

# Introduction

*John 15:4-8 New King James Version*

<sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup> “*I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.* <sup>6</sup> *If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.* <sup>7</sup> *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.* <sup>8</sup> *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

I truly believe the secret to victorious Christianity is abiding in Christ, especially abiding in His word. What I have discovered is sadly many people are too busy to spend time in God’s word. They have allowed other things to become the priority in their life and without even realizing it have given themselves over to idolatry. Simply idolatry is allowing anything to take the place that Jesus rightly deserves.

What you hold in your hands is a 100-day journey of abiding in the word of God. I have shared verses each day and with those verses I have shared what the Holy Spirit has simply laid on my heart. My desire and hope is that it would not only bless and encourage you, but it would challenge you to seek the Lord with all your heart and to immerse your life in the word of God. To understand and rightly apply the word of God simply requires intimacy with The Holy Spirit. We have been given The Holy Spirit as our guide who is here to lead and guide us into all truth. The only way we come to recognize and know His voice is by drawing near, spending time in His presence, talking with Him, and spending time in the word of God.

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this each day and I want to end this introduction with a personal prayer for you. ***Heavenly Father I pray for the person who hold this in their hands right now. I pray that you would open their heart and mind to know and understand your word. They would not only understand your word, but they would know how to rightly apply your word. I pray that would abide in you each day and that you would transform them from the inside out by the work and person of The Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit have your way in their life. Open and close every door according to your will and purpose. May they walk in the destiny and purpose you have for them. In the name of Jesus, Amen!***

## Day 1

### The Lamb of God Who Takes Away The Sin Of The World

## John 1:29 NIV

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Jesus is the Lamb of God. Our sins have been washed clean and atoned for because He chose to lay down His life. Many times, Satan will try to attack us with condemnation. The enemy will bring things to our mind of our past that God has already forgiven us of. Many times, those who are brand new in the faith will struggle with this because they will focus on the condemnation of the enemy instead of the righteousness they have in Christ.

Every day that we are on this earth and walking with Christ, the Lord's desire and instruction to us is to fix our hearts and minds on Him alone. He understands how broken we are because of sin. He chose us even though He knew every mistake we would make and every sin we would commit. When we truly begin to understand the grace of God and all that is made possible because of the sacrifice, death, and resurrection of Jesus, is when we will begin to truly walk in freedom.

Many today have become prisoners of their past. We need to let go of the past and understand that in Christ every day and every breath is brand new. Each day when our eyes open and our feet hit the floor, if we are in Christ then we are a brand-new creation. Our past and our sin has been nailed to the cross and doesn't even remain. It is futile to focus on things we have done that God has already forgiven us.

You may say that you don't feel forgiven. But truth is not based on feelings. It is based on what God's word says. He tells us if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us (1 John 1:9). Those words were written to people who were already believers. Will there be moments when we fail and fall short? Yes. Will we sin at times because we are human? Yes. But through every short coming our Father in Heaven desires to teach us and grow us. May we let go of the past and may our focus be upon the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world.

### *Prayer*

*Father today help me to be focused on Jesus. Help me not to focus on my past or myself. Help me to have my eyes fixed upon the truth of your word and to build my life upon the truth of your word. Thank you for your patience, your grace, and your mercy. Thank you that your love is unconditional and that you have chosen me before the foundations of the world. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

### Reflective Questions

1. What areas of your life are you focusing on the past and sins that God has already forgiven you of?

2. What is your greatest area of struggle when it comes to sin and falling short?
3. Have you brought this area before God and asked Him for help on a daily basis?

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## Day 2

# For God Did Not Send His Son Into The World To Condemn The World

## **John 3:17 NIV**

*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

God has sent Jesus to save us. God's desire is that none would perish, but all would come to everlasting life. If we truly examine the course of our life, we will come to the conclusion that there is nothing that we have done that would say to God, you must save me. But God in His mercy has provided a way that we can be forgiven. That the debt we owe to God because of our sins and our shame could be rightly dealt with.

There are many today who have a wrong understanding of who Jesus is. Some see Him merely as a religious figure, some see Him as simply a teacher or a prophet, some would even say that He was a lunatic and was out of His mind. But for those who have had their eyes open to the truth they come to see and understand the majesty of all that Jesus is.

In Him we have salvation. In Him we find truth. Life doesn't make sense until we come to know Jesus and walk with Him every day. As we abide in Him, spend time with Him, spend time in prayer and His word our hearts are changed by the person and work of the Holy Spirit. As our minds are renewed by the truth of scripture, our lives are transformed. Whenever God transforms a life, it is always from the inside out. For a life to be changed, our hearts must be changed.

In life we may come across people that God leads us to share the truth with of who He is. Those people may choose to reject all that Jesus has done for them. But we must understand it is not us

they are rejecting, it is Him. He has sent forth His Son, not to condemn the world, but to save it. Jesus came on a rescue mission and all of us who are being saved and have been forgiven, He has not only saved us, but He is transforming the person we are daily.

### Prayer

Father thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you that even though I don't deserve it, that you have looked upon my life and have offered me the gift of salvation. Thank you for your grace and thank you that you lead, guide, and direct one step at a time. Help me to never take for granted what you have done for me. Help me to always live in thanksgiving. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!

### Reflective Questions

1. Is there someone in your life who needs Christ and are you praying for them daily?
2. How has Christ transformed your life and when was the last time you shared what Christ has done in you with someone else?

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## Day 3

### We Also Glory In Our Sufferings

#### **Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)**

*Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

God uses suffering to mold and shape us. If you ask the average Christian if they truly enjoy suffering, the answer you often would receive is no. In our flesh we desire to be comfortable at all times. We may desire deeper growth in Christ, but we are hoping that will happen in a place of comfort.

But Paul shows us the value of suffering. As we suffer and trust the Lord through the process, there is a deep work that is done in our hearts. Here Paul shows us that suffering when placed in the hands of God produces within us perseverance, character, and hope. We see Paul pointing to a progressive process in which one leads to another. Deep spiritual maturity doesn't happen overnight in the life of a believer. It happens as we trust God daily and simply surrender our lives and hearts to Him.

God's love is unconditional. There is nothing that can separate us from His love. We don't deserve it, but it is His love that drove Him to the cross. It is His love that held Him to the cross. He endured it all simply because He loves us and desires to be reconciled to us. His love is poured out into our hearts and every day He sets a table before us and bids us to come and spend time with Him in His word and prayer.

May He be the priority at all times. As He speaks to us about things in our lives that need to be pruned, may we set aside all things for the sake of Jesus Christ. May He be our obsession and may the purpose we live be to simply glorify and honor His name.

#### Prayer

*Father I thank you for suffering. I may not always understand everything I face on this earth, but I thank you that you are sovereign, and you are in control. I thank you in the midst of painful and hard things that you are working and molding me. Help me to let go of my own understanding and simply trust you each step of the way. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

#### Reflective Questions

1. What kind of suffering have you faced for the name of Jesus?
2. How has suffering caused you to grow deeper in your walk with Jesus Christ?

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## Day 4

### He Hears Us

## 1 John 5:14 NIV

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*

We can have confidence that God hears us if we come to Him in prayer and we draw near to the throne of grace. We go through seasons in which at times it may feel like our prayers don't go any higher than the ceiling in the room. We may feel like our prayers are simply being prayed in vain. But this is simply a lie of the enemy. One of Satan's greatest desires and aims is to stop Christians from praying. When God's people pray, things happen.

But does that mean we can just pray for anything? The key is we must pray according to His will. But how do we know the will of God? How do we know we are praying in accordance with His will? God has revealed who He is through His word. When we spend time in the word of God on a daily basis, we begin to understand and know God in a greater way. It is a supernatural work the Holy Spirit does inside of us. We begin to know God in ways that we have not known and it is only because the Holy Spirit is revealing who He is through the truth of His word.

As a result of knowing His word in a deeper way, our prayers will begin to align with the will of God. When we pray we will know if what we are praying is in accordance with God's will and His character. If we are praying for something that is detrimental or harmful to our relationship with the Lord, He will let us not. And sometimes when we pray the answer is either yes, no, or not yet. And often when we are praying into the will of God there is a period of waiting as we wait upon the Lord to answer.

One of the things we must understand as we pray, God is working. Often the greatest work He does is in our hearts and lives. He is preparing us to steward whatever He is about to release into our lives. Honestly we are talking about Almighty God. He can do all things. His power is without limit and it is unmatched. But the truth is He chooses to use us. He doesn't need us, but chooses to use us. He accomplishes His will through the lives of human beings on the earth because they have been created in His image.

Today if prayer is not a regular part of your life, I would encourage you to begin to make it a regular part of your life. I would encourage you to set aside time to seek the Lord where your full attention is given to Him and you position yourself to hear His voice. When we begin to make prayer a regular part of our lives we will find ourselves in conversation with Him throughout the day. He is always speaking but the problem is we are not always listening. We must position ourselves to hear clearly from the Lord.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to hear and know your voice. Teach me to pray according to your will and desire. I pray every desire I have would be surrendered to your will. I pray my heart and mind would become one with yours. Remove from my life anything that would hinder what you want to do. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

### **Reflective Questions**

1. Is prayer a regular part of your day? If not are you willing to begin to set aside time for just you and God to speak?
2. Do you become frustrated when it comes to prayer and why do you think you feel this way?
3. If you could ask Jesus anything about prayer, what would it be?

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## **Day 5**

### **For With The Measure You Use, It Will Be Measured To You**

#### **Luke 6:38 (NIV)**

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

When we give of our time, talents, and finances to the Lord we are simply reflecting the character and nature of who He is. God gave us the greatest and most precious gift in Jesus. Jesus came into this world, lived a life without sin, took the punishment and wrath we deserve, and now God offers us salvation as a gift.

But the question is what will we do with the life that God has given us? What will we do with our talents, our time, or our resources? Will we merely spend them on selfish pursuits, or will we use them to advance the kingdom?

Those who have a kingdom mindset will see every day as an opportunity to advance the kingdom. Yes, things are becoming more difficult upon the earth. But it is the Holy Spirit who will empower us and equip us. It is the Holy Spirit who will enable us to overcome and accomplish the purposes of God.

Let us focus our hearts on what Jesus has done for us and be willing to allow Him to accomplish all that He desires to do through us. We can never out give God and we are simply called to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in all things. That means in every area of our lives we need to look to the Holy Spirit's leading and as He directs, we need to follow.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to be a person who has a life marked by giving. I pray that in all you have given to me that I would in turn give and build your kingdom. I pray that you would lead, guide, and direct me in all things. I pray that my heart would be surrendered to your will in purpose. Father help me to see the areas of my life that need to be surrendered. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

**Reflective Questions**

1. In what ways can you give in greater measure to the Lord?
2. Is there anything that God is calling you to give that you have not yet surrendered to Him?

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## Day 6

### The Heavens Declare The Glory Of God

#### **Psalms 19:1 NIV**

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

Man is without excuse. When people look at the magnificence of creation they must come to a conclusion. There is either a designer of all of this, or it happened on its own. Those who would say in their hearts there is no God are truly fools and are blinded by their own pride and arrogance. It is utterly foolish to think about the complexity of life and to think that it has all happened by chance and accident.

When we take time to examine the complexity of the human eye or ear by itself it is truly amazing how intricate and complex everything is. What creation reveals is truly how awesome God is. God is concerned about the details. He is concerned about this smallest of all things that we face on a daily basis. God even knows every hair that is upon the top of our heads. He has them numbered and it is simply a reflection of His love and concern for us.

The skies proclaim the work of his hands. God has made everything. There are moments when I look into the vastness and beauty of the heavens above and imagine how much that extends out through the universe that we will never see while we are on this earth. But this again is a reflection of the character and nature of God. God is eternal. He has no beginning and no end. He was not created, but He created all things and He loved us so much He sent His Son to die for us on the cross.

Let us take each day to live in awe of who God is. To understand that He holds all of life itself in the palm of His hand. If God wanted to, He could crush it and put an end to it with a single word. But in everything He does, He does all things from a place of love. The more we draw near, the more we will come to know the depths of who He is.

*Prayer*

*Heavenly Father let me never lose the awe I have for who you are. May my every breath and moment be surrendered to you. May you take my life and use it for your glory. May I seek you with my who heart, and may all things be in your hands. In the name of Jesus, Amen.*

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## Day 7

### The Lord Is My Rock

## PSALMS 18:2 (NIV)

*The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

The Lord is my rock. When we take time to meditate upon the word of God the Lord pours deep revelation of who He is into our hearts. We live in a world in which we face an enemy who is invisible. We cannot see the devil. He will attack us through lies, deceptions, and temptations. He desires to kill, steal, and destroy. He desires to abort the destiny and purpose we have in God and rob us of what God desires to do through us.

David understood the importance of a shepherd. He himself was a shepherd and he knew how important it was for the sheep to stay close to the shepherd. Especially when they would often go through ravines where there were walls on both sides, and it was very narrow. Predators would lurk high above, but as long as the sheep stayed close to the shepherd they would be protected.

The language used in this Psalm not only speaks of God being our rock, He is our fortress, He is our deliverer, He is where we take refuge, He is our shield and our horn of salvation, He is our stronghold. As believers and followers in Christ we have nothing to fear. Fear is one of the greatest weapons Satan uses today to imprison and enslave people to his will and desires. When a Christian lives in fear they are no longer living in freedom and sadly they are being robbed of all that God has for them.

Paul wrote to Timothy that God has not given us a Spirit of fear but of love, power, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 2:7). As believers and followers of Jesus Christ we need to build our life on the word of God. Daily we need to pour over the scriptures, allow it to immerse our heart and mind in truth, and meditate upon it all day long. It is impossible not to be transformed for the glory of God if we are in the word of God and studying the scriptures under the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Today I challenge you to not focus on the lies and deceptions of the mainstream media, but I challenge you to fix your eyes upon scripture and the word of God. Immerse your entire day in the truth of scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to give you a deeper understanding of all that God is saying.

*Prayer*

*Father today I thank you for your goodness and your love. I thank you that you lead, guide, and direct me in all my ways. Help me to be surrendered to your will and purpose. Father help me to understand your word and help me to trust when the enemy tries to overwhelm my heart with fear. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 8

### No Weapon Forged Against You Will Prevail

#### **ISAIAH 54:17 (NIV)**

*no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the LORD.*

We have an enemy we cannot see who desires to destroy us. He has well laid schemes and weapons he uses to try to destroy our lives. But as followers of Christ, we have divine protection from the Lord. The Lord tells us here that no weapon formed against us will prosper or prevail, that we will refute every word or tongue that accuses us. Satan is the accuser of the brethren, but in Christ we have nothing to fear because the enemy has already been defeated, the key is knowing who we are in Christ and the authority we have.

Jesus during His model prayer prayed that we would be delivered from the evil one and temptation. A good practice to begin to implement into our prayer lives is not only that we would pray that God would deliver us from every scheme of the enemy, but those that God has laid on our hearts to pray on a daily basis would be delivered as well.

Where we win the spiritual battle and where we position ourselves for victory on a daily basis against the devil is in the place of prayer. When prayer becomes the priority of our lives, we will find that victory will mark every area of our lives. There are some Christians who feel more like a doormat of the enemy than a victorious champion. But many times, this is a direct result and correlation to the depth of their prayer life.

Paul tells us to put on the full armor of God and to stand in the strength and power of the Lord (Eph 6:10-18). Paul tells us that our battle is not against flesh and blood. Paul also instructs us to pray in the Spirit and in our understanding (1 Cor 14:15). At the end of the passage in Ephesians on the armor of God Paul tells us to pray in the Spirit on all occasions (Eph 6:18).

What I have found in my life is that praying in the Spirit is a game changer. It simply means to pray being led by the Spirit and with our spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us our prayer language when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is when we pray in tongues we are led and guided by the Spirit, and we pray for the perfect will of God. It is a devastating weapon against the enemy and every one of his schemes and this is why he has tried so hard to empty the American church with the truth of what it means to be baptized and filled with the Spirit.

I encourage you today to press into God. Yes, there will be battles, but the victory is already yours in Jesus Christ. The enemy we face is defeated. We as the body of Christ have the authority. I encourage you to pray in the Spirit and in your understanding. Be led by the Holy Spirit in all things and allow the Holy Spirit to use every weapon and scheme of the enemy for your good and God's glory (Rom 8:28). Never forget that the battle belongs to the Lord. It is through prayer that we place the battle in His hands.

*Prayer*

*Father help me in my weakness. Help me to simply trust you and bring every battle before you. Father lead and guide me in every battle. I pray that my eyes would be fixed upon you. I pray you would fill me with your strength and power. Father deliver my life from every scheme of the enemy and may everything I do bring glory and honor to you. In the name of Jesus.*

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## Day 9

### The Spirit Helps Us In Our Weakness

#### **Romans 8:26 NIV**

*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.*

Paul more than anyone understood the important of being led by the Holy Spirit. If we who are in Christ are no longer under the law, than how are we to live? We must walk by the Spirit and be led by the Spirit. How are we to pray? We must pray by the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In 1 Corinthians 14 Paul makes a distinction between praying in the Spirit and praying in our understanding (1 Cor 14:15). The distinction is to pray with our understanding is to pray according to our understanding and this results praying in our known language. Our understanding is limited, but is there a deeper place we can go than simply praying according to our understanding? The answer is yes.

When we pray in the Spirit it is with our spirit that we pray. It is the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us. To many this is known as praying in tongues. I truly believe the ability to pray in tongues is available to every believer but what I have found is what hinders the work of God in this area is our own minds. Some would look at praying in tongues as a foolish and useless thing. But we must remember that God use the simply and weak things of this world to confound the wise and the strong.

What some may see as foolishness and useless, I believe is one of the greatest weapons God has given us against the enemy. When a person prays with their spirit it is the Holy Spirit who is assisting them in prayer and enabling them to pray. They are praying into things they don't fully understand and can't understand in their human understanding. But with God everything is about surrender. It is not about understanding everything, but simply trusting God and walking in obedience. Simply surrendering everything to God and allowing Him to have His way.

Paul makes it clear that the Holy Spirit understands our weakness. He understands our limitations. Paul emphasizes over and over again relying on and following the leading of the Holy Spirit. May we pray in our understanding and in the spirit. May we surrender all things to Almighty God and ask Him to simply pour out in our lives all He has for us. The greatest weapon we have against the devil is prayer and when we pray in the Spirit, it moves everything to a greater and deeper place with God.

