



INSIDE THIS
MONTH'S ISSUE:

OUR PAST!

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"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" — Isaiah 43:18-19'

We all have a past, moments we wish we could erase, words we wish we had not spoken, and choices that left stains on our souls. But the beauty of God's mercy is that He does not define us by where we have been, but by what He has redeemed. Your past is not a prison; it is the place from which grace lifts you

Welcome to November, a month to let go of shame, release regret, and embrace the mercy of a God who makes all things new. May this message heal your heart and remind you that in Christ, your past no longer has the final say in Jesus name Amen.

INTRODUCTION



This November devotional is deeply personal for me, not only because it is my birth month, but because the message is one I have lived and continue to learn from. During one of my quiet times before the Lord, I was reminding Him of all He had promised to do. In that moment, my heart became heavy. Thoughts began to flood my mind, What if people who know my past read my work? What if they remember the kind of person I was?

The truth is, I have a past I am not proud of. I have made choices that wounded others and grieved the heart of God. I have treated people unfairly when I had the upper hand. I have spoken carelessly, acted in pride, betrayed confidence, gossiped about those I claimed to love, and indulged in slander. I have made terrible mistakes and decisions that hurt both me and the people I cared about. There were seasons when I was boastful, insensitive, and spiritually blind—yet convinced I was right.

But in that quiet moment, God interrupted my thoughts. He said, “That is past. That Ima-Obong died. The one standing before Me now is new. Forget the past and focus on the future I have laid before you.”

That gentle whisper was freedom. It reminded me that the mercy of God is greater than the mess of our past. When we come to Him in repentance, He not only forgives, He restores.

EVERYONE HAS A PAST

Every single person walking the earth today has a past—something they wish they could erase, rewrite, or forget. It may not always be visible to others, but it is there. For some, it is the weight of wrong choices, sinful habits, or moral failures. For others, it may be the pain of broken relationships, harsh words spoken in pride, or seasons of rebellion and compromise. Even those who appear righteous outwardly have moments they would rather hide—times they doubted God, disobeyed His voice, or acted out of fear and selfishness. The truth is, no one is exempt from this reality.

Romans 3:23 clearly states, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” The word “all” leaves no room for exceptions. Every human being—regardless of background, status, or title, has missed the mark of God’s perfect standard. From Adam’s disobedience in Eden (Genesis 3) to our own daily struggles, the human story is one marked by failure and the desperate need for grace. The prophet Isaiah put it this way: “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way” (Isaiah 53:6).

But the beauty of God’s mercy is that He does not define us by where we have been; He defines us by what He can make of us. He does not leave us wallowing in guilt or shame, He calls us out of it and clothes us with His righteousness. Isaiah 1:18 is one of the most powerful promises of this truth: “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

This is what grace looks like, God taking the dirtiest parts of our story and cleansing them until no trace remains. Your past may have been filled with mistakes, but in Christ, your identity is no longer tied to what you did; it is rooted in what He did for you. 2nd Corinthians 5:17 declares, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

That means the person you once were no longer exists in the eyes of God. The blood of Jesus does not merely cover sin, it removes it completely (Psalm 103:12; 1 John 1:9). When you come to Him in repentance, He forgives and forgets. Hebrews 8:12 says, "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." This is the divine amnesia of grace, God deliberately choosing not to recall what you have confessed and forsaken. So yes, everyone has a past. The difference between those who are bound by it and those who are free is what they do with it. Those who keep hiding their past continue to live in its shadow. But those who bring it to the cross find redemption. Proverbs 28:13 says, "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy."

When you surrender your past to Jesus, He transforms it into a testimony. What once brought shame becomes a story of His faithfulness. Your scars become signs of His healing power. Like Paul, who once persecuted the church but later became one of its greatest apostles, your past becomes the backdrop against which the glory of God shines brightest (1 Timothy 1:13-16).

The only people who claim to have no past are those who have not been honest about their brokenness. But for those who admit their need for grace, God rewrites their story. You are not your mistakes. You are not your failures. You are a new creation, loved, redeemed, and called by God.

So, stop allowing the enemy to use your past as a weapon against your present. The cross has spoken louder than your history. You may have fallen before, but now you stand forgiven. You may have been broken, but now you are being rebuilt. Your past is not your prison; it is your platform for God's glory.

ZECHARIAH 3 — JOSHUA THE HIGH PRIEST

When the Lord began to speak to me about our past, He led me to a story I had often read but never truly understood, the story of Joshua the high priest in Zechariah 3:1-5. As I sat with this scripture, I could almost picture the scene vividly in my spirit. Joshua, a man chosen by God, standing before the angel of the Lord, but right beside him stood Satan, pointing fingers, listing his faults, and highlighting his filth.

