

## DAY 1- LET'S CELEBRATE

**MILESTONE,  
MOMENTS  
AND MIRACLES**  
A 5 DAY DEVOTIONAL  
BY HILLSONG AFRICA

The Bible is full of moments of celebration – moments that God very intentionally commanded His people to observe. God pretty much tells us we MUST celebrate - hey church, it's time to party!

The Hebrew word for “celebrate” is hagag, which means to prepare, keep, or observe a feast or festival.

In Leviticus 23, God told Moses to appoint times of celebration for the people of Israel. These included Sabbath, Passover, Feast of the Firstfruits, Feast of Weeks, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and more!

The first celebration recorded was the Passover, which came during a time of great loss and suffering. Similarly, the past year has been a year filled with loss, anxiety, and suffering for so many, yet God reminds us that we celebrate in the midst of the season as we come back to the true meaning of celebration which is to observe, honour, acknowledge, step out, memorialise, remember and to mark.

Even Jesus liked a good celebration! He celebrated festivals like the Feast of Tabernacles (John 7) and Passover where He instituted a new covenant of celebration through the breaking of bread. Celebration is no doubt a very important element of Christianity.

Why do we celebrate?

### **It's an act of worship.**

To celebrate is not just having fun and eating cake although that is an enjoyable part - it's about going back to the true meaning of celebration; giving majestic praise to the Lord and remembering what He has done for us. Psalm 103:2 encourages us to "forget not all His benefits". When we celebrate, we remember the goodness, the provision, the mercy, and the power of God.

### **It's a moment to rest.**

It's biblical to take a break (Exodus 20:8). It reminds us that we are not self-sufficient. When you take time off you acknowledge it is God's job to take care of you. Have you considered that perhaps you don't stop to celebrate and rest because you don't really trust that God will take care of you? Ouch.

### **It brings joy.**

The joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10). Celebrating is marked by dancing, worship, food, friends, and family. These things warm our hearts and bring joy into our lives, which in turn strengthens us. When we celebrate we stop to enjoy God; it delights Him and benefits us.

### **It brings hope.**

While we prepare our feast and enjoy our time with family and friends, we also realise that God has so much more for us. This is not the final celebration. One day there will be a marriage feast, and it is going to be the greatest party of all time!

### **Reflection:**

As you embark on a journey of celebration, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the power of celebration. Why not take a moment today to celebrate God for who He is and as you do, watch as your joy is restored, your strength is renewed and your hope is revived.

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, I recognise how important it is for me to celebrate the moments, miracles, and milestones in my life. Even when things don't make sense I choose to set aside time to observe, honour and acknowledge who You are and what You've done for me. Restore my joy, my strength, and my hope as I worship You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Scriptures:**

Leviticus 23:1-2, Psalm 103:2, Exodus 20:8-11, Nehemiah 8:10, Revelation 19:7-9

## DAY 2 - CELEBRATING THE MOMENTS

Immediately her flow of blood was dried up; and she felt in her body [and knew without any doubt] that she was healed of her suffering. Mark 5:29 (AMPC)

The dictionary defines a moment as a “very brief period of time”. In the story of the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5), we read of a woman who encounters God (for a very brief period of time) and is immediately healed. The Bible is clear that she had suffered from this condition for 12 years and that no doctor was able to assist her - yet her breakthrough comes after one transient encounter with Jesus. It was in just one moment that God was able to change her whole life.

Many of you may have experienced similar moments with God and perhaps because these encounters were brief, you’ve either missed their significance or you’ve taken them for granted. Yet even in these brief moments, God meets us in His absolute greatness and we are bound to see the unthinkable take place. In Psalm 150:2 (AMPC) the psalmist exhorts us to praise God “for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness”.

### Reflection:

Take some time today to reflect on the significant moments you’ve had with God and once you’ve done that, go ahead and praise Him for every single one of them.

### Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for who You are and what You are able to achieve in a single moment. Today I exalt You for the times that You’ve met my weakness with Your absolute greatness. I recognise that You are good and for that, I am eternally grateful. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### Scriptures:

Mark 5:25-34, Psalm 150.

**MILESTONE,  
MOMENTS  
AND MIRACLES**  
A 5 DAY DEVOTIONAL  
BY HILLSONG AFRICA

### DAY 3 - CELEBRATING THE MILESTONES

**MILESTONE,  
MOMENTS  
AND MIRACLES**  
A 5 DAY DEVOTIONAL  
BY HILLSONG AFRICA

12 For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and fatally strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the human firstborn to animals; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the Lord. 13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will come upon you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. 14 'Now this day shall be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance. Exodus 12:12-14 (NASB)

After going back and forth with Pharaoh regarding the redemption of the Israelites, God puts an end to it with the Passover. A milestone is described as "a significant stage or event in the development of something". We can hopefully agree that this particular moment was a milestone not only for the Israelite community but also for you and me because it foreshadowed what Jesus would later do on the cross, affording us salvation. What is significant for us to note in this passage is that the Lord goes on to command the Israelites to celebrate this as a feast to the Lord, throughout the generations. The word celebrate, as is used here, is in fact the word hagag which we referred to on day one. By calling them to celebrate, God calls them to prepare, to keep, or to observe this feast annually, to remind future generations of what God has done for them.