*Prayer*

*Father lead and guide me this day by Your Spirit. Holy Spirit have your way in my life. Holy Spirit teach me to pray as you desire. Father help me to understand what it means to pray in the Spirit and in my understanding. Father help me to understand the deep things of your kingdom and your word. May all things be surrender to you and your kingdom. Simply help me to be who you have called me to be.*

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## Day 10

### Do Not Fear, For I Am With You

#### **Isaiah 41:10 NIV**

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Fear is one of the great weapons of Satan. Satan uses fear to paralyze people and pressure them into making decisions and choices that will ultimately destroy them. We see this in our day when it comes to people placing vaccines in their bodies that they have no idea the long-term effects of. They are deceived into becoming terrified of Covid-19 and will then do whatever the so-called experts tell them to do.

But God in His word tells us to not be afraid. The reason we don't have to fear is because He is with us. He is our God. He will strengthen us, and he will help us. He will uphold us by His mighty hand. God's power has no limit. Too many times we become so fixed on our circumstances and what is right in front of our face that we lose sight of who God is.

The greatest way we can keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus is by daily abiding in Him. This is the secret to the Christian walk. When we abide in Christ His life and character is produced within us. We begin to live by His power and His strength. We come to realize it doesn't matter if Satan and all the hordes of hell come against us, they are no match for Jesus. With a single word God can destroy them.

But God allows us to go through battles and trials. The Lord allows us to endure assaults from the enemy because when we learn to stop relying on our feelings and instead rely fully upon the word of God is when we begin to become dangerous to the kingdom of darkness. Let us never forget the devil is defeated. No matter what we feel or even think, it is not the source of where our faith is found. Our faith is built upon the word of God and the truth of who He is.

Today if you are struggling with fear, I encourage you to draw near to God. Draw near to His word. Draw near to the place of prayer. Give God every area of your life and simply be willing to surrender everything to Him. Fear is never based on truth. It is always based on the lies and the deceptions of the enemy. It is in drawing near to Christ and trusting His word, that we will find freedom and victory.

#### *Prayer*

*Father, I pray that you would remove all fear. Give me your boldness and your courage. May my heart be yielded to your will. May you lead, guide, and direct my life in all things. I pray that fear*

would have no place in my life. That you would deliver me from all fear. Father help me eyes, my mind, and my heart to be focused on you. To build my life upon the promises and truth of your word. I pray that the freedom found in Jesus and all He has done would become the reality of my life. In the name of Jesus, Amen!

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## Day 11

### The Tongue Has The Power Of Life And Death

#### **Proverbs 18:21 NIV**

*The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

The tongue is a powerful thing. When God created all things, He spoke them into existence. God has created man in His image. Both male and female have been created by Him. God has given humanity the ability to communicate. Jesus said that it wasn't what went into a man that made him unclean, but what came out of his mouth (Matt 15:11). The words a person speaks reveals the condition of their heart. A person can claim to love Christ, but if with their mouth they not only praise God but also tear those down who have been created in His image and who He loves, they need to reassess their actions.

Life and death is truly in the tongue. When we speak words that align with the word of God, the will of God, and are anointed by the Holy Spirit, they carry the power to produce life. When we speak words into the lives of others, we are planting seeds. But if our words are against God's word and are not in accordance with the will of God and are actually done under the influence of the enemy, they carry the potential to bring death. We must remember that Satan is the father of lies and every word he speaks is a lie and deception.

The very words we speak not only over our own lives, but the lives of others will produce a harvest. If what we have sown has been to God's kingdom and the work of the Holy Spirit, we will reap the things of God's kingdom (Gal 6:7-8). But if we have sown words and spoken words that are wicked and corrupt, they will produce a harvest that is corrupted and filled with darkness. You see this in the life of a person who has had to endure verbal abuse at the hands of another. The saying

sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me are false. Words are powerful and as Christians and followers of Jesus, we must seek to have our tongue fully surrendered to the work and person of the Holy Spirit.

Many will claim to follow Christ, but the true measure of the impact that Christ is making in the life of a person is their personal conduct. This is no more clearer than the words that are spoken. Our words reveal the true condition of our hearts, they also reveal weak spots. Often when we are pressed, stressed, or facing incredible trial, there may be things we end up saying that we didn't know existed in our hearts. Our Father doesn't condemn us but desires to lead, guide, and teach us through every short coming.

*Prayer*

*Father, I come and ask you to take control of my tongue. I pray that my tongue and my words would be fully surrendered to the work and person of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit I pray my words would bring forth life whenever I speak. I pray I would be a vessel and mouthpiece by which you can touch and impact lives. Help me each day to carefully measure my words and to be quick to listen and slow to speak. Father when I am press on every side, I simply ask for the strength, power, and equipping needed to walk in obedience not only through my actions, but also through my words. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you.*

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## Day 12

### Do Not Lay Up For Yourselves Treasures On Earth

#### **Matthew 6:19 ESV**

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal*

Sometimes we can become so focused on this earth and what is happening that we forget this world is not our home. As followers of Jesus our home is heaven. We live in a time where many are becoming more hopeless by the day. People for a long time believed they could trust government.

They believed that elected officials had their best interest in mind. But as we continue to move forward on this earth, we find out how corrupt people in power are and to put one's hope in man is simply foolishness.

But there is a true place where hope can be found, and His name is Jesus. No matter what happens on the earth, God is still in control. He is sovereign and He is calling us daily to draw near and trust Him. God is calling us to let go of our own strength, wisdom, and understanding and simply surrender everything to His will and purpose. There are moments in our journey and walk with God where things don't make much sense, but often that is the point because our walk with God is a journey of faith. It is not about being in control and it is not about leaning on our own understanding.

Jesus here shows us the key. It is not about laying up for ourselves treasures on this earth. If this life is our only focus and aim, at the end we will find how truly empty that is. This life is but a breath in eternity. When we leave this earth, we will spend eternity in one of two places. We will either spend eternity with God Almighty in His kingdom or we will be eternally separated from God in a place of darkness and torment that is beyond anything we can comprehend or imagine. God's desire is that none would perish, and all would come to everlasting life, but sadly there are many who choose the road that is broad and that leads to destruction.

When we no longer focus on this earth nor laying up treasures, is when we will find true peace. We will let go of all things and simply desire to use every part of our life to glorify and honor Jesus. We will give of our time, talents, and finances to God because we understand they don't actually belong to us. They have been given to us by Him and He simply calls us to be wise stewards of that which He entrusted us with.

Jesus calls us to have a kingdom mindset and to be Christ centered. We are born into this world self-centered. Our sinful nature desires that we and our wants would be the focus and aim of our lives. But sadly, if we continue down this track it only leads to destruction. But when Christ is our aim and His kingdom is our focus, we will find the grace of God covering every aspect of our lives. The impossible will become possible and the supernatural will become the natural way in which we exist.

#### *Prayer*

*Father help me to be kingdom focused. Help me to let go of my selfish wants and desires and to surrender all things into your hands. Father may my heart and mind be one with yours. May you use my life for your glory and may you help me not to lay up treasures on this earth but remember that this world is passing away. That it is not my home. That one day I will live with you in paradise. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 13

### Do Not Be Anxious About Your Life

#### **Matthew 6:25 ESV**

*“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”*

All people face worry and anxiety. When we focus on circumstances before us, and there is much uncertainty involved, we will naturally begin to experience anxiety and worry. But this often happens because our eyes are fixed in the wrong place. We are called to fix our eyes upon Jesus. We are called not to worry about tomorrow. When we simply trust God and let go of everything else, we will experience peace in every area of our lives.

Jesus speaks here about those who worry about what they will eat and why type of food they will eat. Both of these are basic human needs. If our basic human needs are not met, we will struggle in every area of our lives. But Jesus is teaching the disciples not to worry. But to simply trust in God to provide and lead them one step at a time.

If our Father in Heaven knows what we need before we even ask and can provide all we need because He is all powerful, it reveals how foolish and silly it is for us to worry. Worry and anxiety is not based upon truth. When we experience fear or anxiety because we believe there is going to be a lack, we have stopped trusting the Living God. The only way we can truly live and experience the peace that Jesus provides is by surrendering control of everything into the hands of God. That means letting go. That means not trying to figure it out.

The bottom line is Jesus is either God or He isn't. If He is truly God and He is fully in control, there is no room for worry, anxiety, and fear. One of the reasons I believe Christian's experience fear and anxiety because they have a wrong understanding of who Jesus is. They fail to understand that God is concerned with every area of our lives. There is nothing too big or too small that God

is not interest in. He numbers all our hairs and knows all things. We are never hidden from God and no matter where we go, He is always with us. He will provide, He will lead, He will protect, He will see us through because He is God.

*Prayer*

*Father thank you for loving me and providing for all that I need. Help me to let go of fear, worry, and anxiety. Help me to simply trust you. To let go and allow you to lead, guide, and direct my steps. I pray that I would let go of all control of my life to you and everything would be surrendered to your will and power. Father have your way in my heart and life. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 14

### Who Can Hide In Secret Places So That I cannot See Them

#### **Jeremiah 23:24 (New International Version)**

*Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" declares the Lord. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord.*

There is no where that we can hide from God. This includes both the righteous and the wicked. There are times when we may feel and even think that God has abandoned us. But this is not based on truth. God says that He will not abandon us nor forsake us (Psalm 94:14-23). There isn't anywhere that we can go that we will separate ourselves from God or we will not be seen by Him.

There is nothing that can separate us from God. God calls us to trust in Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and not to lean on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6). God desires to lead us every step of the way. To go before us, to provide for every need, to protect us at every turn. Jesus tells us that He is the Good Shepherd (John 10). The role of a Shepherd is not only one

who provides and protects, but one who leads and guides through both easy and difficult parts of the journey.

God also sees the wicked. Often those who take pleasure in unrighteousness believe they are their own god. They believe they are not accountable to anyone. If you ask them if they believe in God, they will often arrogantly laugh at the idea. But God in the end will deal with them according to His justice and righteousness. He takes no pleasure in the destruction of the wicked (Ezek 33:11). His desire is that none would perish but all would come to everlasting life (2 Peter 3:9). God desires that even the wicked would turn in repentance to Him and receive the mercy He has.

It is His kindness that leads to repentance. When we understand how truly loving and merciful God is, we will no longer desire to live in sin but will desire to live for Him every step of the way. May we place our hope and trust in Christ today. May we look and keep our eyes fixed upon the return of Jesus Christ. May we prepare our hearts like a bride who is awaiting her wedding day. Our Lord and Savior is coming very soon.

*Prayer*

*Father help me today to trust you at all times. Help me to let go of the fear and worry that I may experience on a daily basis. I understand how weak and broken I am in myself. I know at times I fix my eyes and heart upon the wrong thing. Help me to let go of my own understanding and to simply trust you at your word. I thank you for your goodness and your love. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 15

### Whoever Loses Their Life For Me Will Find It

**Matthew 16:25 (New International Version)**

*For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.*

The cost to follow Jesus is extraordinary. Jesus calls us to lay down everything for Him and the sake of His kingdom. To follow Jesus doesn't mean we are promised health, wealth, and prosperity. It doesn't mean that God doesn't bless us and that God hasn't blessed people financially in His kingdom. There are those who God has blessed financially in mighty ways because He calls them to use their finances to bless others and advance the kingdom.

But what Jesus calls us to is to lay down everything for Him and His kingdom. He tells us in this world you will have trouble but to fear not He has over come the world (John 16:33). We need to have a proper understanding when we are making a decision to follow Jesus. If we believe that the purpose of Jesus dying on the cross is to make us happy and to give us what we desire, we have come to follow a false Jesus. We have not heard the gospel.

One of the greatest privileges God can give any Christian is to suffer for Him. There is a deep work that happens within us when we are called to suffer. God is brought great glory when we are called to suffer and we don't become bitter towards God, but instead we praise Him with all that is within us. Our lives are called to be a living sacrifice unto the Lord. Our lives no longer belong to us.

The major issue is there has been a false gospel preached in America. It is a gospel that focuses on man instead of a gospel focused on God. All that we have is because of the grace and mercy of God. It is His kindness that leads to repentance. May we heed the call to lay down all for the sake of Jesus Christ. May our one aim and desire be His glory. May our eyes and heart be fixed upon Him.

*Prayer*

*Father I thank you today for calling me and finding me. I thank you that by your grace I am saved. Jesus I thank you for giving everything for my salvation and freedom. I thank you for redeeming my sin and my shame. I thank you that in you I am set free. I thank you that in you I am free. I praise you because you are my God and may you enable me to lay down everything for the sake of your mighty name. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 16

### The Lord Is Not Slow In Keeping His Promises

#### **2 Peter 3:9 (New International Version)**

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

God is incredibly patience. Many times, we look at the wickedness of our world and we may wonder God where is your justice. But God's desire is to pour out mercy. His desire is that all would come to repentance. God understands how destructive sin is. Sin is enticing and it appeals to our fleshly nature. But in the end, it will destroy the person who gives themselves over to it.

Jesus said that He came to give abundant life (John 10:10). True life can only be found in knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior. If we pursue the selfish sinful desires within us it will be enjoyable for a season, but in the end it will destroy us. God's desire is not that we would be overcome by sin, death, and destruction, but God's desire is that we would come to find the forgiveness and healing that is found in Him alone.

There are some in this generation who believe placing your hope and faith upon Jesus Christ is foolishness. They believe that the return of Jesus is a simple fairy tale. But the days we live in mirror the times of Noah. During the days of Noah before the flood and judgement of God came the earth was marked by violence and wickedness. We see this in our day and hour. The more people turn from God and His ways, the more their lives are overcome by darkness and wickedness. Today we have people who desire to champion putting to death the unborn and in the end they will be destroyed by their own wickedness and sin.

As we await the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may our eyes be fixed upon the Lord and may we focus daily growing in Him. May we set aside time to spend in His word and prayer and as we have opportunity, may we proclaim the gospel to those around us. May we simply be willing to be used by God and desire to glorify and honor His name in all things.

#### *Prayer*

*Father lead and guide me this day. Help me in this hour not to focus on what the enemy is doing, but to see what you are doing in the unseen places. Daily you are preparing a people and bride for your soon coming. Help me to be the son or daughter you have called me to be. Prune from my life anything that would hinder your work and may all things be surrendered to you. Thank you for your love, grace, and mercy. Have your way in my life in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

## Day 17

### I Have Hidden Your Word In My Heart

#### **Psalms 119:11 NIV**

*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

God calls us to hide His word in our hearts. What does this mean and how do we practically do this? As we spend time daily in God's word and meditate upon the promises and truth we are reading, the word of God becomes written on our hearts. The more we spend time in God's word on a daily basis, the more it transforms and impacts us.

The reason some struggle in their walk with Christ and their faith falters is because they fail to daily spend time in God's word. There are many things that desire to distract us and steal the time we could spend alone with the Lord in fellowship. The truth is those things that we truly value in life we will give priority too. The problem for some is that often times there are things that simply take the place that Jesus deserves. We must diligently guard our hearts against idolatry.

Today you may be in a place where you are struggling and spending time in God's word has not been a priority. You may go days or maybe weeks in between spending time in God's word. But thankfully our Father is gracious and today you can begin to commit yourself to the study of God's word. Be willing to hide the word of God in your heart. Be willing to meditate on His word throughout the course of the day. Because of technology today we can have the word of God with us all the time. We can read or listen to it digitally. We can bring our bible with us wherever we go and when we have time, open it and give the Lord opportunity to speak to us. He desires to lead, guide, and direct us, but we must make time and room for it to take place.

#### *Prayer*

*Father help me to hide your word in my heart. Help me to be the person you have called me to be. Guard my heart and mind from distractions. Prune from my life anything that would try to hinder what you desire to do. Father take my life and use it for your glory. Forgive me today in the places I have sinned and fallen short. Continue to lead, guide, and direct me and help me to know your voice.*

## Reflective Question

1. What areas of your life need to be pruned by the Lord and are you willing to allow God to do what He needs to do to position you to walk in His purposes and His plans?

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## Day 18

### If You Declare With Your Mouth, “Jesus Is Lord”

#### **Romans 10:9 NIV**

*If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

We must declare with our mouth Jesus is Lord. Jesus tells us if we are ashamed of Him before men, He will be ashamed of us before His Father in Heaven (Luke 9:26). If we are ashamed of the Lord and His word it means in the presence of the world and nonbelievers we act like we don't know Jesus or honor the word of God.

Where the rubber truly meets the road is how we live on a daily basis. Our lives reveal if we are truly born again and saved. Yes many may say they love Jesus and even would carry the title Christian. But are they truly born again. If we are saved by faith, does it really matter how we live? The answer is yes.

Faith without works is dead. True saving faith impacts a persons heart and mind. It sets the person free from sin and changes who they are. When we come to salvation we are born again. Yes we will still face temptation, but we are not pursuing it. We may even struggle with sin in our lives, but when we do we are grieved by it because the Lord is grieved. Sadly, many in this generation

have heard a false gospel and a false Jesus. If we truly desire to be born again we must believe in our hearts and declare it with our mouths. Jesus must be Lord and Savior. We must repent and surrender all things to Him.

*Prayer*

*Father help me each day to abide in you. Help me to not pursue the fleshly desires that wage war against my soul. May all of my heart, mind, and strength be surrendered to your leading and guidance. May you have your way and may you continue to mold and shape me. Thank you for your grace and mercy. Thank you for your patience. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflective Question

1. Is there anything in your life that has not be surrendered to Jesus?
2. Is Jesus truly Lord of your life?

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## Day 19

### He Heals The Brokenhearted

#### **Psalms 147:3 NIV**

*He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

Jesus never said this would be easy. There are things we face in this life that can be hard, difficult, and heart breaking. It can even seem at times that God doesn't care and has forsaken us. But the truth is in our most difficult and hard moments the Lord is close to us, He holds us, and He comforts us.

Satan will try to convince us that God has abandoned us or God doesn't care. The enemy desires to turn our hearts away from the Lord. The farther we get away from the Lord in fellowship, the more dangerous it becomes. But we must build our lives upon the promises of God and not what we are experiencing or feeling in the present moment.

True healing and restoration are found in Jesus Christ. But the key is in our hardest and most difficult moments, we must draw close to Jesus. Yes, the enemy will try all that he can to separate us from fellowship with the Lord, but even in our hard and difficult moments, the Lord has a plan and purpose. We may not always understand it, but God does. He tells us to be still and know that He is God. He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.

*Prayer*

*Father help me today to trust you. Help me to let go of my fear, my pain, and any bitterness I have. Forgive me in any way that I have fallen short. Help me in my weakness and help me to build my life upon your word alone. I thank you that you are in control and that you will never leave me, nor forsake me. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflective Question

1. What areas of your life do you need healing today?
2. Is there any bitterness in your heart that needs to be confessed and let go of?