The verse says, "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him." (Zechariah 3:1).

I paused there. Isn't that what the enemy does even now? Every time we dare to lift our heads, every time we try to draw closer to God, he whispers reminders of who we were and what we've done. "You? You think God can use you? Don't you remember what you did? Don't you remember who you were?"

And the painful truth? Many of his accusations are not lies. The scripture says Joshua was wearing filthy garments. That means the evidence was visible. He was unclean. His garments, the symbol of his priesthood—were stained. He had no defence, no justification, nothing to say in his favour.

But this is where the beauty of God's heart begins to unfold. The very next verse says, "The Lord said to Satan, 'The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a brand plucked from the fire?'" (Zechariah 3:2).

God didn't argue with Satan about Joshua's filth. He didn't deny the evidence or try to prove Joshua's innocence. Instead, He overruled the accusations by invoking His mercy. He acknowledged Joshua's state but refused to let it define his destiny. It was as though God was saying, "Yes, he was dirty, but I have already rescued him from the fire. He belongs to Me now."

That line, "a brand plucked from the fire"—speaks volumes. It means Joshua was once consumed, once destined for destruction, but God snatched him out just in time. That's exactly what salvation is: God pulling us out of what should have destroyed us, out of the flames of sin and guilt, and placing us in His presence—still smelling like smoke, yet chosen for cleansing.

Then something extraordinary happened. God gave a command: "Take off his filthy clothes." Not "wash them," not "cover them," but "remove them entirely." God doesn't fix your past; He replaces it. He doesn't patch up your shame; He exchanges it for righteousness. And as the filthy garments were removed, the angel said, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you."

Oh, what a powerful moment! Heaven witnessed a divine exchange, filth for purity, shame for glory, guilt for grace. And to complete the restoration, God ordered that a clean turban be placed on Joshua's head, symbolising renewed authority, restored dignity, and divine acceptance.

As I meditated on this, I realised something profound: Joshua did not say a word during this entire scene. He didn't defend himself or try to argue with Satan. He stood silently before God, and mercy spoke on his behalf.

That's the beauty of grace, it speaks when we have no words. When guilt silences us, mercy finds its voice. When we have nothing to offer, God steps in and covers us with His righteousness.

Beloved, perhaps you are like Joshua today, standing before God, fully aware of your stains, hearing the whispers of your accuser, feeling unworthy to serve, pray, or dream again. Maybe the devil has been reminding you of your past, saying, "You'll never be clean enough. You'll never be trusted again. You'll never change."

But listen, just as God rebuked Satan on Joshua's behalf, He is rebuking the voice of condemnation over your life right now. He is saying, "This one is Mine. I have plucked her from the fire. I have redeemed him by My blood."

Romans 8:1 declares, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." That means the case is closed. Mercy has spoken. The robe of righteousness has been placed upon you. The turban of holiness rests on your head. The shame of the past has been buried, and grace now reigns.

And do you know what is most beautiful? Joshua didn't dress himself, God clothed him.

When mercy finds you, you don't have to fix yourself to be accepted. You are accepted so that God can fix you.

So today, if the enemy reminds you of your past, remind him of his future, and remind yourself of your identity. You are a brand plucked from the fire. The stains are gone, the robe is new, and mercy has rewritten your story.

THE WAY FORWARD

As I continued reading Zechariah 3, something struck me so deeply that I had to pause and reflect. After Joshua had been cleansed, after his filthy garments were removed and replaced with clean robes and a new turban, God spoke directly to him. In verse 7, the Lord said: "If you will follow My ways and carefully serve Me, then you will govern My house and have charge of My courts..."

That verse carried so much weight. It was as if God was saying, "Joshua, your past is no longer the issue. I am not here to discuss how you got dirty. I am here to talk about where you're going from here."

Isn't that just like God? He didn't interrogate Joshua. He didn't say, "Joshua, how could you have allowed yourself to become filthy in the first place?" He didn't sit him down to recount his failures or make him relive his shame. Instead, God cleansed him, dressed him in new garments, and gave him a new instruction, a new beginning.

That is mercy in action. That is the heart of God.

When I read that, I felt the Holy Spirit whisper, "Ima-Obong, I am not interested in your past. I am interested in your obedience now."

You see, many of us spend so much time replaying the mistakes of yesterday that we miss what God is trying to do today. We let guilt, shame, and the opinions of people tie us to an old version of ourselves that God has already buried.

