

## GOING DEEPER: Tuesday 13 June 2023

### INTRODUCTION

We are in the second quarter of the year. The first quarter may have been exciting, challenging or tough for us. Through it all, this can be a time of growth, digging deeper and praying together. A time to reset our lives, to ponder and wonder on just how great and mighty our God is.

You might like to read **Psalm 24:1–10**.

**Psalm 24:4** says, *'The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false God'*. This speaks of those who are pure in both their actions ('hands') and purposes ('heart'). David already established that God ruled the earth; now he declared that God rules the earth on a *moral* foundation. He is concerned with the moral behaviours of humanity. Clean hands are important for good hygiene, but this speaks of much more than washing with water. Pontius Pilate washed his hands, but they were not clean. 'Clean hands' would not suit, unless they were connected to a 'pure heart.'

### REFLECTION

Read the following prayer from The Salvation Army Songbook, **Song 790**:

**Take Time to Be Holy**  
 by William Dunn Longstaff (1822–94)

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;  
 Abide in him always, and feed on his word  
 Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak;  
 Forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;  
 Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone;  
 By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;  
 Thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, let him be thy guide.  
 And run not before him, whatever betide;  
 In joy or in sorrow, still follow thy Lord,  
 And, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul;  
 Each thought and each motive beneath his control;  
 Thus led by his Spirit to fountains of love  
 Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

#### Some questions to consider:

- How do you take time to be holy?
- Are you allowing God to change you in his timing?
- What stops you being more like Jesus?

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE Action songs

Action songs are very common around the Kingdom of Tonga. They do not have any age limit and all may participate depending on the type of song and event. The original purpose of action songs was to entertain the king or queen during feasts or festivals. The words and the dances were all about the king's achievements and popularity.

When Christianity landed in Tonga and King Siaoisi Tupou I accepted Jesus, the whole country, songs and worship were directed to the Almighty God.

Action songs allow us to express our love to God in words and dancing, which includes our whole being. **Deuteronomy 6:5** reminds us to love God with our entire body through outward actions, in devotion and love.

So how do action songs connect us to God? Singing connects us emotionally. Songs of celebration have the power to lead us to dance. Words pierce our hearts with emotion and memories that point us to God. We give the glory to God through our whole body.

- In what ways do you express yourself to God?
- How might you use music or action songs to worship and appreciate God in your life?
- Are you brave enough to try dancing before the Lord today?

### PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the government of Tonga, members of the Parliament and the royal family as they run this island nation, that they may seek God's will in everything they do.
- Pray for all our church leaders, especially in The Salvation Army. We ask God to continue to guide and to speak to all our leaders.
- Pray for the addictions work in Tonga and our territory—drugs and alcohol are in Tonga and are affecting and damaging the lives of people.
- Pray for children at school or home. Pray for those who are studying, for them to grow deeper in Christ.
- Pray for growth and development of the kindergartens in Tonga.
- Pray for spiritual awakening of Christians around the Pacific. Let us arise and claim all our nations for God.

As the world rushes on, let us to take time to be holy!