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Day 20

Therefore be imitators of God

**Ephesians 5:1-2 NKJV**

*5 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*

We are called to be imitators of God. He is our Father and we are called to reflect His character and nature in all things. This requires that we not only receive Christ as Savior, but we build our lives on the word of God. There are some today who believe they can follow Christ and pick and choose when it comes to the word of God like it is a menu at a restaurant.

We have been adopted by the Living God. He has made it possible that we can come to repentance and saving faith in Jesus Christ. We are called to walk in love. The only way we can walk in love is by abiding in Christ on a daily basis. Jesus has told us we can do nothing in ourselves. When we understand how weak and broken in ourselves, we will stop relying on our own strength and wisdom and instead surrender all things to Jesus Christ.

We are called to be Living Sacrifices (Romans 12:1). Paul here writes that our lives are called to be a pleasing aroma to the Lord. It is important that we daily take time to reflect if we are truly living for Christ or living for ourselves. We all will stand before Jesus Christ in judgement. As believers our judgement before Christ will not be one of whether or not we are saved, but what we did with the gifts and talents we were giving. May we choose to walk in love, may in everything we do we bring glory to the name of Jesus.

### *Prayer*

*Father lead and guide me each day to walk in love. Help me to love others as you have loved me. Help me to keep my heart and mind focused on your kingdom. Fill me daily with The Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit lead and guide me as I live to glorify the name of Jesus in all things. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

### Reflective Question

1. Is anything in your life hindering you from walking in the love of Christ?

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## Day 21

### Therefore Receive One Another

#### **Romans 15:7 NKJV**

*<sup>7</sup> Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.*

Everything we do in our lives should be done to the glory of God. The way we treat one another is one of the greatest ways that we can bring glory to Jesus Christ. Jesus has called us to love one another. But often the enemy will try to bring discord and division in the body of Christ. The enemy will work to get our eyes off Jesus and instead focused on areas in our brothers and sisters that may drive us crazy or in which they fall very short.

But the greatest way for us to receive one another and walk in love is abiding in Christ. He is the vine and we are the branches. It is through the grace of God and the power of The Holy Spirit that makes this possible. In our humanity we will fail miserably. But it has been designed by God this way. Jesus has designed this journey that it requires us to rely on Him.

The world that we live in is broken. It is mired in sin. As the world continues to become more and more wicked, it become more divided. Jesus told us the love of most would grow cold. But this is where things are different for the born-again Christ. We are called to walk in love and walk according to the leading of The Holy Spirit. The more we grow in Christ, and we encounter Him, the more we are changed and transformed. Receiving one another will not be difficult when we are led by Jesus in all things.

#### *Prayer*

*Father help me to walk in your love and be filled with your grace. Help me to have grace for my brothers and sisters in Christ. Help me to forgive and when I am offended or wounded, help me to*

*let go and forgive. May we as your people be united and may our hearts be fixed on your coming kingdom.*

### Reflective Question

1. In what ways have you been wounded in the body of Christ?
2. Are there things that you need to forgive others for?

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## Day 22

### No One Is Holy Like The Lord

#### **I Samuel 2:2 NKJV**

*“No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.*

Jesus is our rock and our sure foundation. God is holy. The word holy means awesome, commanding respect, holy, or sacred. There is none like our God. Whenever we face trials or tribulation our hearts and minds must be fixed upon the Lord and we must cry out to Him alone. The sad truth is that often we may look to other places for help. But there is nothing we will face that is greater than our God and there is nothing that God is not aware of.

He has designed our lives so that everything we face in life will shape and mold us for the purpose He has created us for. The devil will try to overwhelm our mind and our emotions. But we must remember that the devil is a liar and as we draw near to the Lord, He will draw near to us. He will always give us away out. As we seek the Lord and face battles daily, the Lord is calling us to trust Him and simply be led by Him.

When we are led by The Holy Spirit in all things, we will find that God’s blessing and presence fills our lives. If we will take time each day to spend time in God’s presence, we will come to understand His leading and His voice. His voice will become crystal clear, and this is very important when we feel surrounded by the enemy. Instead of succumbing to our emotions and being led by our emotions, we instead will be led and guided by God’s Spirit. We will find that what the devil meant to kill and destroy us will be used for God’s purpose and His glory. Keep pressing on and keep your heart and mind focused on Jesus. God is in control, and we truly serve and awesome God.

*Prayer*

*Father keep my heart and mind fixed upon you. Help me to see you in all situations. When I am pressed on every side, help me to rely upon your grace and your truth. May your strength truly be made perfect in my weakness. May every situation and circumstance be fully surrendered to you. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflection Questions

1. What battles are you currently facing in your life that are trying to take your eyes off Jesus?
2. When you feel overwhelmed do you tend to draw near to God or isolate from Him?
3. What is God trying to teach you right now?

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## Day 23

### Seek Yahweh While He Lets Himself Be Found

#### **Isaiah 55:5-7 Lexham English Bible**

*5 Look! You shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that does not know you shall run to you, because of Yahweh your God, and the holy one of Israel, for he has glorified you.” 6 Seek Yahweh while he lets himself be found; call him while he is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his*

*way, and the man of sin his thoughts. And let him return to Yahweh, that he may take pity on him, and to our God, for he will forgive manifold.*

God calls us to seek Him while He can be found. Israel's history is one of being called by God. Initially God established a covenant with Abraham that was passed on to Isaac and then to Jacob. Jacob's name would be changed to Israel, and he would have twelve sons by four different women. God's word is filled with broken people God has used to accomplish His purposes. If we ever think we are unqualified to be used by God, the good news is everyone is unqualified to be used by God.

It is God who pursued Israel. It is God who choose to set Israel free from its bondage in Egypt. God didn't have to, but in His mercy, He choose to. God established the law on Mount Sinai. It was given to Moses who communicated it to God's people. God was very clear in His word that if they honored His word and His law that great blessing would be poured out upon them as a nation. But if they lived in rebellion and rejected the ways of God, they would no longer be able to live in the land. But even if they were removed from the land the Lord in His mercy would not abandon them but simply discipline them for a time.

This is the case with many who follow the Lord. There are many who begin with Jesus Christ, but because of the temptations and wiles of the enemy, they are taken off track of where God calls them to be. God in His mercy disciplines them as any loving father would who sees their child making wrong decisions that are self-destructive. This was the case with Israel. God sent them prophet after prophet, but each time the word of the Lord was ignored, and God knew that they had to be removed for a season so that their hearts would be prepared to walk rightly before the Lord. What ultimately got them removed from the land was the worship of idols and God would place them in a foreign land where they were surrounded by idols and some day when they would return, they would want nothing to do with idols.

The solution when God is discipling us is to turn to the Lord and turn from our sin. Sin and rebellion will always lead to destruction. God desires the very best for us according to His will. It doesn't mean that we will always have what we want because there are things, we may desire in our selfish human nature that if brought into our lives would be destructive. Therefore it requires surrender on our part. It requires that our will and our desires be surrendered to Almighty God. This is where the abundant life is found. When all things are surrendered to Jesus Christ.

Ultimately God desires to forgive. God calls us to return to Him. To turn from our wickedness. Not to merely confess our sin because simply confession without turning from sin means nothing. If we have truly come with a heart that is grieved against God, we will not only confess our sin to Him, we will turn from it fully and begin to live for Him. God desires to take pity on us. He desires to forgive us fully. The Lord desires to pardon abundantly and forgive generously. God is not holding forgiveness back from His people. But He requires repentance, He requires confession. He tells us if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. May we heed the

conviction of the Holy Spirit and learn from the history of Israel. May we never treat sin lightly but understand how destructive it truly is.

*Prayer*

*Father forgive me of any sin or anything I have done that has broken your heart. Help me to turn from my sin and to live fully for you on a daily basis. Lead, guide and direct me in every area of my life. May my life be a living and pleasing sacrifice unto you. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflection Questions

1. Are there areas of sin in your life that need to be confessed?
2. Have you been justifying things in your life you know are wrong?
3. What is keeping your from fully turn to God today and living for Him?

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## Day 24

### You Keep Him In Perfect Peace

#### **Isaiah 26:3-4 English Standard Version**

<sup>3</sup> *You keep him in perfect peace  
whose mind is stayed on you,  
because he trusts in you.*

<sup>4</sup> *Trust in the LORD forever,  
for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.*

The Lord will keep us in perfect peace. When we think of the peace of God we find from God's word that it is beyond human understanding. When human beings think about peace they often think it is the absence of trial or conflict. But this is very different when we come to understand the peace of God. The peace of God is not only supernatural, but also tangible. It can be felt and experienced and is often felt amid conflict and trial.

A wonderful picture of the peace of God is during a storm a mother bird covers her chicks in her nest. The mother bird knows the storm is raging and can feel it, but the baby birds find protection from the storm in the shadow of the wing of their mother. The mother is using her body to protect her young. This is what David wrote about in Psalm 91. Where we find the peace of God and experience it is in the shadow of the Almighty. It is in the secret place of the Most High. We must become a person of God's presence for the peace of God to permeate every area of our lives.

The key to experiencing the peace of God is having our mind and heart stayed upon the Lord. It is very easy to become focused on circumstances and trials that we are facing. But the Lord tells us that perfect peace is found in keeping our mind and heart fixed upon the Lord. This becomes a reality when we daily abide in Christ. As we daily draw near to the Lord in prayer and in His word, we will find that our minds and hearts are stayed upon the Lord even in the most difficult circumstances.

Ultimately, we are called to trust the Lord. He is our everlasting rock. He is our unshakable foundation. He is unchanging and nothing we face is greater than God. He calls us to trust Him and not to lean on our own understanding. It is very easy to begin to look at circumstances and try to figure out how God will move or how we can figure it out. But God isn't calling us to do that. He is calling us to trust His leading and to trust the process. God has a purpose in everything, and He will work all things together for our good for those who love Him and follow Him. He is not surprised by anything but if we desire His peace in all and every circumstance, we must always trust the Lord and keep our minds and hearts fixed upon Him.

### *Prayer*

*Father help me to trust when I am afraid. Help me to trust when I feel overwhelmed and I experience anxiety and fear. I know when I experience fear it is not based on truth. You have told that you have not given me a spirit of fear but of love, power, and sound mind. Help me to be the son or daughter you have called me to be. Fill my life with your peace and may your peace touch those around me that do not know you. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

### Reflection Questions

1. What are you going through today that is trying to take your eyes off of God?
2. What is God trying to teach you right now through the challenges you are facing?
3. When was the last time you got alone with God and simply gave Him space and time to talk to you?

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## Day 25

### For I Know The Plans I Have For You

#### **Jeremiah 29:10-14 New Living Translation**

*<sup>10</sup> This is what the LORD says: “You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> In those days when you pray, I will listen. <sup>13</sup> If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you,” says the LORD. “I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land.”*

There is always hope with Almighty God. These words were originally spoken by the prophet Jeremiah as he prophesied that because of Judah’s disobedience and rebellion that God would send them into captivity. God would use the nation of Babylon as His instrument of correction. For seventy years Israel would be in captivity, but there would come a day when God would bring them back into the land. Not because they deserved it or earned it, but because of the grace and mercy of Almighty God.

God has given us His word that is filled with His promises. His promises it that He has not only created Israel with a plan and purpose and that because of this they have a hope and future, but He has also created us with a plan and purpose. Everything we go through in our lives as we trust Jesus Christ is designed by Almighty God. It doesn’t mean that everything is easy, but everything has a purpose.

The plans God has for us are for a hope and a future. They are not for disaster but are for our good. There are times when it can feel like all hope is lost. It can feel like our lives are headed for disaster either based on terrible decisions we have made, or what others have done to us. But through it all God calls us to trust Him. He has shown time and time again that He is always faithful. He tells us

that His thoughts and ways are much different than our own, and therefore we cannot lead on our own understanding.

God promises when we pray that He will listen. Sometimes we may feel like our prayers go no higher than the ceiling. But this is simply a lie of the enemy. God has told us that when we pray according to His will, that it is done (1 John 4:15). But this is the key praying according to the Father's will. We must seek the Living God and be patient for Him to reveal His will and His purpose. This can be difficult in the times and culture we live in today that is a microwave culture. But there is even a purpose in the waiting. God is molding and shaping and often the longer we have to wait, the more we are transformed and changed by the Lord.

God calls us to seek Him with our whole heart and we will indeed find Him. There is never a time when we seek after God that we will not find Him. It doesn't mean He will answer every question or request we have in prayer. But it does mean that we will find Him. When our desire becomes to spend time and enjoy His presence, prayer and seeking Him will take on a whole new dimension.

Ultimately God will be found by us and He will ultimately bring healing and restoration in our lives. We may not always understand all that God is doing, but we can know in our hearts that He has a plan. He is continually molding and shaping us for every purpose He has designed us for. When we come to Christ our lives no longer belong to us, they belong to Him. Nothing we go through is wasted and all of it has a purpose in His kingdom.

### *Prayer*

*Father thank you for shaping and molding my life according to your plans and purposes. May my life be used to glorify the name of Jesus. May you give me eyes to see and ears to hear. Father help me to walk in your purposes and your plans and help me to trust you even in the moments when I don't feel you or understand what you are doing. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

### Reflection Questions:

1. Are there moments in which you feel God has abandoned you?
2. In this current season of your life what is it that God is trying to teach you?
3. In what ways has God demonstrated His faithfulness in the past?

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## Day 26

### Behold I Am Sending You Out As Sheep In The Midst Of Wolves

#### **Matthew 10:16-20 ESV**

*16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. 19 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

As the world becomes more anti-God we may become frightened or scared at the thought of facing persecution. There are many in the United States today who have lived under freedom and have taken it for granted. We may have faced persecution at some points, but many of our brothers and sisters around the world face persecution that we cannot fully comprehend.

But we may wonder if persecution comes to our door or into our lives, will we be able to stand? Will we have the words to stand up for Jesus and be faithful to the call and commission He has given us? The truth is that God has promised in His word that we don't need to fear what we will say or even if we will be able to stand. For it is the work of the Spirit of God in us that enables us to stand and speak for the Lord. It is The Holy Spirit who prepares us in advance and when that day and hour comes, it is the Spirit of God who enables us to stand for the Lord.

But intimacy with the Lord is key. We must daily abide in Christ. We must draw near to His presence and spend time in His word. God's desire is that we would meditate upon the promises of His word and that the Spirit of God would mold and shape our minds into the mind of Christ. Our journey with Jesus is about being transformed and molded into His image. When Christ came He modeled for us how He has called us to live. But what we learn from studying the life of Jesus is that in all that Jesus did, He did so by the leading and guidance of The Holy Spirit.

Jesus says that He is sending us out as sheep among wolves. Wherever we go there are those who are lost and don't know Jesus. There are those who will hate those who represent Jesus because they don't know Him and have been deceived by the enemy. Those who choose to stand for Jesus will face suffering and pain of some kind but even in the midst of the suffering and pain, God will use all things together for our good.

Many today may be attracted to what is known as the health and wealth gospel. It is a message of God's blessing but often doesn't speak of suffering or even the will of God. What it turns the gospel into is a self-centered message of what can Jesus do for me. How can Jesus bless me. Does Jesus desire to bless us, the answer is yes. Does Jesus bless the lives of those who follow Him, the answer is yes. But often God does His greatest work when we find ourselves in the midst of pain and suffering and we learn to trust God and hold fast to His word.

May we not fear what the enemy will throw our way. May we trust the Lord and know in the needed hour that the Holy Spirit will give us the words to speak. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells within us. This should give us great encouragement and hope to know in this journey we are on that we are not alone.

*Prayer*

*Father today I ask that you would lead and guide me. Help me in my weakness to be a witness for you. Fill me with your Spirit on a daily basis and remove all fear, doubt, and unbelief from my heart. Father have your way and may your will be done. In the midst of persecution, suffering, or pain may your strength be perfected in my weakness. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflection:

1. Have you ever faced serious persecution?
2. Does the thought of persecution frighten you?
3. How much time during the day do you find yourself spending in prayer and God's presence?

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## Day 27

### I Pray That The Eyes Of Your Heart May Be Enlightened

#### **Ephesians 1:18-19 New International Version**

*<sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength*

It is The Holy Spirit who enables us to understand. It is The Holy Spirit who gives us revelation of who Jesus Christ is and all that we have in Him. Therefore Paul prayed so diligently for the churches he planted and spent his life investing in. Paul understood that all he accomplished wasn't because of his ability, his wisdom, or his own strength. It was because of Jesus working through him through the person of The Holy Spirit.

Our hope is in Jesus Christ alone. We live in a world that is becoming hopeless by the day. The more that sin enters in, the more that hope is stolen and replaced by darkness and sorrow. So many today suffer because they have rejected God's plan for their lives. They have bought into the lie of the enemy. It is only when we place our hope and trust in Jesus that we truly come to find true hope. This was Paul's prayer not only for the believers in Ephesus, but for the body of Christ. It was inspired and led by The Holy Spirit.

We are holy because of the blood of Jesus Christ. Our inheritance is in Heaven because of Jesus Christ. Everything we have is because of the finished work of Jesus. We don't earn our way into heaven and everything we are given by God is a gift from Him. He loves us more than we know and understand. He is calling us to trust Him on a daily basis.

God's power is without limit. It is available to all those who have placed their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Many Christians struggle because they don't know all that is available to them in Christ. It requires that the Holy Spirit reveals this to us. When He does it changes everything. We understand that in every circumstance we face we will overcome because of who Jesus is and all that He has accomplished.

#### *Prayer*

*Father help me to understand all that I have and am in Jesus. Help me to understand the power of the resurrection. Help me to understand the hope I have in Christ. May you remove from my life*

*anything that would hinder what you desire to do. May you break and demolish every lie of the devil that may be holding me back from your plans and purposes. In the name of Jesus.*

Reflection:

1. Do you truly understand all that is available to you in Jesus?
2. What lies have you allowed yourself to believe that have hindered the work of God?
3. Do you desire greater intimacy with The Holy Spirit?

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Day 28

He Made Know To Us The Mystery of His Will

**Ephesians 1:9-10 NIV**

*he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*

What is the mystery of His will? It is salvation being offered to the gentiles. When God called Abraham, He told him that all nations would be blessed through him. The nation of Israel are God's covenant people and before the coming of Jesus, the way of salvation was not open to the gentiles. Before the coming of Jesus for a person to come to faith in the Living God they would have to become circumcised and come under the law.

