

Dear Friends

Faith is an invisible anchor in a chaotic world. Sometimes, the easiest way to understand it is not through complex theology, but through a simple story.

Imagine a young apprentice in the workshop of a master weaver. The young boy was tasked with working underneath a massive wooden loom. Day after day, the boy passed threads of wool. From beneath the loom, the work looked like a disaster. He saw only a chaotic jumble of jagged knots, loose ends, and a clash of dark and bright colours. There seemed to be no rhythm to it.

Frustrated, the apprentice called up to the master. "I don't understand," he sighed. "I am pulling the gold and dark threads, but down here it looks like a dreadful mistake. It is nothing but tangles." The master smiled gently. "Keep weaving, my boy. Trust the pattern I have drawn. You are only seeing the underside."

Weeks later, the master told the apprentice to step out from beneath the loom. The boy crawled out and walked around to the front. He stopped, breathless. The chaotic knots had formed a breathtaking picture: a gentle shepherd standing in a sun-drenched valley, guiding his flock toward a rugged wooden cross on a dawn-lit hill. The ugly threads were actually the deep shadows giving the golden sunrise its brilliant depth. The messy underside was the hidden foundation of a masterpiece.

This is the essence of Christian faith. In our daily lives, we are often like that apprentice, whilst God is the Master Weaver. We live on the underside, seeing only the messy knots of hardship, tangled worries, and dark colours of grief. It can feel chaotic. Faith is enduring trust in God's sovereign design. It is believing the Lord weaves our darkest trials for good, giving profound depth to His ultimate purpose. We walk by faith, not by sight. We trust that God will eventually call us from the shadows to see the redemptive picture He was weaving all along.

Simon

## PRAYER POINTERS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August      Pray for the volatile situation in the Middle East. Pray it will be resolved as soon as possible.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September      Pray for our new Prime Minister Andy Burnham and for his family as they start their new life living at Downing Street.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September      Pray for all those in our community who face financial and emotional challenges, that God will uphold them.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September      Pray for all those affected by global warming especially remembering those affected by recent fires in Scotland, Suffolk, France and Spain. Also pray for our community which is once again facing challenges over fresh water supply from our taps.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September      Let us continue to bring the people of Ukraine before the Lord, praying for endurance and a just end to this fifth year of conflict.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September      Pray for Simon and Cathy as they prepare to move to Lenham and for our own church as we prepare for the vacancy (the new name for the interregnum).

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September      Pray for our services today, that we would encounter the Lord and be transformed by His call on our lives.