



Sunday September 09, 2018
God is Greater!

Isaiah 40:25-31

25 "To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the LORD, And my just claim is passed over by my God"?

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,

31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Our desire today is to remind all of us about the infinite greatness of our God

In Isaiah 40:25-26 Isaiah essentially tells us that there is no comparison to our God. No one like Him. No one equal to Him. We essentially do not have any measure of His greatness. Our language, our words are insufficient to describe His infinite power, greatness and understanding.

vs 26, We can only point to His creation to get some sense of how infinite, how immeasurably great He is. The universe itself is so vast. Cosmologists tell us that the universe is continuously expanding, and as they understand it, the universe may keep on expanding to eternity. (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/universe.html>)

vs 27, Isaiah then challenges God's people: **DO NOT SPEAK DESPAIR AND HOPELESSNESS.**

Don't say God does not know what is going on in my life and what is happening to me!

Don't say that your "just claim", your justice, your case has been overlooked by God!

Don't speak like that!

God is so great, so powerful, so infinite, He will never forget you and will never forget your case!

vs 28, **KNOW WHO OUR GOD IS!** Our God never faints, never runs out of power or strength. God never fails to remember your case.

vs 29-30, **KNOW WHAT GOD CAN DO IN YOU, FOR YOU, THROUGH YOU.** It is God who give us power, who increases our strength -when everything and everyone else around us fail!

vs 31, but the key is to **"WAIT ON THE LORD"**...and He will so work in our lives that we can fly, run and walk...empowered by God!



This morning we wish to remind ourselves that GOD IS GREATER!

God is greater than the challenges we face today

What are the challenges, the struggles you are faced with today?

God is greater than everyone of them.

Our challenges are not greater than God. Our struggles do not even measure up to God.

God is far greater, stronger, wiser, more powerful.

God is greater than our mistakes and the mess we have created for ourselves

Yes, sometimes we make wrong choices, bad decisions, and create trouble for ourselves.

But God is greater than our worst mistakes.

No situation is too complex for Him to unravel.

No pain is too deep He cannot heal.

There are no scars He cannot remove.

He is the One who gives beauty for ashes.

He is the one who turns our mourning into dancing.

God is greater than all the time we have wasted and let slip away

Some of us have let time slip by - sometimes unknowingly, sometimes knowingly.

But God is greater than time.

He is the great I AM. God lives in the eternal now.

To us God is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last. But God Himself has no beginning, He always was. He has no ending, He always is and will be. From everlasting, to everlasting He is God.

To give us some idea of how irrelevant time is to God, the Bible tells us that a thousand years is as one day, and one day is like a thousand years. In other words, don't worry God with your understanding of time. God lives outside the realm of time.

Our times are in His hands - so He can do what He wishes with it.

God is able to restore time in our lives. He said that He will restore the years the locusts have eaten - meaning time that has been wasted away in our lives (Joel 2:25).

God is able to compress things so that what may have taken many years to fulfill God can cause it to happen in a very short while.

God is able to accelerate things.

God is greater.

Don't live in regret. Don't live in "I should have...", "I could have...". Let the past be past. Look ahead to a future where God restores what has been wasted.

Do not live in the past. Do not remember the former things. God will do a new thing and this time it will spring up and flourish. He will make impossibilities happen. He will make a highway in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert (Isaiah 43:18-19).

God is greater than the dream that seems to elude us

Many of us have been pursuing dreams, a destiny, a promise we feel is ours - and yet is still seems out there somewhere in the future.

Don't give up on your God-given dream.

If we delight ourselves in the Lord, He is sure to give us the desires of our heart (Psalm 37:4).



God is greater than all the impossibilities that seem to keep your dream away from you...all the closed doors, the lack, the insufficiencies, the weaknesses, the shortcomings, etc.
When He opens a door, no man can shut it (Revelation 3:10).
When He puts it into your hand, no man can take it out.
When He lifts you up, no man can pull you down (James 4:10, Psalm 75:6-7).
When God blesses you, no man can reverse it (Numbers 23:20).

God is greater than the calamities we've been struck with

..sickness, financial problems, marital crisis, workplace pressures, whatever....

God can turn things around in our lives.

God is the One, who just as He did for Joseph, can give you your Manasseh - causing you to forget the labor, the toil, the pain that you have been through (Genesis 41:51)...and can give you your Ephraim - causing you to be fruitful and to flourish in the very place where you were afflicted (Genesis 41:52).

What people or the devil meant for evil, God turns it around for our good and for His glory (Genesis 50:20).

God is the One who turns our bitter into sweet, just as He told Moses to throw the tree into the bitter waters of Marah and made them sweet (Exodus 15:23-26).

Like what God did for Job, God can restore your losses and cause you to have twice as much as before (Job 42:10), so that your latter will be greater than your former (Job 42:12). So that your end will be far greater than your beginning.

Expect a turnaround. Expect things to change. God is greater than your calamity.

God is greater than the abandonment of family and friends who may have forsaken us

Sometimes our most trusted human friendships may fail us, but God is our ever faithful Father and Friend.

God is greater than the abandonment, the loneliness, the pain of isolation, the pain of betrayal.

God is greater than the hopelessness we feel about our future

God has your future in His hands.

When everything around you screams that life is over, that there is no hope for the future,...remember God is greater.

God has not run out of dreams for your life.

He has promised to give you a hope and a future.

God is greater than.....anything and everything we are facing!

So what must we do?

Four instructions we saw from **Isaiah 40**

vs 27, DO NOT SPEAK DESPAIR AND HOPELESSNESS.

Don't say God does not know what is going on in my life and what is happening to me!

Don't say that your "just claim", your justice, your case has been overlooked by God!

Don't speak like that!



God is so great, so powerful, so infinite, He will never forget you and will never forget your case!

vs 28, KNOW WHO OUR GOD IS!

Our God never faints, never runs out of power or strength. God never fails to remember your case.

Jeremiah 32:17,27

17 'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.

27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?

vs 29-30, KNOW WHAT GOD CAN DO IN YOU, FOR YOU, THROUGH YOU.

It is God who give us power, who increases our strength -when everything and everyone else around us fail!

This infinitely great God is for you.

He is making is power available for you.

vs 31, WAIT ON THE LORD

"But they that wait upon" Hebrew 'qavah' = to twist together, to bind together

When you are bound together with God....you are bound together with His greatness, with His infiniteness...imagine...our weaknesses disappear in His strength, our insufficiencies disappear in His all-sufficiency....we are empowered by Him in all things!

He will work in our lives so that we can fly, run and walk...empowered by God!

You will rise above the storm.

You will conquer your challenges.

You will overcome.

You will come out victorious.

MINISTRY TIME

SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday September 09, 2018
God is Greater!

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Isaiah 40:25-31; Jeremiah 32:17,27*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

- 1) *Share some of the challenges/difficulties/impossibilities/dreams that seem to challenge you?*
- 2) *How do we apply what Isaiah reminds us in Isaiah 40:25-31, as we seek to overcome life's challenges, see impossibilities become possibilities, and dreams fulfilled?*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.



ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

Close by thanking God together.