But in Christ the way of salvation has been made open to all people. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Salvation is a free gift of God and God has sent His Son into the world

not to condemn the world but to save the world (John 3:17). To those reading the words of the apostle Paul who came from a Jewish background they may have been resistant to see the grace of God extended to the gentiles. But it has always been God's desire that none would perish but all come to everlasting life.

It is God's good pleasure to offer salvation. All salvation is found through faith in Christ alone. Whether a person enters God's kingdom or not is only dependent on one thing, who do they say Jesus is. Jesus is the only one who can save. He is the way, the truth, and the life. There aren't many ways, but only one and through the precious shed blood of Jesus forgiveness and redemption has been made possible.

God has a specific time for all things. There was a specific day and hour when Jesus would come, be born of the virgin Mary, live under the Jewish law fully as a man, never sin, and eventually take the place of all humanity upon the cross. Through Jesus Christ, the wrath we deserve was poured out on Him. Through Him we find forgiveness of sin and redemption.

All things are brought to unity because now the Jew and Gentile become one in Jesus Christ. There is no longer any distinction. The only distinction that exists are those who are saved and those who are not. Those who are not saved choose to reject the precious forgiveness and salvation that is provided in Jesus. We who are in Christ should live every day in thanksgiving and praise knowing our sins are forgiven and we are saved by the grace of God alone.

#### *Prayer*

*Father thank you for saving me. Thank you that the way of salvation has been made available to all people. Thank you that regardless of what I have done, that you have opened the way of salvation and made it available as a gift. Help me each day to live for you. To surrender all things in my life to your Lordship. Forgive me every time I have fallen short and may I simply live to glorify your name. May you increase and may I decrease. Jesus may I simply love you more and more each day. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

#### Reflection:

1. What areas of your life need to be fully surrendered to Jesus?
  2. Is there anything you are holding back or hiding from God today?
  3. Is there anything that needs to be confessed?
  4. Are you failing to forgive yourself even though God has fully forgiven you?
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## Day 29

### Sanctify Them In The Truth

#### **John 17:16-18**

#### **New American Standard Bible**

*<sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> Just as You sent Me into the world, I also sent them into the world.*

Jesus here is speaking of the disciples. This is His high priestly prayer before going through all He would endure during Calvary. His concern was not only for the disciples, but for all those who would come to saving faith in Him. He is our faithful and compassionate High Priest. Jesus understands us and what we go through more than anyone else. He knows every challenge we will face, He is at the right hand of the Father now interceding for us.

We are not of this world. Our citizenship is in Heaven (Phil 3:20). Jesus is not of this world. He was born into this world of the virgin Mary, but it was the Holy Spirit who came upon Mary. Jesus never stopped being fully God, but He fully became man when He was born in this world. But He came to lay down His life and all those who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ would become sons and daughters of the Living God. This world is not our home, and we must remember that each day we wake up. We are always faced with a choice; to either live fully for Christ or chase after the emptiness of this world.

We are sanctified by the truth. The word sanctify means to consecrate, to make holy, hallow, treat as holy. The word of God is truth. Many in this age will talk about subjective truth. They will use phrases like my truth or your truth. But there is absolute truth, and it is only found one place. It is found in God's word because it is from Him. He is the creator of all things and therefore He is the only one who has the right to determine what is truth and what is not. Many will reject Him and His word, but because He loves humanity, He has given us freewill. But those who build their lives on the word of God will be transformed and indeed sanctified. The very character and nature of Christ will be produced within us.

Jesus' prayer is that we would be sanctified. So many today treat their relationship with Christ as a light thing. Many today believe we can claim to love Christ yet live in sin and live against the word of God. If we are truly born again, we will love the word of God, we will build our lives upon it. We will not find ways to try to compromise or justify the sin in our lives. But sadly, there are many who claim to be in Christ who are not born again. They don't know the true Jesus because if they did, they would repent of their sin and begin to live for Christ daily.

Jesus continues His prayer stating, "as you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world". Jesus prays this for the immediate disciples He had spent His life investing in. But this is also prayed for all of us who find ourselves in this world and we have been given a mission by Jesus. We are called to go and make disciples of all nations. We are sent out into the world. The world is dark, wicked, and sinful. But our mission is to find those who are broken and lost in sin and introduce them to Jesus. We are called to plant seeds and water those seeds, but ultimately it is The Holy Spirit who will bring the increase.

May we never treat this relationship lightly. May we seek after Jesus with our whole heart. May we daily spend time in the word of God and allow the work and person of The Holy Spirit to transform and mold us from the inside out. Jesus desire is we would be sanctified and for this to happen we must surrender daily to the work and person of The Holy Spirit.

### *Prayer*

*Heavenly Father help me in my weakness. Help me to turn from anything that is displeasing to you. Prune my life of everything that would hinder your work and will in my life. Lead, guide, and direct my life by The Holy Spirit. Fill me with your power and strength to fulfill all you desire to do in my life. In the might name of Jesus, Amen!*

### Reflection:

1. Are there areas of compromise in your life?
2. Have you ever spent time meditating over verse seventeen and what it means to be sanctified?
3. Take time today to seek the Lord for who He is calling you to share the truth of Christ with.

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## Day 30

### Greetings, Favored One

#### **Luke 1:26-28 (New American Standard Bible)**

*Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."*

I often wonder what must have gone through the mind of Mary as she received this word from the angel Gabriel. She most likely would have been a sophomore or junior in high school if this story took place in modern society. I often reflect on the gravity of what she is being told. She was chosen by God to carry the Son of God and raise Him as her Son on this earth. She was betrothed to be married and would become pregnant before ever consummating her marriage or knowing Joseph intimately.

Fear naturally would have filled her heart. What would Joseph say? How would Joseph respond? What would people say in society around her as they would watch a woman who is not yet married become pregnant? But in all this the Lord comforted her with the words "*Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you*"

There is so many times in scripture that God says to His servants to not be afraid. Fear is one of the great weapons of Satan to try to destroy and paralyze the purposes of God. But Mary's response was that of a servant. She willingly surrendered to the will of God. She didn't ask God a million questions of how all of this would come about. Ultimately God chose Mary because of her heart. He knew that when this commission came to her that she would surrender to the will and purpose of God. Mary was essential in the coming of the Messiah.

When we think about our own lives and the calling and anointing God has given us, we may be fearful of what we sense the Lord is leading us to do. We live in days in which things continue to

become more and more anti-Christian every single day. But amid every challenge and trial we must know that God's grace rest upon us and He is always with us. He will never leave us nor forsake us.

We must let go of fear and worry. We must not be ruled by fear, but instead we must walk and do all things with faith. If we are truly walking by faith our eyes are fixed on Jesus and even though we can't see nor understand what God is doing, we know He is faithful to fulfill every plan and purpose because of His word. Time and time again He has demonstrated that regardless of the gravity of the commission or call, that He is the one who accomplishes His will and purpose through His people. He simply calls us to surrender to His will.

*Prayer*

*Father help me in my weakness and my fear. Help me to overcome the assaults of the enemy and to trust you at all times. I pray my heart and life would be yielded to your will. I pray you would help me to rely on your grace and follow the leading of The Holy Spirit. Father thank you for your goodness and love and that you choose to use broken vessels. May my life glorify and honor you and ultimately may all glory be given to Jesus. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflection

1. What has God called you to do?
2. What causes you the greatest fear when you think about the call and anointing of God on your life?
3. Do you truly believe that all things are possible with Jesus?
4. Have you allowed fear to imprison you and master you?

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Day 31

The People Who Walk In Darkness Will See A Great Light

**Isaiah 9:2 New American Standard Bible**

*<sup>2</sup> The people who walk in darkness  
Will see a great light;  
Those who live in a dark land,  
The light will shine on them.*

Isaiah writes these words concerning the coming Messiah. The people who walk in darkness at the Jewish people of Jesus day. His ministry would be primarily to the Jewish people. But sadly, during His time on the earth they failed to see that He was the Messiah. Many thronged Jesus and they were drawn by His signs, wonders, and miracles. But what caused many to walk away and, in the end, crucify Him was the truth.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). We all walk in darkness because of sin. Before coming to Christ, we are enslaved to sin and the selfish desires that rage within us. We truly believe the lie of the devil that if we just obtain that which we selfishly desire we will be satisfied. But no matter how much we obtain, it is never enough. There is a God size whole in all of us that can only be filled and satisfied by Jesus.

It was during the time of Jesus earthly ministry that the light of Almighty God shined on the Jewish people. They were under the iron hand of Rome. They believed the Messiah would set them free from the control of Rome. But what they failed to understand is the Messiah was coming to save them from their sin. For it is sin that separates humanity from the Living God. He desires to pour out mercy and salvation. He desires that people would receive the free gift of salvation. But requires repentance and this is where many struggle and reject the mercy of God. They love their sin and selfishness more than they love the Living God.

Jesus today stands with His arms open wide. No matter what you have done or where you have come from, if you don't know Jesus, He is offering you new life. It is in Him that our sins are washed away by His precious blood. It is in Him that we are declared righteous in the eyes of God. Everything we have is because of Jesus. Simply receive what He has for you today. Stop running and stop fighting. Simply surrender and receive.

*Prayer*

*Father help me in my weakness. I know that I am broken and lost without you. Help me to surrender all of my life to you and that you Jesus would truly become Lord and Savior. Forgive me of any sin. Forgive me of anything in my life that would hinder what you desire to do and prune from my life anything that would stand in the way of your purpose and destiny. May I walk in every purpose and plan you have for me. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflection

1. What things from your life need to be pruned?

2. Are you fighting with God about something He is calling you to surrender?
3. What is your greatest fear or hesitation that is keeping you from surrender?
4. How much do you truly love Jesus?

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## Day 32

### Where The Spirit Of The Lord is

#### **2 Corinthians 3:17 New International Version**

*<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

Paul writes where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. This freedom Paul speaks of is the freedom that is only found when we come into right relationship with Jesus Christ. When the body of Christ comes together, the person and work of the Holy Spirit is present to change and transforms lives.

We are enslaved by Satan and the sinful desires that rage within us before coming to Christ. Before we come to Christ, we truly believe that we will be satisfied if we just obtain that which the enemy puts in front of us that we are chasing. But we fail to see and understand that if we do obtain that which we are chasing that it will actually destroy us. Before Christ we are enslaved to the devil. He has authority over our lives. We are mere puppets to be used by him to cause as much destruction as possible.

But when we come to Christ everything changes. When God in His mercy opens our eyes by granting us repentance, we come into right relationship with the Living God, the chains that once held us in bondage have been broken, and we are born again. We are adopted into God's family and our father and master is no longer the devil, our Father and Master now becomes God Almighty. Jesus came to give life and give abundantly and the way He does this is by taking on the wrath and punishment we rightly deserve.

Wherever the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. This not only impacts the body of Christ when we come together corporately but also the individual believer on a daily basis. We may be a person who struggles with sins of all kinds. Addiction may be ruling and destroying our lives, but in Christ we are a brand-new creation. In Christ we are set free. In Christ we have true freedom. If we truly desire to be free it begins with knowing and walking with Jesus. As we are abiding in Him on a daily basis, His very life is produced within us. The freedom that is found in Him alone becomes a reality in our lives.

Today may we use the freedom we have in Christ to glorify and magnify His name. May it not be used to indulge the sinful nature. May we truly understand that we are children of the Most High God and our sole purpose when we are in Christ is to magnify and glorify Him through everything. May all things be in His hands and may we live in a place of continually thanksgiving. For wherever the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. If a person be in Christ, the Spirit of God lives within them. May our desire be to be filled with the Spirit daily in a greater way.

*Prayer*

*Father move in my life according to your will. Have your way in my heart and mind. Help me to fully understand the freedom I have in you. Thank you for forgiving me. Thank you for choosing and calling me. Thank you that you have created me with a specific plan and purpose. Fill me daily with your Spirit. May all that I am be fully surrendered to your will. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflection

1. Is there anything in your life that needs to be surrendered today?
2. Are you truly walking in the freedom that is available to you in Jesus?
3. If you are not walking in freedom, what is holding you back?
4. Do you find yourself often focusing on the past and things that you cannot change?

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## Day 34

### Do Not Lay Up For Yourselves Treasures On Earth

#### **Matthew 6:19-21 (New King James Version)**

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Focus is everything. Jesus is calling us to focus upon our inheritance in Heaven. He tells us to not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth. If we build our whole lives for the here and now, it can all be gone in a second. It will break down over time and when we view things on this earth in light of what awaits in eternity, we see that there is no comparison.

Many today will say you only live once. Well, this is not biblically true. For our lives on this earth are but a breath. In a moment everything can end. One thing you come to understand is the older you get, the faster it seems time actually moves. When you are young it seems, it will take forever to become older. But as you continue to grow older you see how much you should have treasured the youth that you have because it is gone in a flash.

But our true focus must be upon Jesus Christ and His coming kingdom. We will rule and reign with Him. As we live for Christ each day, we are storing away treasure in Heaven. We will all stand before the judgement seat of Christ for those who have come to saving faith in Jesus. It is not a judgement of salvation; it is a judgement of the works that were accomplished while we were on the earth. We will receive rewards based on our faithfulness and obedience to the Lord. Entrance into His kingdom is not based upon works or obedience, because we are saved by faith alone in Jesus Christ. But we have a responsibility from God to live out that faith on a daily basis.

Where our treasure is truly reveals where our heart is. If our heart truly belongs to Jesus, we understand this world is not our home. Our home is Heaven and every decision we make will be shaped and impacted by that truth. Those who simply live for the here and now believe that as they acquire wealth and other possessions that they will truly find happiness and contentment, but in the end what they find is emptiness and darkness. For the only thing that can truly complete us is knowing Jesus. The only things that can save us is knowing Jesus. May our focus be Heaven. May we store up treasures in His kingdom. May we live for Jesus every day and truly surrender all things to Him.

*Prayer*

*Father help me each day to lay aside every desire for this world. Empty me of myself and may the only thing that remains be a desire for you and your kingdom. Prune all that hinders what you want to do. Cut away those things that are robbing me of kingdom increase and blessing. May my life truly glorify and honor you and your kingdom. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflection:

1. What in your life needs to be pruned?
2. Is your focus truly on heaven and the coming kingdom of Christ, or have you allowed this world to become your pursuit?
3. What can you do to see God's kingdom increase even more in your life?

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## Day 35

So In Christ Jesus You Are All Children of God Through Faith

### **Galatians 3:26-28 (New International Version)**

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Our standing before Almighty God is based upon our faith in Jesus Christ. Those who reject Jesus Christ and who He is have no hope of forgiveness before Almighty God. No matter how many good things they do, the only way sin can be atoned for and washed away is by the precious blood of Jesus. In their pride and arrogance, they reject what Jesus has done and because of this they have rejected the mercy and grace that God freely gives. Though it was purchased at an incredible price, for us it is free to receive and requires that we humble ourselves and make Jesus both Lord and Savior.

But for the person who places their hope and faith in Jesus, they are declared righteous, they are adopted into God's family, and they are declared a child of God. Some will claim that all people

are children of God. Yes, we are created in His image, but not all people are children of God. Those who have not come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ are living in their sin. Their sin covers them, and they are separated from God. But for the person who has come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, their sins are washed away, and they have become a child of God.

We are baptized into Christ. When we are water baptized, we are declaring to the world that we have died with Christ, and we have been raised to new life with Him. We are actually clothed in Christ. His righteousness clothes us and His character and nature are produced within us. We are called to daily abide in Christ because as we do the Holy Spirit does a deep work in our hearts and lives. The old man and the nature of Adam is pruned away. What replaces it is the character and nature of Jesus.

We are all one in Christ. Paul lays out three categories that have can be places of separation. He says Jew or gentile, slave or free, and male and female. During Paul's day the Jew and gentile would be separated because the Jews saw themselves as God's covenant people and the gentiles outside of that covenant. They were seen as dirty and unclean and because of this there was natural separation that would take place. But because of what Jesus has done the dividing wall between the Jew and Gentile no longer remains. If a person comes to a saving knowledge of Jesus, their sins are forgiven, and they come into covenant with the Living God.

Paul writes slave or free. In Roman society there were those who were free and those who were bond servants. Often a person would come into slavery because they were not able to pay a debt and therefore would become a bond servant. But in Jesus Christ our socioeconomic status doesn't separate us because we are one in Him. We become children of God and whether a person is rich or poor, they are simply our brother and sister in Christ.

Paul writes male and female. At this time the rights of women were nonexistent. Often their husbands simply viewed them as their property. But in Christ men and women have equal value. They have distinct roles that compliment one another. But their value before Almighty God is seen in the precious blood of Jesus.

In Christ we are forgiven. In Christ we become children of God. In Christ we become one with Him and The Father. May our hearts be fixed upon Jesus. May we seek Him with our whole heart. May we grow daily into the nature and character of Christ. May His will be done in our hearts and our lives.

### *Prayer*

*Father I pray that the character and nature of who you are is produced within me. Remove from my life anything that would hinder your purpose and your plan. Father lead me by your Spirit every day. Holy Spirit help me to see things as you see things. Guard my heart from every lie and*

*deception of the enemy. May I walk in perfect unity with my brothers and sisters in Christ. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

### Reflection

1. Is there any area of your life that needs to be surrendered?
2. Are you holding any unforgiveness or bitterness in your heart towards a brother or sister in Christ?
3. In what ways can you grow in greater depths in your relationship with Jesus?

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## Day 36

### Submit Yourselves, Then, To God

#### **James 4:7 NIV**

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

It is important when we look at this verse that we see the order James writes these things under the inspiration and direction of the Holy Spirit. James says to submit yourselves, then, to God. The word submit in the Greek means subject, subordinate, to be or become inclined or willing to submit to orders or wishes of others or showing such inclination. If our desire is to work in freedom and victory over the devil it begins with submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Many people like the idea of Jesus as Savior. We are wretched sinners who can't save ourselves or get out of our own way. But Jesus has given everything for us to be saved, delivered, healed, and restored. In Jesus Christ our sins are completely washed away as if we have never sinned.

But we must also make Jesus Lord. We must subject ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. He must be Lord over our wants, our desires, our dreams, and our destiny. This is the key to overcoming the devil. As long as we live in rebellion in any way to the Lordship of Jesus, we leave

and open door for the devil to come in and destroy and wreak havoc. God desires the very best for us, but everything in our lives must be surrendered.