The truth is, once you have repented and turned away from sin, God forgets your past completely. Micah 7:19 paints this picture so beautifully:

"You will trample our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea." Imagine that. God takes every sin, every failure, every regret, and throws it into the sea. And not just the shallow waters, but the depths of the sea, where no one can retrieve it again. When God forgives, He doesn't leave traces. He buries your past where it can never rise to accuse you again.

But here's the key part: after cleansing, He calls us to walk in obedience.

Mercy is not a license to stay the same. Mercy is an invitation to begin again, to live differently, to walk uprightly, and to choose holiness daily. God said to Joshua, "If you will follow My ways," That's the condition. Mercy gives you a clean slate, but obedience keeps you on the right path.

Too often, we want forgiveness without transformation. We say, "Lord, forgive me," but continue in the same patterns that made us filthy in the first place. But true repentance changes direction. It doesn't just regret the past, it redefines the future.

So I ask you: why do you still hold on to guilt that God has already erased? Why do you allow the devil to replay old memories like a broken record? That voice that keeps reminding you of who you used to be, that's not God. That's the accuser, doing exactly what he did to Joshua. The voice of guilt says, "You're still dirty."

The voice of mercy says, "You've been cleansed."

The voice of guilt says, "You're not worthy."

The voice of mercy says, "You are chosen."

Paul understood this revelation when he wrote in Philippians 3:13,

"One thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead."

Did you notice that Paul said "one thing I do"? Meaning, forgetting the past was an intentional act, something he chose daily. It wasn't automatic. The devil will always try to remind you of what you did, but you must remind him of who you've become.

You cannot drive forward while staring into the rear-view mirror. You'll crash. In the same way, you cannot live in the freedom of grace while clinging to the guilt of the past. The blood of Jesus was not shed to give you a partial pardon, it was shed to give you complete redemption.

Acts 17:30 says,

"In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent."

That means that even the seasons of ignorance, those times when you didn't know better, when you acted foolishly, when you were driven by pride or fear, God has overlooked them. But now that you know better, walk in the light.

And when you stumble again (because you will sometimes), don't run away from God. Run to Him. His mercy is still available. His grace is still enough.

Beloved, let me say this as someone who has walked this road: you are not your past. Your past may explain you, but it does not define you. God has rewritten your story with mercy. The only thing He asks of you now is to walk in obedience, humility, and gratitude.

So today, make a choice. Let go of the guilt. Release the shame. Stop rehearsing the past. Step into the "now" of God.

And when the devil tries to whisper your old name, tell him,

"That person died. I am a new creation in Christ Jesus. The old has gone, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17).

That is the way forward – to live daily in the freedom of grace, knowing that mercy has spoken, your garments are new, and your future is secure in Christ.

Would you like me to now write the Reflection and Prayer sections to complete the devotional?

FINAL REFLECTION

Beloved, your past is not your identity. It is your history, not your destiny. God is not using your past against you; He is using it to build your testimony. The same place where shame once lived is where glory will rise.

So today, silence the accuser. When guilt whispers, remind yourself: I am forgiven. I am cleansed. I am new. God has chosen to remember your sins no more, and if God has moved on, so should you.

Walk boldly into your future. The robe of righteousness you now wear was bought with the blood of Jesus. You are no longer who you were—you are who God says you are.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." — 2 Corinthians 5:17





PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your mercy that silences every accusation of the enemy. Thank You for cleansing me, for removing my filthy garments, and clothing me in Your righteousness. Lord, I confess that I have made mistakes, but today I choose to let go of the past. I refuse to live in guilt or shame because You have forgiven me and made me new.

Father, help me to walk in obedience from this moment forward. Teach me to focus on what You are doing now, not what I have done before. Give me strength to silence every voice of condemnation and to remember that mercy has spoken over my life.

Lord, create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me. May my life be a reflection of Your grace, and may I never forget that I am a brand plucked from the fire, redeemed, restored, and loved.

Thank You for Your unending love and for rewriting my story with mercy.

In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

ACCEPT JESUS TODAY!!!

God's mercy is fully revealed in Jesus Christ, who gave His life so we could be forgiven and restored. If you haven't yet received Him, you can do so today. Turn to Him, confess your need, and invite Him into your heart as Lord and Saviour. His arms are open wide in mercy and love—waiting for you to come home. Accept Jesus Today!

If you need to discuss further or want someone to pray with you, please feel free to contact me on: +44 7448624608

PLEASE JOIN US!!!



ANN **1** YEAR
VERSARY

P R E S E N T S

PRAYER SUMMIT

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NOVEMBER
2025

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7:00PM
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Isaiah 66:7-9

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