They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest.

Mark 4:26–27 (NIV)

He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.