James then says to resist the devil. The word resist also means to oppose. We are not called to be a doormat for the enemy. We are called to stand our ground against the schemes of the devil, clothed and equipped with the armor of God (Eph 6:10-18). We find ourselves daily engaged in a spiritual battle. The devil is an invisible enemy we cannot see, and he often attacks our minds and hearts. He sends forth his flaming arrows, but when we understand who we are in Christ and the authority we have, we will not only be able to stand and resist, but we will also be able to overcome. One principle we find in God's kingdom is when ground is taken it always requires battle and warfare. But we must be fully surrendered to Christ to become the victorious servant God has called us to be.

Ultimately if we surrender to the Lordship of Christ, and resist the devil, he will flee from us. He will not be able to withstand the work of the Holy Spirit through us. The devil will tempt us to respond in the flesh, but we must be guided and led by the Holy Spirit. God has called us to walk in victory, to always live in victory. But it all begins with fully surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to understand who I am in Christ and the authority I have through your Son Jesus. Father help me to fully surrender to your will and purpose. Help me to resist the devil and to keep my eyes fixed upon you. In every battle may my heart and mind be fixed upon you. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for your grace and mercy. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflection

1. What battle are you facing today from the devil?
2. Are there any areas of your life that need to be surrendered?

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# Yours, LORD, Is The Greatness

## 1 Chronicles 29:11 NIV

*Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.*

God is exalted above all things. Here the writer of first chronicles says yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power, and the glory, and the majesty. When Lord is in all capitals it speaks of the name Yahweh. It is the name for Almighty God. He is the one who holds all things in His hands. Often, we make God far too small in our eyes. We often look at our current circumstances and we become filled with discouragement, doubt, or fear. But next to the Living God they are nothing. He calls us to trust Him. He calls us to follow Him. By His grace and power, He will bring all things to pass. But He is calling us to greater intimacy with Him.

Everything in Heaven and on earth belong to God alone. He spoke all things into existence. The very air we breathe and the ability for our hearts to beat are gifts given to us by Almighty God. There is nothing we have done to deserve life. But God gives us life with the sole purpose of using our lives to glorify Him. Many in this day and age use the life they have been given to glorify themselves. They see themselves as gods. But in ourselves we are nothing. But thankfully God reaches down, extends mercy and grace to us and enables us to be saved by His mighty hand.

All things belong to God. He is exalted above all. At the name of Jesus every knee will bow, those in heave, those on earth, and those under the earth. There is no one greater than Almighty God. He is returning to the earth to establish His kingdom. He will rule from the throne of David in the city of Jerusalem. Every day we are on this earth our sole focus and objective should be to bring glory to God. We are His hands and His feet. May we seek Him daily. May we surrender all things to Him. May we understand our lives are not our own but everything we have is simply a gift from Almighty God.

### *Prayer*

*Father today help me to see you as you truly are. Help me to understand your greatness and your power. Remove from my life anything that would dishonor you. Continue to prune my life on a daily basis. Empty me of myself and may the only thing that remains is you. May my life bring you glory and honor in all things. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

### Reflection

1. In what way can you use your life to glorify God?

2. In what way have you made God too small in your own eyes?

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## Day 38

### Put On The Full Armor of God

#### **Ephesians 6:11 NIV**

*Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

We are not called to back down. We are not called to run from the devil. Many have a misconception of the devil because they often based what they believe about the devil from what they see in movies. We must base everything we believe and do on what the word of God says. We know at one time the devil was known as Lucifer. He was first created as an angel and at some point, he rebelled against the rule and reign of Almighty God and was removed from Heaven with a third of the angels who took up rebellion with Him (Isaiah 14:12-17, Rev 12:3-6).

When Satan fell, he would eventually deceive Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and the authority given to Adam was stolen by the devil. He is known as the god of this age who has blinded the mind and hearts of people (2 Cor 4:4). He is also known as the father of lies (John 8:44). He is a liar and a deceiver and simply desires to steal, kill, and destroy. He hates humanity because we have been created in the image of God. He will try to convince us that he has dominion and power over our lives and there is nothing we can do to resist or overcome him.

But the truth is in Christ we have authority. Jesus has given us His authority to make disciples and to do the will of God upon the earth (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus overcome sin, death, and the grave at Calvary. When Jesus cried it is finished, He not only spoke of fulfilling the will of the Father, but also overcoming the wickedness of Satan. Jesus took back the keys of death and hell and know any person who comes to saving faith in Jesus Christ carries the authority of Christ. But the sad truth is many Christians live as if they have no authority and as if they are without power.

Paul not only tells us to put on the full armor of God but to take our stand against the devil's schemes. The first key to winning any war is to understand you are at war. Every day as believers in Christ we are engaged in a spiritual battle. The way we put on the full armor of God is by abiding in Christ and relying upon Him and His grace. As we follow the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will be empowered and equipped to overcome every strategy and scheme of the enemy. We must submit to God and resist the devil and he will flee from us (James 4:7). Jesus has called us to live and walk in victory. Yes, in this world we will have trouble, but we are called not to fear because He has overcome the world and because He has overcome the world, we live in His victory and His authority.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to understand the authority and strength I have in Jesus. Father help me against every strategy of the enemy. Deliver me from every scheme and may I experience your victory and freedom in every area of my life. Thank you today for your love and help me to have a deeper understanding of your love for me. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflection

1. What battles are you facing?
2. Is there anything that is keeping you from walking in victory? If so take time right now to begin to pray for The Holy Spirit to give you a great revelation for the authority you have been given in Christ.

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## Day 39

### Because We Know That Suffering Produces Perseverance

#### **Romans 5:3-5 NIV**

*Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame,*

*because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

Paul had a kingdom perspective when it came to suffering. Many today run at the thought of suffering. Everyone loves the message that God loves you and will bless you. We hear this in many christian circles. I have no doubt that God does bless us, because I know first-hand how much He has blessed me in my own life.

But it is a high honor to suffer for the name of Jesus. There is truly a deep spiritual work done in our lives when we surrender to God and embrace the suffering that may come with it. Thankfully The Holy Spirit lives inside us and enables us to endure the suffering that may come our way. We should not seek out suffering, but we can trust the Lord that He will carry us through.

God is concerned with our spiritual maturity and character. The greatest work of God's kingdom happens in the place of suffering and hardship. We should never present the gospel with a promise that God wants to make you happy. This is to turn the gospel into a self-centered lie and deception. The call is to deny oneself and pick up one's cross. Jesus never said this would be easy, but His grace is always sufficient, and He will never leave us nor forsake us. It is in the hard and difficult seasons where the greatest work of God is done in our lives.

*Prayer*

*Father help me today to walk close with you. Help me to endure whatever hardship lay ahead. Help me not to feel sorry for myself but to rely on you for everything. I thank you for how much you truly love me. I thank you for every trial and challenge. May your will be done and my heart fully surrendered to you. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflection:

1. What ways have you had to suffer for Jesus?
2. What has God taught you through the suffering?

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## Day 40

### Don't Use Foul or Abusive Language

#### **Ephesians 4:29 NLT**

*Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.*

We are told in God's word that life and death are found in the tongue (Prov 18:21). It is interesting that we as human beings are created in the image of God and everything God created was spoken into existence. When we speak it carries the power to destroy or to give life. Does that mean we are little gods who can speak things into existence? The answer is no because there is only one God, and He alone is the Author of life.

But there is an important principle in God's kingdom when it has to deal with words and the power they carry. Paul here writes that we should not use foul or abusive language. Now understanding that we are temples of the Holy Spirit and that we are the hands and feet of Jesus means we represent Christ on this earth. In all that we say we should glorify the name of Jesus. Our lives should be lived for the glory of God and that includes the very things we say.

We should speak in such a way that in everything we say that it should be good and helpful. That the very words we speak would be an encouragement to all those who hear them. This includes both believers and unbelievers. Often our greatest witness to the lost in the world will be the very words that proceed from our mouths. When we are pressed in life, what proceeds from our mouths will be a true reflection of what is in our heart.

So how the verse applies that life and death is found in the tongue is that our words will either encourage or they will destroy. A perfect example is a person who has to endure verbal abuse. Over and over again as things are spoken over their life it begins to shape and mold their identity and personality. Before they know it if these words carry with them death it totally begins to destroy the life of the individual and suck the very life out of them.

But if that same person is able to leave that situation and circumstance and begins to spend time with those who speak encouraging words over them that are based on the truth of God's word, it will actually begin to breathe life into the individual not because those speaking carry inherent power, but because the Holy Spirit will use the words spoken to work in the life of an individual.

The very words we speak are like a seed. Very good seeds that are based on the word of God and truth will bring forth the life and increase of the kingdom. But words that are bad, discouraging,

and even demonically influenced will simply be used to kill, steal, and destroy. As people we are responsible for the words we speak and may in all that we do be guided by The Holy Spirit.

*Prayer*

*Father guide my tongue. Change my heart so it reflects you in all things and is one with your heart and mind. Forgive me for the things that I have said that may have brought dishonor to the name of Jesus. But may my words align with your purpose and will. May your word be written on my heart so the words that proceed from my mouth carry with them the power of your kingdom. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflection

1. Have you recently said anything to anyone that brought damage or were spoken under a wrong spirit?
2. In what ways can the areas of your life be changed that may fall short of God's purpose and plan for your life?

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## Day 41

### Even There Your Hand Will Guide Me

#### **Psalms 139:10 NIV**

even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

There are moments in life when it seems like we are in free fall. We are overwhelmed by all that is taking place around us. No matter how hard we try to hold things together, the harder we try, the greater we struggle.

I believe God has designed it this way on a purpose. The only way we can truly experience the abundant life that Jesus spoke of is by fully relying on God for everything. We must take our hands

off the wheel and let Jesus take over. The truth is that the hand of God will guide us. When we come to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior, it is God's hand that is placed upon our lives, and it is simply His grace covering everything.

One time as I was spending time in prayer, I was meditating on the word favor and truly seeking God for a picture of what favor was to have a greater understanding of it. The favor of God upon our life is simply His hand firmly placed upon us. It isn't loosely placed upon us where it can simply slip off. But God plants His hand firmly upon us and through everything we face the Lord is bringing to pass His plans and His purposes.

The right hand is a picture of authority, and the right hand of God will hold us fast. It is Jesus who will sustain us by His strength and power. The key to the Christian journey is learning to let go and simply trust God. Bringing all things before the Lord in prayer and giving the battle over to Him. Not trying to figure out how God will accomplish it or even ask God to do it in a certain way. But to simply trust the Lord through the storm and trial that He will see us through.

He is far more concerned with our character and maturity. As we learn to trust Him each step of the way, we will encounter His peace in all things. Even in the most difficult of moments in life, as we fix our hearts upon Jesus, we will see His hand upon us that is firmly placed. He will never leave us nor forsake us, and He has simply called us to trust Him and build our lives upon Him and His word.

#### Prayer

Jesus help me to let go of my fears. Help me to let go of my worry. Help me to know that your hand is firmly upon my life and that you are leading and guiding me by The Holy Spirit to every purpose and plan you have for me. Father help me to keep my eyes fixed upon you and to grow through the trial. In the name of Jesus, Amen!

#### Reflection

1. In what ways have you allowed worry and fear to rule your heart in the past?
2. What has Jesus taught you through the storms and trials you have faced about His faithfulness and goodness?

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## Day 42

### Commit To The Lord Whatever You Do

#### **Proverbs 16:3 NIV**

*Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.*

Committing our plans to Jesus can be scary. Most people would rather white knuckle it than giving up control of their plans and their lives unto God. But we will never know peace and we will never know the blessing of God until we give full control over to Jesus.

The Lord tells us to be still and know that He is God (Psalm 46:10). He has created all things by His spoken word. He holds all things together by His mighty power and by His word. God is sovereign and full in control of everything we see. He controls our every heartbeat and He controls our every moment. He goes before us and establishes our every step. But the key is to trust Him and to give Him full control of every area of our lives.

One of the reasons I believe people have a hard time giving Jesus full control is they naturally worry about tomorrow and rely on their own understanding. But Jesus tells us not to worry about tomorrow (Matthew 6:34). He tells us that He will provide. That our Father in Heaven knows every hair that is upon our heads. God knows all that is needed before we even ask.

The Lord also tells us not to lean on our own understanding. Human understanding is limited to the present. But godly understanding is eternal, and God knows everything. He knows the end from the beginning. He has created time and exist outside of time. To not trust Him is simply foolishness. But to trust Him with all things in our lives is where we will finally find peace. We will find the blessing of God poured out upon our lives when we fully surrender to His will and do things His way.

When we truly trust God, He will establish our plans. The reason He will establish our plans is because we have committed our way to the Lord. As we surrender, His will becomes our will. His desire becomes our desire. Therefore, I truly believe when the word of God says that those who delight themselves in the Lord, that He will give them the desire of their heart is because the desire becomes Him. He becomes our obsession and the things we truly pursue.

Life becomes much easier when we commit our way to the Lord. It doesn't mean we won't face trials and challenges, but through every trial we are refined, and we are matured. There is a great blessing in the trials we face because they are intricately connected with the will of God in our lives. May we trust Him and commit all things into His hands.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to commit my way and will in your hand. Help me to surrender anything that I have failed to surrender. Open my eyes to see the things you want me to see. Fill my heart with revelation, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Father have your way in my life and may your purposes and plans be established in my life. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflection

1. In what ways have you failed to fully surrender to Christ?

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## Day 43

### For I Satisfy The Weary Ones

#### **Jeremiah 31:25 NASB1995**

*For I satisfy the weary ones and refresh everyone who languishes.”*

How many of us have felt weary? How many of us have felt like throwing in the towel? The truth is if you have served and followed Jesus for any length of time, I am sure there have been moments where you have simply felt like quitting. There are moments when it seems we are surrounded on every side and no matter what we do we can't get a break. It seems the enemy continues to attack, and we simply feel like a doormat.

But good thing is the truth is we are not a doormat. Spiritual warfare is not easy, and it is not enjoyable. The enemy spends time studying our every weakness, and when he finds one, he simply desires to exploit it. He will go to any lengths to destroy our lives and put a stop to what God is doing. But it is important for us to understand the importance of prayer and drawing near to God. There is a reason Jesus says that He is the vine, and we are the branches. He is the one who gives us the strength and grace to endure the attacks of the enemy.

But here in this verse we see a promise for those who are weary and those who languish. The word languish can also mean to become faint. It is a picture of simply being overwhelmed. But

thank God for His grace and that His strength is perfected in our weakness. Trials are essential for growth and essential for teaching us how much we need to trust and rely upon God.

Satisfy means to drinks one fill or to be refreshed. It is Jesus who will satisfy our soul even in the most difficult of circumstances. We must remember that the Holy Spirit lives within us, so no matter what we face, the Lord will supply the power and strength needed to overcome. Today if you are weary or feel like you are languishing, know that you are not alone. God has you in the palm of His hands. He will never leave us nor forsake us. His grace is always sufficient. It simply comes down to us trusting God at His word. He is always faithful.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to fix my heart upon you. Jesus help me to know you are there. Strengthen me and lead me in every battle I face. Father take every battle in your hands, deliver me from the hand of the enemy, and use every battle for your glory. Use every strategy of the enemy for my good and for your glory. Help me to trust you in the name of Jesus, Amen!*

Reflection

1. What battles are you facing today or in this season?
2. Have you recently felt like quitting and throwing in the towel?
3. If you have felt like quitting, know that it is only a feeling and take time right now to pray for strength and to focus your heart and mind on God's grace.

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## Day 44

### So Pants My Soul For You

#### **Psalms 42:1 NKJV**

*As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.*

This is a verse that is familiar to many people. It is sung as a popular worship song. But what it shows us is our need for God. We need Him. We need Him to be complete. We need Him to be made whole. So many in this world chase after the emptiness of this world thinking that it will fill a need that only God can fill, and they always come up empty. Often leading to feelings of hopelessness and depression.

But the Living God desires to make us whole. He desires to tabernacle with us. Jesus said to the woman at the well that those who partake of the water he gives will thirst no more. For He provides living water that can only satisfy the soul. What Jesus truly desires and why He came is to restore our relationship with Him. In the garden of Eden our relationship with God was broken. Adam lived in perfect intimacy with God until he sinned. The moment he sinned, everything changed. He now had a hole in his heart and life that only God can fill.

We are told in scripture that the human heart is inherently wicked (Jeremiah 17:9-10). This means that our hearts are naturally drawn to sin. We are selfish and self-centered by nature because of what took place in the garden of Eden. But when we come to Christ everything changes. We are born again. We are made brand new. Every day as we abide in Christ we are changed from the inside out by the power and person of The Holy Spirit. Jesus truly has living water that alone can satisfy the soul.

The writer of this Psalm compares our longing for God as a deer pants and longs for the water brook. The word pants mean long for and crave. When a deer has gone for a period of time without water, their entire body begins to crave and long for the cool water of the water brook. This is how it is for us when it comes to God's presence. The more we abide in Him, the more we long for Him. The more we spend time with Him, the more we need Him. No matter how much time we spend with Him it is not enough. This is where Jesus becomes our obsession when we simply spend time daily walking with Him and fellowshiping with Him. There is truly nothing like coming to personally know the Living Christ.

#### Prayer

Father give me a great hunger and passion for you. May you truly become my obsession. May you prune and remove from my life anything that would hinder what you want to do. Father draw me ever closer. May my intimacy and maturity in you increase on a daily basis. May I truly long for you as the deer pants for the water. In the name of Jesus, Amen!

#### Reflection

1. Is anything hindering your relationship with God?
2. Has Jesus truly become your obsession?
3. Pray today for God to increase your hunger for Him.

4. Spend time listening to worship and simply sitting in His presence.

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## Day 45

### One Who Dwells In The Shelter of The Most High

#### **Psalm 91:1-2 NASB**

*91 One who dwells in the shelter of the Most High*

*Will lodge in the shadow of the Almighty.*

*<sup>2</sup> I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,*

*My God, in whom I trust!"*

The word dwell here means to sit, remain, dwell, or live. God has called us to live in His presence. David was a man of God's presence. He was a man of worship. David understood that His strength and greatest protection came from drawing near to the Lord.

The Lord tells us those who draw near to Him, He will draw near to them. God is continually calling us to draw near to Him and spend time with Him. Many things desire our time and attention, but as we build our lives upon God and become a person of His presence, we will find that our eyes will be fixed upon Jesus.

One of the great weapons of the enemy to paralyze us is fear. Here we see David writes of the secret place of the Most High. This can only be found by those who are children of the Most High God. It is Jesus who enables us to draw near to the throne of grace without fear. Even when we are surrounded on every side by the enemy, we have nothing to fear. If the Lord is with us, it doesn't matter who stands against us. One child of God has more authority than all the forces of darkness because their authority comes straight from Jesus.