On the eve of Jesus' crucifixion, He sits down with the disciples to observe this same Passover feast. What is different now, however, is that Jesus instructs them to do this in remembrance of Him, alluding to what He would achieve on the cross. While there are many similarities in both stories, it is significant that in both instances God calls for a perpetual celebration of these milestones in their faith.

Reflection:

What are the milestones in your own faith that God is calling you to celebrate?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the death and resurrection of Jesus; I thank you that communion helps me to remember this great milestone in my faith. Help me to always remember who You are and who You have always been through the ages. Amen.

Scripture:

Exodus 12:12-14 NASB.

## Day 4 - Celebrating The Miracles

**MILESTONE,  
MOMENTS  
AND MIRACLES**  
A 5 DAY DEVOTIONAL  
BY HILLSONG AFRICA

So lift your hands and give thanks to God for his marvelous kindness and for his miracles of mercy for those he loves! Bring your praise as an offering and your thanks as a sacrifice as you sing your story of miracles with a joyful song. Psalm 107:21-22 (TPT)

Wayne Grudem (a systematic theologian) defines a miracle as an extraordinary and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore attributed to God. The Bible is filled with miracle stories like that of the parting of the Red Sea in Exodus 14, the raising up of Lazarus from the dead in John 11, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ in the Gospels among many others. Similarly, our churches today are filled with miracle stories of healing, freedom from addiction, and extraordinary provision. If we are to lean on the teaching of apostle Paul, we can accept that it is because the same Holy Spirit that lived in Christ now lives in us.

While humanity tends to be the recipients of God's miraculous work, it is important to ascribe the miracle-working power to none other than God Himself, and how we can do this is through praise. Throughout the psalms, we are called to praise God and in Psalm 107:21 the psalmist specifically exhorts us to give thanks to the Lord for "his wonderful deeds for mankind". In yesterday's reading, we referred to the Hebrew word hagag, which means to celebrate. This same word is said to be the Hebrew term that is most expressive of majestic praise, the type of praise that is reserved for our majestic God.

### Reflection:

Today, take some time to specifically remember the miracles that you have seen God do, not only in your own life but also in the lives of others.

### Prayer:

Lord today I am in awe of the mighty works that You have done and continue to do in the lives of those You love. You are worthy of all praise and adoration. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### Scriptures:

Psalm 107:21-22, Romans 8:11, Deuteronomy 10:21.

## DAY 5: WE CELEBRATE BECAUSE GOD IS GOOD

**MILESTONE,  
MOMENTS  
AND MIRACLES**  
A 5 DAY DEVOTIONAL  
BY HILLSONG AFRICA

Psalm 100 (TPT)

Lift up a great shout of joy to Yahweh!

Go ahead and do it—everyone, everywhere!

2 Worship Yahweh with gladness.

Sing your way into his presence with joy!

3 And realize what this really means—

we have the privilege of worshiping Yahweh our God.

For he is our Creator and we belong to him.

We are the people of his pleasure.

4 You can pass through his open gates with the password of praise.

Come right into his presence with thanksgiving.

Come bring your thank offering to him

and affectionately bless his beautiful name!

5 For Yahweh is always good and ready to receive you.

He's so loving that it will amaze you—

so kind that it will astound you!

And he is famous for his faithfulness toward all.

Everyone knows our God can be trusted,

for he keeps his promises to every generation!

Despite what your current circumstances look like, some things will never change. This psalm reminds us that amid turmoil, uncertainty, and challenge, God remains the same always. He is ALWAYS good. He is ALWAYS loving and he is ALWAYS faithful. God simply cannot act out of character.

Not only that but we are also reminded that we aren't wandering exiles or guests - we belong to the Mighty Creator of heaven and earth, Yahweh. What a privilege to know you belong to God. You are His and He delights in you, unconditionally. Let that sink in for a moment. Maybe it's hard for you to believe that you can be deeply loved just as you are. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal this truth to you.

When we pause and consciously bring our full attention and affection to Jesus in majestic praise and adoration, we will be amazed by His love, astounded by His kindness, and assured by His faithfulness.

As His church, we choose to celebrate during challenges. One day, the bride of Christ will exist in an era of peace. There will be no sickness, pain, nor tears and we will praise God endlessly. How beautiful and significant is the majestic praise of the church choosing to celebrate even while trouble avails? One day, we won't have that choice so let's take hold of this opportunity!

Reflection:

Take a moment to ponder the truth of God's consistent goodness. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal this to you in a real and tangible way if you're struggling to believe it.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for Your unfailing goodness, love, and faithfulness towards me. Even when things are hard, I choose to praise Your wonderful name. I choose to celebrate Your goodness and offer my praise to You with sincere joy. Thank you for Your grace and mercy upon my life. Thank you for being my Creator and Shepherd. Amen.

Scripture:

Psalm 100 TPT.