Jesus is our refuge, and He is our fortress. We will face spiritual battles every day of our lives. But our hiding place must be The Lord. This only happens as we daily seek Him in the place of prayer and rely on Him at all times. The battles we face will actually be used to grow and mature

us as we trust Jesus and abide in Him. We must remember that He is the vine, and we are the branches. We must remain in continually fellowship with the Lord.

Ultimately it is in Jesus where we place our trust. Many people will run to and fro in this world placing their trust in many things. But Jesus is the only sure foundation. Many things we face can make us feel overwhelmed and often the enemy will target our emotions to manipulate them. But the more we abide in Christ, we will naturally begin to trust Him more. May we trust Jesus and grow in greater intimacy every day. May we simply surrender every battle in the place of prayer asking Him to intervene and His will to be done. As we lift every battle to the Lord, in the end they will become an incredible blessing in our lives.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to trust you one step at a time. I pray that your presence would be my hiding place. Help me to not rely on my own strength, but to trust you at all times. Thank you for your goodness and your faithfulness. That you are always there when I need you.*

Reflection

1. What things in your life cause you to be filled with fear?
2. What can you do today to begin to make Jesus your hiding place?

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## Day 46

### Search me, God, and Know My Heart

#### **Psalm 139:23-24 NIV**

*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

This should be the cry of our hearts. We should seek the Lord daily to search our hearts. There may be issues in our hearts or attitudes that we have that we may be blinded to. Often, we can become so distracted with life that we begin to get away from spending time in God's presence.

As we spend time in God's presence, it is like having our heart and mind examined under a search light. There are things that come to light and when they are exposed our choice must be to walk away from them and rid them from our lives.

The writer here of the Psalm says to test me and know my anxious thoughts. That word test means to test metals by melting. It also means to examine, test, try, or prove. When the Psalmist asks for the Lord to test him, He is asking God to examine the very depths of his soul and life. When they do this process with precious metals, they do so to expose the impurities and remove them. We must remember that the Father loves He prunes. The pruning and refining process takes place over the course of our lives.

He asks the Lord to see if there is any offensive way within Him. God calls us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. This means we are called to love God with everything and nothing is hidden from God. The deceitfulness of sin convinces us that our sin is hidden and there are no consequences for our sin. But when we partake of sin and give into temptation, if we fail to respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit and continue to indulge in sin, it will lead us down a road that is destructive. But thankfully because our Father loves us, He will discipline us. But if we proactively ask God to search our hearts and minds it will guard us from being deceived by the enemy and engaging in things that will try to ruin and destroy the purposes God has for our lives.

The way everlasting is the purpose and will of God for our lives. The role of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to lead and guide us into all truth. The only way we can rightfully walk in the purposes of God is to abide in Christ daily. As we abide in Him, our hearts and minds will be transformed by the work and power of The Holy Spirit. We will be changed from the inside out. We will become more like Jesus and His plan and purpose will be accomplished in our lives. The secret to walking in the freedom and victory we have in Jesus is to abide daily in the Lord and surrender to His leading and His will.

#### *Prayer*

*Father search my heart and mind. Reveal if there is any wicked way within me. Help me to walk in obedience to your plans and purposes. May I decrease that you would increase. May my life be lived to glorify and honor you in all things. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

#### Reflection

1. What things has God revealed to you that need to be pruned and refined?
2. Are you willing to surrender fully to the purposes of God in your life?

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## Day 47

### Rejoicing In Hope

#### **Romans 12:12 NASB1995**

*rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer*

In Jesus we have true hope. In this world people place their hope in many things. But it is only in Jesus we find something that we can place our hope in that is unchanging and unshakable. Everything in this world is passing away. We may place our hope in our job, or our family, maybe we put our hope in our status or job title. But the issue with all of that is each of those things can change in a moment. But why can we place our hope in Jesus?

The word hope here means either hope or expectation. How can we build our lives on something and expect something if it is dynamic and changing? This is not the case with Jesus. God is unchanging. No matter what we face, He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Mal 3:6). Because Jesus is unchanging, we understand that regardless of what we face, the Lord is not going to be affected by it. God exist outside of time. His power and authority is without limit and end. With a word He created all things, He spoke all things into existence out of nothing. So regardless of what we face, we can build our hope on Jesus because He never changes. He is always faithful to His word and will accomplish all things by His grace and power.

The next thing Paul writes here is persevering in tribulation. The word tribulation means **trouble, tribulation, oppression**. *Trouble or affliction that causes pressure*<sup>1</sup>. Jesus said that in this world we would have trouble but to fear not He has overcome the world (John 16:33). Regardless of what we face we know that the grace of God is sufficient. His strength is perfected in our weakness. Even we are pressed on every side, we will not be shaken because of Jesus. When we bring all things before the Lord in prayer, we place the battle and trial in His hands. If we face things without prayer, we are simply trying to navigate life in our own strength and wisdom. It

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<sup>1</sup> Craig Allen Hill, [“Suffering.”](#) ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

will always lead to defeat. But when we trust the Lord with our whole heart, He will show Himself faithful every time. Often God will allow us to go through trials of various kinds because it is here that truth growth and maturity takes place, and in the end, they actually turn out to be a great blessing.

Paul third statement is devoted to prayer. Devoted means be devoted in, *persist obstinately in; persevere*<sup>2</sup>. When we are devoted to prayer it means we are committed to prayer no matter what we face. When we are pressed on every side we really have two choices, we can truly trust Jesus or we can abandon faith and rely on our own strength and power. But prayer is one of the greatest privileges God has given us. Through prayer we have an audience with the creator. Through Jesus we are able to draw near to the throne of grace. God not only hears us, but He moves at the prayers of His people. This is the only way we can truly navigate this journey we know as Christianity. We must rejoice in hope, preserve in tribulation, and be devoted in prayer. When this is how we live on a daily basis, we will find that no matter what we face we will simply trust Jesus at all times, and we will not be shaken.

### *Prayer*

*Father help me in my weakness. Fill me with your strength and power. Help me to see the trials and challenges I face through your eyes. Remove from my life anything that hinders your will and purpose. May my life truly be a living sacrifice unto you. May I truly place my hope in you. May I preserve through the trials that I face. May I be devoted to prayer on a daily basis. May every battle be in your hands and may I grow in intimacy and maturity every day. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

### Reflection

1. What challenges are you facing that are truly shaping and molding your life?
2. How can you invite God into the battle today?
3. What are some ways you have grown in Christ over the last year?

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<sup>2</sup> Rick Brannan, ed., [\*Lexham Research Lexicon of the Septuagint\*](#), Lexham Research Lexicons (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020).

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## Day 48

### I Am Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

#### **Psalms 139:13-14 NIV**

*“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”*

We are fearfully and wonderfully made. God has called us, He has chosen us, He has designed us. He doesn’t make mistakes and He doesn’t make junk. The enemy will often try to plant seeds of doubt in our hearts and minds concerning our destiny and purpose.

The enemy will highlight mistakes we have made or areas we have fallen short. Lying to us and telling us that we are disqualified. But our being qualified is based on what Christ has done. It is based on the grace of God. It is not based on our performance or what we have achieved. If it was, we would have something to boast about. But we are chosen, we are called, we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

We are also unique, and our journey is unique. Our preparation is unique. One of the great weapons of the enemy is to get us to compare ourselves against others. We can’t take the bait of comparison. Our eyes must be fixed upon Christ and know as we grow in Him, He is bringing every purpose and plan to pass. Our greatest place of peace will be found in abiding in Jesus, focusing on Jesus, and growing in Jesus. May we seek to know His heart and mind. May our desire be that our hearts would be one with His.

#### *Prayer*

*Father thank you for creating me. Thank you for designing me with a unique purpose and unique anointing. Thank you for preparing me and thank you for the battles and trials. Thank you for giving me life. Please reveal your purpose and plan to my heart. May my heart and mind be one with yours. May your will be done in my life and guard my heart against every lie and deception of the enemy. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

#### Reflection

1. What has God called you to do?
2. In what ways have you found yourself comparing yourself to others?

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## Day 49

### Blessed Is A Man Who Perseveres Under Trial

#### **James 1:12 NASB2020**

*Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

There is a crown of life that awaits us. This crown of life is not received because of our performance or hard work. The crown of life is received because we have preserved in faith and have built our lives on Jesus Christ. There are many things the enemy will use to destroy and bankrupt our faith. But as we abide in Christ each day, it is the Lord who will strengthen us and enable us to overcome.

When we view trials from the perspective of God we see that there is actually a blessing in the hard things we go through. Trials can take on all different forms, The common denominator between trials is they often are uncomfortable and they will often push and challenge us. They will stretch our faith. But the blessing in the trial is the growth and pruning that takes place in our lives. Those the Father loves He prunes. Pruning is essential for growth because as God cuts away things that would hinder our growth in Him, from the pruning comes kingdom increase.

Here James says blessed is the man who perseveres under trial. When we are in the middle of a trial it is like being in a crucible. When they desire to refine precious metals they will place them in a crucible. The purpose of a crucible is to remove the impurities. The same stands for our lives. As we endure the trials we are facing, the impurities are removed from our lives and we come forth as pure gold and grow into greater levels of maturity.

But our greatest hope as Christians is the crown of life that awaits us. We will rule and reign with Jesus someday. The world we live in is passing away. The only way we can truly endure hardship and the testing we will face as followers of Jesus is to abide in Him and remain close to Him. There is a supernatural strength that comes when we abide in Christ. It is the work of The Holy Spirit in our lives. May we always remember that it is the Lord who has first loved us. It is the Lord who has chosen us. He knows all of our mistakes and shortcomings. But may our minds and hearts be fixed upon Him and Him alone.

*Prayer*

*Father, help me today in my weakness. Help me to keep my eyes fixed upon you and to know that no matter what I face, that you are faithful. Help me to live each day to glorify and honor you. That in all things my heart and life would be fully surrendered to you. Give me wisdom in the midst of every trial and may my heart and mind be fixed upon you alone. Thank you for your strength and your help on a daily basis. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 50

### For The Wages of Sin Is Death

#### **Romans 6:23 (New American Standard Bible 1995)**

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Everything we receive from God is a gift. We don't have to earn it and we don't have to work for it. Our salvation was purchased by Jesus at Calvary. He gave His life so that we can find forgiveness for our sins. He gave His life so that we can be reconciled to the Father.

It is our sin that separates us from God. This is why the wages of sin is death. The result of our sin is death and destruction. If a person spends all their life living in sin and never comes to repentance or turning to Christ, they will not only face physical death, but they will also face spiritual death. They will spend an eternity separated from Almighty God in a place of suffering that we cannot even comprehend with our human understanding.

But God has provided a way for us to be reconciled. The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. The free gift is in knowing Jesus personally as Lord and Savior. But Jesus can't merely be Savior. Everyone is very comfortable with the idea of Jesus as Savior. But He must also be Lord. In all that we do, our lives must be surrendered to His Lordship and leading. When Jesus is truly Lord that means I am not longer calling the shots. I am not longer determining the course of my life. I have surrendered my life fully to Jesus.

Because salvation is a free gift it can't be earned, and it will guard our hearts against the condemnation of the enemy. The enemy will try to condemn us and drive us away from God, to get us to run from God. But condemnation is a lie, and we must meditate and build our lives upon the truth that salvation is a free gift from Jesus Christ. It is free to us, but it cost Jesus everything. May we treasure the free gift of salvation we have in Christ every day. May we trust Him and rely on Him for all things. May our focus be growing in greater intimacy with Him and truly making Him Lord of our lives.

*Prayer*

*Father thank you today for your goodness and love. Thank you that so loved us that you sent your Son to die in our place and take the punishment that we deserve. Lead and guide us in all things. Jesus may you truly be Lord of my life and may my life be used to glorify and honor you. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 51

### But Also To Suffer For Him

# Philippians 1:29-30 NIV

*<sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, <sup>30</sup> since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.*

Paul wrote the letter of Philippians from a prison cell. Paul in his life was well acquainted with suffering. Sometimes depending on what American preacher we are listening to we can begin to believe that suffering has no place in the life of the believer. We often hear much about blessing, but we hear little about suffering.

But suffering has a purpose in God's kingdom. Those who desire to be used by God to advance the kingdom will face suffering. Whenever we make the decision to serve Jesus Christ, we now invade enemy territory. Satan is the god of this age who has blinded the minds and hearts of those who are lost (2 Cor 4:4). As followers of Jesus, we are anointed by God and marked by God, but Satan desires to use every device and strategy possible to hinder what God is accomplishing in and through us.

One of the great weapons of the enemy to hinder the work of God is suffering. But we must know that the grace of God is sufficient. His strength is perfect in our weakness. It is actually when we are weak, that we are at our strongest because it is here that we rely fully on Christ, and it is Jesus who will carry us.

But what we see from the apostle Paul's words is that we have not only been granted to believe in Christ but also to suffer for Him. It is a privilege and honor to suffer for Jesus. That may sound crazy to some, but when we view things from an eternal perspective, we see that someday we will rule and reign with Christ in His kingdom. Someday we will be greatly rewarded for the ways we have suffered on this earth. Many of our brothers and sisters all over the world lay down their lives daily and too many times in America we may become fixed on the here and now, instead of having our eyes fixed on the Lord and His coming kingdom.

Regardless of the suffering we face, we must trust the Lord and abide in Him. We are not the first to suffer and we will not be the last to suffer. But I have learned the key to overcoming all things in Christ is abiding in Him. Regardless of the trial, storm, or challenge, if we abide in Christ, He will enable us to do what He has called us to do. Suffering in God's kingdom is a high privilege and honor, and we must seek The Lord daily for kingdom perspective to see things as He desires to see them. To be led by The Holy Spirit and not by our fleshly sinful nature.

Prayer

Father help me to see suffering as you see it. Give me the strength to endure and overcome. Help me to let go of the desire to be comfortable at all times but instead to step out of my comfort zone and continue to grow in my walk and relationship with you. Father help me to have eyes to see and ears to hear. Let me rely daily upon your grace for all things knowing that your grace is sufficient. Thank you today for all that I will face and that you are fully in control. In the name of Jesus, Amen!

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Day 52

My Salvation and My Honor Depend On God

**Psalm 62:7 NIV**

*My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.*

Jesus is our rock and He is our refuge. He is our hiding place. The word rock here means **rock, boulder, cliff**. Literally indicates a rock or cliff; used figuratively to describe God as protector.<sup>3</sup> The word refuge means **refuge, shelter**. Used to refer to literal (physical) or metaphorical shelter.<sup>4</sup> Jesus is where we find our protection and our safety. Our salvation and honor depend solely on Jesus Christ.

When we come to Jesus, we build our lives upon simply trusting Him for salvation. The word salvation is **yesa** and means **salvation, deliverance, welfare, victory**. Refers to salvation from enemies or to safety more broadly.<sup>5</sup> Jesus is our deliverance and salvation from our enemies. Our

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<sup>3</sup> W. Andrew Smith, "[Protection](#)," ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

<sup>4</sup> W. Andrew Smith, "[Protection](#)," ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

<sup>5</sup> Joel T. Hamme, "[Salvation](#)," ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

greatest enemy is sin, death, and the devil. The Devil desires to kill, steal, and destroy, but it is Jesus who has rescued us by taking our place at Calvary. All that is needed is found in Jesus, but He is calling to trust Him daily.

The word honor is the Hebrew word **Kabod** and it means **glory, honor, divine presence**. *Often refers to manifestations of the presence of God in the tabernacle or temple; can also refer to the reputation or character of God or, occasionally, men.*<sup>6</sup> The very presence of Almighty God is manifested in our lives because of Jesus. The Holy Spirit lives inside of us because of what Jesus has done. Because our sin has been washed away, we are able to be a temple and abode for The Holy Spirit.

When we truly understand all that Jesus has done for us and who He truly is, we have no fear. Fear has no place in our hearts and our lives. He is our shelter, and He is our refuge. He is the one who protects, leads, guides, provides, and no matter what we face, He is greater. He goes before us, and every victory is found in Him.

May we simply trust Him at all times. May our eyes be fixed upon Jesus. May our hope rest in who He is. May we grow in greater intimacy every day. May our hearts and lives be surrendered to His Lordship. May we desire that our hearts and mind be one with His. May we ask Him for greater understanding and revelation of how truly powerful He is. He is not only our Savior and The Son of God, but He is God Almighty and holds all things together by His word (Hebrews 1:3).

Today if you find yourself filled with fear or anxiety it is because you have begun to listen to the voice of the enemy and believed a lie. Our lives must be built upon biblical truth. We must renew our minds and hearts each day with the truth of scripture. May we immerse our minds and hearts in the truth of God's word and who Jesus is.

#### *Prayer*

*Father help me to understand the fullness of who Jesus is. Help me to understand every benefit of knowing Jesus and all He has accomplished for me at Calvary. Help me to know and understand the depths of your grace and love for me. May my life be used to glorify and magnify the name of Jesus. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

#### Reflection

1. Is anything causing you fear in your life?
2. How can you place your fears and anxieties in the hands of Jesus?

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<sup>6</sup> Gregory R. Lanier, "[Glory](#)," ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

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## Day 53

### So That In Him We Might Become The Righteousness Of God

#### **2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV**

*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Jesus knew no sin. Jesus never sinned. He never experienced the act of sinning. He was born without a sin nature even though He was born of the virgin Mary. Jesus never stopped being God and because The Holy Spirit came upon Mary, Jesus did not come from the seed of Adam that carried sin, but because the pregnancy of Mary was all the work of The Holy Spirit, Jesus was born without a sin nature..

But just because Jesus didn't have a sin nature doesn't mean He didn't face temptation. We see that Jesus was tempted when The Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness for forty days (Matthew 4:1-11). We see that after fasting for forty days Jesus faced three different temptations of the devil, but each time He responded and overcame with the word of God.

But throughout His life He never sinned. But the purpose and mission Jesus had was to die for humanity. Many were drawn to Him by His miracles and His power, but it was the laying down of His life why Jesus came. He who had no sin would be sin for us. He would take on the sin of all humanity as the perfect sacrifice. When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, John proclaimed "behold The Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world". God has made it very clear in His word without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin (Lev 17:11, Heb 9:22). Blood had to be shed because the life of the individual was found in the blood and for atonement to truly take place, a perfect human being would have to take the place of you and me.

This perfect one is known as Jesus. Through faith in Jesus Christ, His precious blood washes us clean and we are declared righteous. Because of faith in Jesus, when our Father in Heaven looks

at us, He doesn't see our sin and shame, He sees the righteousness and perfection of who Jesus is. Everything we have is because of what Jesus has accomplished at Calvary. May the revelation of this truth be revealed to our hearts and minds. May we build our lives on what Christ has done for us and share this truth with those we encounter.

*Prayer*

*Father thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you Jesus for taking my place. Thank you for taking my sin upon yourself and dying in my place. For taking the wrath and punishment I deserve and laying down your life. Thank you that all I have is found in you. Thank you for how much you love me and that you lead, guide, and protect me every day. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 54

### But He Was Pierced For Our Transgressions

#### Isaiah 53:5-6 NIV

*But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

He was pierced for our transgressions. When you simply stop to think because of my sin and your sin, Jesus chose to go to the cross. He didn't have to go to the cross, He could have chosen to abandon humanity because of our sin and shame. But He chose to go to the cross and experience the pain and suffering of Calvary because of His love for us.

The word transgression means **rebellion, transgression**. *Like its related verb, this noun describes a transgression of a relationship.*<sup>7</sup> Because of our sin and rebellion, our relationship

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<sup>7</sup> Francesco Bianchi, "[Rebelliousness](#)," ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

with God is broken. This first took place in the garden of Eden with our two very first parents. Adam and Eve were created perfect and placed in a perfect environment. God told them that they could not eat from only one tree. They could eat from every other tree. There had to be choice so there could be love. Without choice all you end up with is slavery and God didn't create robots or slaves. He created human beings in His image and what He desires more than anything is a relationship with us, but for that to happen, He had to give us freewill. Freewill can be incredible dangerous because when choice exist than the ability to make wrong choices exist.

But thank God because of His grace and mercy He didn't leave us there. He had a plan. He had a plan in place before Adam and Eve even sinned. The one who knows all things knew that when Adam and Eve sinned that they would be separated from Almighty God and the only hope would be for Jesus to come, fully become man and take the punishment and wrath that we deserve as human beings.

He was crushed for our iniquities and the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him. He took our punishment. The punishment and suffering He endured made possible the forgiveness of God to be poured out on us who are marred by sin. We are separated from God because of sin. Because of sin we have become enemies of God. But in His mercy, He has made a way to be forgiven and that way is Jesus.

By His wounds we are healed. Healed here means **cure, heal**. *Refers to action or care that restores health and brings recovery from some illness or injury*. Our injury and illness was sin. The action taken was the Son of God going to Calvary for us. If we ever wonder how much God the Father, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit loves us we simply need to examine Calvary. When we see the brutality that Jesus went through and all because of His love for us, it truly puts things in perspective. It shows us that even though God knows our mistakes and how many times we will fail Him, that He still chose the cross.

All of us have gone astray like sheep and we have turned to our own way. A sheep needs a shepherd. Without a shepherd a sheep is unable to provide for itself, protect itself, doesn't know where to go, and finds itself in a very dangerous and vulnerable position. This is the picture of humanity without Jesus. Without Jesus we are lost, broken, hurt, and vulnerable. But when the Great Shepherd of our souls comes, we find restoration, healing, freedom, love, deliverance, family, hope, truth, and the list could go on and on. All because Jesus went to the cross.

Today I encourage you if you have gone your own way to stop. Stop running from God. Stop doing things your way and simply surrender to Jesus. Give Him your life and let Him take the broken pieces of your life, restore you, and use your life for His glory. His love for you and me is unconditional. We can't earn it and we don't deserve it, but it is extended to us because of His love for us.

*Prayer*

*Father thank you for loving me. Thank you for guiding me and providing for me. Jesus thank you for taking the wrath and punishment that I deserve. Thank you for making a way for me to be saved and me to be forgiven. Jesus thank you for all you have done. May my life glorify and honor you. May you mold and shape my life on a daily basis. May your love increase in me more and more and that I would truly be your hands and feet to the broken. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 55

### Where The Son Of Man Will Be Betrayed To The Leading Priests And The Teachers of Religious Law

#### **Matthew 20: 17-19 NLT**

*As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside privately and told them what was going to happen to him. "Listen," he said, "we're going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die. Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified. But on the third day he will be raised from the dead."*

Jesus came to die. He came to give His life. As He was born on this earth and fully became man, there came a point when He was aware of His mission and His identity. There are things about Jesus' childhood that we are not told in scripture. But we do know that when He was twelve, He understood when He was in the temple speaking with the religious leaders about Torah and the word that He was in His Father's house.

As He traveled with the disciples, He told them that they were going up to Jerusalem and that He would be betrayed into the hands of the religious leaders and teachers of the law. The disciples

thought Jesus would begin His rule and reign now. That He would establish His kingdom. That they were preparing themselves to rule and reign with Jesus.

But the cross was the only way to glory. The cross was the only way to save humanity. Not only would the religious leaders charge Him with blasphemy, but He would be turned over to the Romans. The Romans would charge Him with claiming to be a king even though after examination Pilate found Him to be innocent. When Pilate brought Him out to the crowd next to Barabbas, the people cried for Jesus to be crucified. Barabbas was a notorious criminal and murderer. He had been involved in rebellion and by all account should have been the one placed on the cross.

But Jesus took His place. Jesus not only took His place, but He also took all of our place. All of us deserve death. All of us have sinned. All of us deserve the wrath of Almighty God. But in His grace, He chooses to forgive. He chooses to wash our sins away. He chooses to exchange His righteousness for ours. All because of His love for us. The next time you doubt how much God loves you, simply look to the cross. The next time the devil tells you God has abandoned you or given up on you, look to the cross. Jesus came to die. He came to suffer. He came to give His life, all because He loves us. Though we don't deserve it, He choose to give His life.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to understand the depths of your love. Help me to build my life upon truth and your word. Help me to walk in the freedom and love found in Jesus. May your compassion and grace increase in my life. May I love others as you have loved me. Thank you for forgiving me and making me brand new. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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Day 56

I am the Bread of Life

**John 6:35 NASB**

*35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; the one who comes to Me will not be hungry, and the one who believes in Me will never be thirsty.*

Jesus is all we need. He is the bread of life. When we come to Christ our spiritual hunger will be satisfied. Many in this world chase after many things believing if they either obtain or accomplish that they will find the fulfillment they are seeking. But what they find is that even when they have gained what they were after, they come to find out that it is simply empty.

But not so with Jesus. When we come to Christ, we find abundant life. Jesus said that I came to give life and give it abundantly. Abundant life is knowing Him personally. For when we come to know Jesus personally, we come to know the Father personally. It is through Jesus that we have been reconciled to the Father. Before Jesus we were separated by our sin, but because of Jesus our sins have been washed away and in exchange for our sin, we gain the righteousness of Jesus.

We will no longer hunger, and we will no longer thirst. There are many things in this world that bid us to come and run after them. But if we see them from the perspective of Jesus we will see how empty they truly are. May we abide in Christ every day and may we grow in Him. If there is anything that has taken a more important place in our lives than Jesus it has become an idol and needs to be removed. But in Christ we have all we need. He has given everything to restore us to right relationship with the Father. May we grow in this relationship daily.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to know you in a greater way. Help me to remove anything in my life that would hinder your work and your plans. Reveal to me if there are any idols and Jesus may you be all that I need. May you continually prune and refine me. May I become the person you have created and destined me to be.*

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Day 57

# The Word Became Flesh

## John 1:14 NIV

*14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

The word became flesh. All that the Jews had known from God's word was standing in front of them in the coming of Jesus. When we study and read the Old Testament through eyes that know Jesus and a life filled with the Spirit of God, we see Jesus everywhere. In the Old Testament Christ is concealed, where in the New Testament Christ is revealed. Everything of the fullness of God is revealed in Jesus Christ. He has come to reveal who The Father is.

Jesus has made His dwelling among us. He has fully become flesh and bone. He understands us and understands that it is to be human. He understands what it is to face temptation. In the wilderness as Jesus fasted for forty days and was without both food and water, the devil came to Him and tempted Him to turn the rocks into bread. He was tempting Jesus to use His authority and power selfishly. But Jesus never did anything outside the Father's will or without the leading of The Holy Spirit. Instead, Jesus used it as an opportunity to say that man does not live on bread alone, but every word from the mouth of God.

When we come to Jesus, He is our faithful and compassionate High Priest. As we grow in Christ there will be times when we struggle and we fail the Lord, but in the moments, we can choose to draw near. We can choose to confess our sins and He is faithful and just to forgive us. He stands between us and the Father representing us, and His righteousness is bestowed upon us.

John writes that we have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son from the Father. This is the only begotten Son of God. His glory was seen in the way He lived His life. It was seen in every miracle and manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit. It is displayed in His resurrection and John being a witness to the resurrected Christ. John has written His gospel so that all who read it would come to believe in Jesus as The Son of God. It is through confessing with one's mouth and believing in one's heart that someone is indeed saved. John testifies to Jesus as the Son of God and is an eyewitness to the glory that was seen in the life of Jesus.

He is full of grace and truth. His grace is God's unmerited favor. It is bestowed upon us through faith alone. When we come to saving faith in Jesus, the grace of God is lavished upon us. His favor rest upon us not because of what we have done, but because of what He has accomplished. But it is not only about His grace, but He is also truth. He is the way, the truth, and the life. No

one comes to the Father except through Him. Satan is the father of lies and when we come to Jesus, we come out of the darkness, and we come into the life. In Jesus we have brand new life, and it is in Him that our sins are forgiven and our lives are restored.

All we need is found in Jesus. When we have Jesus we have hope, freedom, deliverance, restoration, joy, strength, and salvation. There is nothing lacking when we come to Jesus. Many in this world are searching for answers. But the answer is simply found in Jesus. There is no one greater. He has paid a debt that we could not pay on our own. Thank God the word has become flesh and made His dwelling among us. May we behold His glory and may we glorify Him in all things.

### Prayer

Father help me to live for you. May your will be done, and your kingdom come. Take my life and use it for your glory. Guard my heart from sin and the ways of the enemy. Deliver me this day from every scheme and purpose and may my life simply be used to glorify and honor you. Jesus thank you for fully becoming man. Thank you for understanding us. Thank you for dying for us. Thank you for saving my life. In the name of Jesus, Amen!

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## Day 58

### Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

#### **Galatians 5:14 NIV**

*<sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

This can be easier said than done. Paul shares what Jesus said when He was asked what is the greatest commandment. Jesus began with saying to love the Lord thy God with all they heart, soul, mind, and strength. This means our entire being. Every part of our lives is to be surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Jesus then said the second is to love your neighbor as yourself. It is impossible for us to truly love our neighbor as ourselves if we do not truly love God with everything and live a life fully surrendered to Him.

Our neighbor is anyone who is outside our immediate family. On this earth there are people who are easier to love than others. But the question is “what do we do when we come across someone who is difficult to love or nearly impossible to love”. People who have wounded us or offended us. Our ability to love as Jesus calls us to is a decision of will. It is not based on feelings or emotions. When we choose not to love someone, we are walking in disobedience. This will impact our relationship with the Lord because it will cause our intimate fellowship with the Lord to be broken. The heart of The Father will be broken, and The Holy Spirit will be grieved.

The only way we can truly love our neighbor as ourselves is through the power and leading of The Holy Spirit. We must choose to forgive, and we must choose to let go of bitterness. Many times, people hold on to bitterness because they are deceived by the enemy into thinking that somehow it is going to be detrimental to the other person and helpful for them. But the only one that bitterness and unforgiveness hurts and destroys is the person who is harboring it.

But loving one’s neighbor as oneself is to fulfill the entire law because the law of God comes down to two very simple things. It is all about loving God and loving others. God is the most relational being. He is not only concerned with our relationship with Him, but He is concerned with our relationships with others. We must remember that regardless of skin color, socioeconomic status, gender, and background every single person on this earth is created by God, created in His image, and are all descended from Adam and Eve. To hate a person is to hate those that the God we claim to love has created.

May we strive to love. May we strive to walk in unity. May we be willing to forgive and let go. Let us not be deceived into holding onto bitterness and unforgiveness. This is a true freedom in simply letting go and giving all things to God. Some may wonder “how can I truly forgive and love those who have injured and hurt me”? The answer is exactly what Jesus did. It is praying for them. For Jesus prayed upon the cross “Father forgive them for they know not what they do”. When we choose to pray for our enemies, supernaturally the Lord enables us not only to forgive but to love them as Jesus would. We must remember that The Holy Spirit lives within us and our desire should be to decrease that He would increase daily.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to love as you love. Help me to forgive those who have wronged me and those who have hurt me. Help me to truly love my neighbor as myself and to truly walk in obedience to your word and your ways. May my life be a living sacrifice. Father thank you for saving me by your grace and may in all that I do the name of Jesus be glorified and magnified. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 59

### I Will Exalt You And Praise Your Name

#### **Isaiah 25:1 NIV**

*25 LORD, you are my God;*

*I will exalt you and praise your name,  
for in perfect faithfulness  
you have done wonderful things,  
things planned long ago.*

There is no greater thing than to be able to praise and glorify the name of Jesus. The pagan false gods of old desire the worship of man. Just as Lucifer desired the worship that only God deserved, every fallen demonic angel desires the worship that God alone deserves. As Isaiah proclaims these words under the inspiration and leading of The Holy Spirit He says, "I will exalt you and praise your name".

Worshiping God is not based on a feeling or emotion. It is based on a decision of our freewill. There are moments when we go through hard and difficult things and honestly, we may not feel like worshiping. We may even begin to believe that God has somehow forsaken us or abandoned us. But that is simply based on a lie and deception. For God is always good. He works all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes.

Isaiah says in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things. Everything God does is wonderful. Every breath and moment we have is a miracle of God. Our very heartbeat is a miracle of God. Being created in the image of God is a miracle. Every moment of every day is a miracle and for this we worship the Living God. We worship Him because He is God, and we are not. We don't deserve life. We don't deserve salvation, mercy, grace, or love. But He chooses to give them to us anyway because He is love.

All that God does is planned from the foundations of the world. There is nothing God does as a reaction. Everything He does is because of His perfect will, and it has a perfect time and perfect moment. When we begin to understand the truth of His word and who He is, we worship Him because He is God. May every moment of every day simply be worship to the Lord. Worship is a lifestyle and when we begin to live in the place of worship is when our very lives become living sacrifices.

### *Prayer*

*Father may my life be worship to you. I pray that in all things you would be glorified and honored. I pray my life would be used to glorify your name and Father may you prune my life and remove anything that would hinder your work and will in my life. Help me in my weakness. Help me in my failing. Father have your way and may every breath I breath glorify and honor your name.*

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## Day 60

### He Is Faithful and Just and Will Forgive Our Sins and Cleanse Us Continually

#### **1 John 1:9 AMP**

*If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just [true to His own nature and promises], and will forgive our sins and cleanse us continually from all unrighteousness [our wrongdoing, everything not in conformity with His will and purpose].*

If we confess our sins freely. God doesn't force us to confess our sins, but if we desire forgiveness, we simply need to confess our sins. He is faithful and just to forgive us. We are not called to work or earn His forgiveness because it is actually impossible.

We are not able to declare ourselves righteous nor forgiven through our performance or works. Man has nothing he is able to boast about before the Living God. Everything we receive from God is simply a gift. If we were able to earn it, we would be able to boast, but God has so designed forgiveness and salvation that one must simply humble themselves before The Living God, confess their sin and they will be forgiven.

One of the great weapons and devices of the enemy is condemnation. But it is based on a lie and deception. Often the enemy will try to hold things over our lives from the past. But if we have confessed, God has not only chosen to forgive us, but He has also chosen to forget it. It is covered by the blood of Jesus and thankfully throughout our lives He is continually forgiving us. Let go of the past and let go of the mistakes. Embrace today His love and grace and simply desire greater intimacy with Him and to live for Him.

*Prayer*

*Father help me in my weakness and my sin. Help me in the areas that I am struggling in. Help me each day to become more like you. Prune from my life anything that would hinder your work and may my heart and life be one with you. Thank you for every time you have forgiven me and thank you for calling and choosing me before the foundations of the world. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 61

### For God Is Not Unjust So As To Forget Your Work

## Hebrews 6:10 NASB

*For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, by having served and by still serving the saints.*

God will never forget us. He sees all things. Our work on this earth for Him is never in vain. Everything we do for the Lord must be motivated by our love for Him. We should never do anything for Him out of obligation. The more we spend time with Him, the more we fall in love with Him. The more we come to know His heart and know His voice. God desires to glorify His name in and through our lives. Nothing we do for the Lord is ever wasted.

We are called to serve one another. We are called to put the needs of other above our own. When the body of Christ truly lives out what God has laid out in His word, lives are changed, and lives are restored. One of the great weapons of the enemy is discouragement. The enemy will try to discourage us from being faithful to the Lord and His purposes. The enemy will tell us that what we are doing for God is not making a difference, but it is all based on a lie.

We must remember that Satan is the father of lies. Every word that proceeds from His mouth to us is a lie. When the enemy tells us that God doesn't see us and what we are doing doesn't matter, we must realize and understand it is simply a lie. God is good and His grace is sufficient. His love is unconditional, and His strength is perfected in our weakness. May we commit to simply walk in the Spirit and be led by The Spirit. May we simply be faithful in that which is small so that we can be entrusted with much.

### *Prayer*

*Father help me to keep my heart and mind fixed on you. Help me not to listen to the voice of the enemy. Fill my heart and life with your love, peace, and presence. Clearly reveal your will to my life and guard and protect my life from the wicked one. Deliver me from every curse and strategy of Satan. Help me to be faithful at all times. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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Day 62

# Clothe Yourselves With Tenderhearted Mercy

## Colossians 3:12 NLT

*12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.*

God has chosen us. He pursues us and chooses us long before we respond to salvation. Salvation is a free gift, but the only way we can come to salvation and come to know Jesus is if God allows us. It is a work of the Holy Spirit and the part we play in this whole process is to respond to God's free gift of salvation. It cost God everything, but it is a free gift that is received by faith.

Paul writes here that we must clothe ourselves with tenderhearted mercy. What should mark the child of God is the character and nature of Christ. If we were to describe God with a single word the best option would be the word love. But within God's love His mercy is found. He pours out His mercy on those who don't deserve it because He loves them with an unconditional eternal love. No matter how hard we try we will never fully understand the love God has for us. But if this extravagant love is poured out on us, how much more should we demonstrate that love to others.

But Paul not only tells us to clothe ourselves with tenderhearted mercy, but we are also called to clothe ourselves with kindness, gentleness, and patience. When we examine all of these words, we see that Paul is simply telling us to clothe ourselves with Jesus Christ. But the only way we can clothe ourselves with Christ is by abiding in Him on a daily basis. We must draw near unto the Lord through prayer, through His word, and fellowshiping with other believers. As we grow in Christ and draw near to Christ, we become more like Him. It is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that transforms us from the inside out.

### *Prayer*

*Father help me to clothe myself each day with who you are. I pray that the fruit of the Holy Spirit will fill my life. That it will be produced and that as your refine and prune me, your kingdom will be increased in my heart and life. May my life be lived to glorify you in all things. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 63

### He Will Come Again

#### **Hebrews 9:27-28 NLT**

*<sup>27</sup> And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, <sup>28</sup> so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.*

Every person on this earth is destined to die once. Except for those who will be raptured, every single one of us at one point will face death. One of the great fears of people is the fear of dying. Those who have no relationship with Jesus Christ have no knowledge of what stands on the other side of death. Our lives on this earth are but a breath compared to eternity. We are but a vapor and when our time on this earth comes to an end, we will spend eternity somewhere. For those who know Jesus personally and have received the free gift of salvation, they will go to be in the presence of the Lord. But for those who rejected what Jesus has done, they will spend all eternity separated from God.

He who knew no sin has become sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus came to offer His life as a sacrifice for sin. The Father so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. God didn't have to save us; He has chosen to save us. He didn't have to have a plan for salvation, He simply could have abandoned us to ourselves and allowed us to destroy ourselves. But this is how much God loves us, while we were still sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). We have done nothing to deserve salvation, but God in His mercy has saved us and provided a way for us to be saved.

Jesus is coming again. He is coming to call us home. He is coming to establish His kingdom. The world we live in becomes more sinful and wicked by the day. As man gives himself to sin more and more and rejects the truth of who God is, the wickedness and darkness of the enemy fills the earth. But this is not where our focus should lie. Our focus and eyes should be fixed upon the soon return of Jesus. Every day we should be abiding in Christ. Growing in our walk and relationship with Him. Being led by The Holy Spirit in all things. Being surrendered to the work

and leading of The Holy Spirit. Our Lord and Savior is coming soon, may we diligently prepare our hearts for His soon return.

### Prayer

Father thank you for your love and your grace. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus to die for our sins. Jesus thank you that you are coming soon and that you are returning to rescue us and establish your kingdom. Help me each day to fix my eyes on you. Help me each day to abide in you. May you prune and refine my life of anything that would hinder your work in me. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!

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## Day 64

### God, The Lord, Is My Strength

#### **Habakkuk 3:19 ESV**

*GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.*

The Lord is my strength. All of us face trials and challenges. When we come to Christ, the devil makes it his number one priority to destroy us. Paul in Ephesians talks about spiritual warfare and for the child of God who is growing on a daily basis, spiritual warfare is a daily reality. But to be effective and victorious as a child of God, we must fully rely on God alone. We must abide in Christ. We must live from a place of God's strength and not our own. The greatest hindrance in our lives to what God desires to do and accomplish is pride. Pride causes us to rely upon ourselves or things other than God. Humility on the other hand causes us to rely fully on God and give every battle over to Him.

Here Habakkuk says, "*he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places*". A deer has many enemies. But the key for a deer and its survival is having the high ground.

When they have the high ground, they are not only protected from predators but they can also see down below us. When we walk closely with Christ the Lord will give us eyes to see and ears to hear. We will live in a place of protection and safety under the shadow of the Lord. Walking closely with the Lord is the safest place we will find ourselves in a world that is immersed in darkness and wickedness.

This was written to the choir master with the stringed instruments because this would be a song of worship and praise unto the Lord. When worship and praise are a center piece of our lives, we will have our heart and mind fixed on the Lord. We will not focus on the battle before us, but will focus on the victory that is found in Christ. Every battle we face will turn into a blessing as we trust the Lord. He is faithful. He is sovereign. He is all powerful. He is Almighty God. May we trust and rely on Him at all times.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to trust you. Help me in my weakness and my struggle. Father in myself I am insufficient. Give me greater humility. Guard my heart from arrogance and pride. May my life be in your hands and may every battle be placed in your hands. Through my life may your name be glorified and honored. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 65

### Enter By The Narrow Gate

#### **Matthew 7:13-14 ESV**

*“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

Jesus says to enter by the narrow gate. Jesus is going to teach a kingdom principle by comparing two things. He is going to compare a narrow gate and a broad gate or a wide gate. A narrow gate

only allows for a few people to come through at a time, but a wide gate allows many people to come through.

The gate that leads to destruction is wide and those who enter by it are many. Now many think today that all people go to Heaven. Regardless of what people do in this life, people believe that no matter what you do or what you believe in, everyone goes to heaven. But when we examine the bible we see that is not the case. Jesus made it very clear that He alone is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Christ alone. The only way a man can be saved is by faith in Jesus Christ because it is only His blood that can wash us clean.

But what is stunning about this statement by Jesus is many will enter through the broad gate. When we look at the world today and see how the gospel is everywhere it is very apparent that people would rather live in sin and chase after the wickedness of the world than surrender their lives to Almighty God. For if a person believes there is a God, they are then accountable to Him. The number one thing that keeps a person from coming to Christ is pride. People either don't believe they are sinners and therefore have no need of a savior or they simply don't see a need for God because they believe they are their own god.

There will be many on the earth during the time of the anti-Christ. Many will give him their allegiance and take his mark. But for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, they have come to know and understanding that Jesus is indeed the Son of God. He is God Almighty. He is the only way to Heaven and to reject faith in Christ is to reject the greatest gift God has given humanity. He didn't have to make a way for us to be reconciled to Him, but He did and He did because of His love for us. May we daily fix our eyes upon Him. May our hearts be fixed upon His grace. May we grow deeper in Christ every day. Thank you Jesus for the narrow way.

*Prayer*

*Father thank you for providing a way for us to be saved and forgiven. Thank you for saving us by your grace and your mercy. Thank you that your love is unconditional and eternal. Thank you for choosing us and calling us. We pray for those whose eyes are blinded to the truth. Father give them eyes to see and ears to hear to see and hear Jesus that you are the only way. Thank you that you are returning soon. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 66

### Blessed Are Those Whose Way Is Blameless

#### **Psalm 119:1 NASB**

*Blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
Who walk in the Law of the LORD.*

Psalm 119 focuses on the blessing of the word of God and the benefit if we live according to God's word. Jesus said those who love me will obey my commands. Our love for God is demonstrated in our ability and desire to live according to His word. We cannot live according to God's word in our own strength. If we were able to, we wouldn't need God. But He provides the grace, strength and power to build our lives upon His word.

The word blameless means **complete, whole, sound, blameless, perfect**. *Describes a spotless animal, something complete or whole, and a blameless or upright person.* Those whose walk is blameless are those who have made God's word the foundation of their lives. Our lives will be built on something. Many today build their lives on the demonic lies of this ages. It causes them to live lives that manifest the character and nature of the evil one. But for those who build their life on the truth of scripture, their lives will reflect and manifest the character and nature of God.

The word walk means **to walk, to go**. *Sometimes God's presence is expressed by saying he will walk with or go before his people*<sup>8</sup>. If we are walking in the law of the Lord, we are living according to the law of the Lord. The word of God must be our standard of truth and conduct. Many in the world today would claim that truth is subjective. They will often say I have my truth and you have your truth. What man has done is made a god of themselves. But truth is objective. It is determined by the one who has created all things. If we are going to claim that we love and serve Him, our lives must be built upon His word and obedience to His word must be the priority. Living for God will never be popular or easy, but by His grace all things are possible.

#### *Prayer*

*Father help me to build my life upon your word. Help me on a daily basis to surrender to your will and purpose for my life. Holy Spirit may you fill me and use me to glorify and honor your*

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<sup>8</sup> Benjamin M. Austin, "[Divine Presence](#)," ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

*name. Jesus I pray that living according to your word would be the priority of my life. May I truly seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 67

# Blessed and Favored By God Are Those Who Keep His Testimonies

## Psalm 119:2 (Amplified Bible)

*Blessed and favored by God are those who keep His testimonies,  
And who [consistently] seek Him and long for Him with all their heart.*

The word testimonies here means **testimony, reminder, warning**. *The content of God's truth recorded in the law.*<sup>9</sup> Those who keep the law of the Lord will be blessed and highly favored. Those who live and walk according to the word of God will be blessed and highly favored. Some today act as if obedience is not important to God Almighty. That He has only given us His word as a suggestion, and we can pick and choose what we desire to follow and build our lives on.

The truth is that obedience is very important to the word of God. God desires to bless us greatly in every area of our lives. For when the blessing of the Lord is poured out on the people of God it is a testimony to those who have no relationship with The Living God. Some today have the mindset to follow Christ means we live in a continual place of poverty. It is important to see and understand that we will face hard and difficult things as followers of Jesus, but it doesn't mean that our lives will be void of the blessing of God.

But the question is what is our motivation for walking in obedience? Is it simply to be blessed by God because if that is the case then we simply serve God for selfish motives. The driving force of why we desire to walk in obedience is our love for Him. When we begin to understand how

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<sup>9</sup> G. D. Taylor, "[Testimony](#)," ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

much He loves us it truly changes how we live. We move from desiring to live for self to living for Him.

The second part of this verse is key: ***And who [consistently] seek Him and long for Him with all their heart.*** When we consistently seek Him and long for Him, our hearts and minds will be fixed upon Him. We will hunger for His presence and His word. We will supernaturally be changed and transformed by the power and work of The Holy Spirit. We are called to seek Him with all our heart. May we pray that anything that would hinder or delay the purposes and plans of God in our lives be removed. Many things can become idols and the danger of deception is we can be deceived and not even know it. As we pray and ask God to remove everything in our lives that would hinder, we open the door for God to truly do surgery and begin to cut away those things that are keeping us from walking in our fullness in Him. His love for us is unconditional and extraordinary. He desires the very best for us as His sons and daughters. May we surrender, seek Him with all our hearts, and seek Him continually.

*Prayer*

*Father have your way in my life. Cut away and remove anything that is hindering what you want to do. Help me to seek you continually and with all my heart. Father help me to draw near in the hard and difficult season and moments. Help me in my weakness. May your strength be perfected in my weakness. Thank you that your grace is sufficient. Thank you for how much you love me. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 68

### Who Reconciled Us To Himself Through Christ

#### **2 Corinthians 5:18 NET**

*<sup>18</sup> And all these things are from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation.*

We are reconciled through Christ. Reconciled means *to be or become restored to favorable or friendly relations with another after a presumed wronged*.<sup>10</sup> Because of Jesus we are able to approach the throne of grace with confidence. The precious blood of Jesus has washed away our sins. It is as if we have never sinned once we have come to Jesus. Once we begin to walk with Jesus, if we do sin, we can confess our sins and He is faithful and just to forgive us. There is nothing that can separate us from His love. He has chosen us. He has called us. We are not even able to come to Jesus unless the Father allows it.

For each one of us who have been reconciled, we have now been called to share the message of reconciliation with others. All of us are called to evangelize. All of us are called to plant seeds. We are called to be led, walk, and live in the Spirit. Jesus gave us a model of how we are to live. He fully became man and did all things under the leading and guidance of The Holy Spirit. Many are lost and broken around us. Lost and broken people do broken things. But we who are in Christ and know Jesus personally have been given the message of reconciliation.

The message of reconciliation is the gospel. The apostle Paul writes this in Romans 1:16-17 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* <sup>17</sup> *For the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel from faith to faith, just as it is written, "The righteous by faith will live."*<sup>11</sup> The gospel is God's power of salvation to everyone who believes. When a person hears the gospel and comes to faith in Christ they are forgiven of their sins and reconciled unto God. We who are in Christ carry this message. We are ambassadors of the kingdom. May we be faithful to share this message with those who are lost and separated from the Living God.

### *Prayer*

*Father help me in my weakness and fear. Help me to be filled with your boldness, courage, and strength. Holy Spirit fill me daily with who you are. May I know your voice and your leading. May you help me to walk in obedience. Father, I pray for divine appointments and the opportunity to share this message of reconciliation.*

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<sup>10</sup> Rick Brannan, ed., [\*Lexham Research Lexicon of the Greek New Testament\*](#), Lexham Research Lexicons (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020).

<sup>11</sup> Biblical Studies Press, [\*The NET Bible\*](#), Second Edition. (Denmark: Thomas Nelson, 2019), Ro 1:16–17.

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## Day 69

### Husbands, Love Your Wives Just As Christ Loved The Church

#### **Ephesians 5:25-27 NET**

*25 Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her 26 to sanctify her by cleansing her with the washing of the water by the word, 27 so that he may present the church to himself as glorious—not having a stain or wrinkle, or any such blemish, but holy and blameless.*

The word Paul uses here in the Greek means Involves a deep level of affection and intimacy. There are four words in the Greek that can be translated love but the word agapao speaks of a sacrificial love that is based on a decision of will. It is not based on feeling or sexual attraction. These words written by the apostle Paul were monumental for his day and time. Wives were simply viewed as pieces of property by their husbands during the time of the Roman Empire. To command husbands to not only love their wives but to do so as Christ loved the church was incredible.

When a husband commits himself unto Christ and truly loves his wife as Christ loved the church impacts every aspect of a marriage and family. It not only impacts the wife in the home, but the children that are being raised. Many people today have brokenness because of father wounds. There are some who may read this who would say they have failed as fathers. But the incredible thing with God is that today we can respond to the voice and leading of the Holy Spirit. We can turn from our sin and short comings and draw near to Christ. We can rely on His grace and truly be the men He has called us to be.

No husband or man is perfect. Only one who walked the earth was perfect and His name is Jesus. But The Holy Spirit lives inside of us. As we abide daily God will enable us to love our wives as Christ loved the church. God will enable us to be the father He has called us to be. May we choose to love our wives sacrificially and understand that gift and treasure they truly are from Almighty God.

*Prayer*

*Father help me in my weakness. Help me in each battle I face as a husband, father, and man. Help me to rely on your grace. Help me to love my wife unconditionally and sacrificially. Help me to be the man you have called me to be. Forgive me for every time I have fallen short and help me to learn from my mistakes and grow in you. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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Day 70

God Has Mercy On Whom He Chooses To Have Mercy

**Romans 9:18 NET**

*18 So then, God has mercy on whom he chooses to have mercy, and he hardens whom he chooses to harden.*

This verse truly shows the depths of God's grace and mercy for us. He will have mercy on whom He chooses to have mercy, and He will harden whom He chooses to harden. There are mysteries about the sovereignty of God and the freewill of man we will not fully understand on this side of Heaven.

God has done all the work. God has called and God has drawn. It is man who is called to respond to the precious gift of salvation. This gift is not earned or dependent on the merits of man. If it was, man would have something to boast about. But man has nothing to boast about before the Living God. The only right action we have is to humble ourselves before the greatness and awesomeness of God.

There are those in this world who see the cross as foolishness. They see Jesus as a fantasy and fairytale. But one day they will stand before the risen Christ. One day they will tremble in His presence. It is God who has hardened their hearts and they have been hardened in their unbelief and rebellion. They in their pride have purchased a ticket to hell and in the end will be held fully accountable for their decision.

When we understand the truth and depths of His mercy for us, it causes us to fall more and more in love with Him. We know the depths of our sin better than anyone. Paul himself referred to himself as the chief of all sinners. Not just a sinner, but the worst of all sinners. The apostle Paul had a right understanding of who he was and who Christ was. May we ask God to give us a right understanding of who we are that we would rightly serve the Lord and honor Him in all things.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to rightly understand your word. Help me to rightly understand who I am in you. To rightly understand that all I have from you is a gift to receive by faith and to be lived out to glorify and honor you. Rid my life of pride and arrogance. Replace it with your love and compassion. Help me to see those around me as you see them. Father help me each day to bear my cross and to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. In the might name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 71

### Pure and Undefined Religion

#### **James 1:27 NET**

*27 Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their adversity and to keep oneself unstained by the world.*

Pure and undefiled religion. The word religion here means ritual act of devotion for a divine being. Refers typically to external ritual acts that display commitment to a god. If we are to have pure and undefiled devotion to Almighty God our lives must reflect that of Jesus Christ. Merely claiming that we love God without action means very little. James hits at the heart of the issue when it comes to compassion. To care for orphans and widows in their adversity.

The life of an orphan and widow is hard and difficult often they are overlooked and abandoned. They are seen as having very little value. But those who are in Christ should be moved with compassion. As we see needs before us and we have the means to meet that need, we should be moved by The Spirit of God to act accordingly. Jesus never said this would be easy, but God blesses us and gives us increase not so we can spend it on ourselves, but so we can be a blessing to others. We can literally be an extension of the hands and feet of Jesus to those who are broken and disadvantaged.

Our world is filled with people who are broken and disadvantaged. If we are truly following the leading of the Spirit and walking by The Spirit, the Lord will highlight these needs to us. He will provide us with divine appointments to impact a life for the kingdom of God. Often it is love and compassion that will open the door of those who have been beaten down and hurt by the world.

James also says to keep oneself unstained by the world. We are called to be living sacrifices. We are called to be holy because He is holy. The word holy means set apart. If we claim to follow Christ yet live and indulge in the world as those who do not know Him, then how are we set apart. How are we truly being living sacrifices unto God? Worship is not merely singing songs unto the Lord, it is the lifestyle we live on a daily basis.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to see the brokenness and needs around me. Help me to truly be your hands and feet. Fill me daily with your presence and your power. Help me to love and have compassion as you do. May I not indulge in the world, but may my life be set apart for your honor and your glory. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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Day 72

Do To Others What You Would Have Them Do To You

**Matthew 7:12 NIV**

*12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*

In Everything means everything. In every area of life, in every human interaction we are to do to others what we would have them do to us. Jesus says this sums up the law and the prophets. What does this tell us about the character and nature of God? What does this reveal is most important unto God?

What we see is that what God is truly concerned with is how we treat others that have been created in His image. Every person on this earth regardless of skin color has been created by the living God and has been created in His image. This is why to say one color or race of people is more important than others is pure foolishness and is not biblical or based on truth.

To even say there are multiple races is foolishness because all have descended from Adam. All of us on this earth have descended from Adam and therefore all people born on this earth are born with a sin nature that dominates them. Our ability to hate and even discredit someone based on the color of their skin is a result of our sin nature. For if we truly are led by The Holy Spirit and we are a brand-new creation in Christ, we will value and cherish what God values and cherishes. God has created all people in His image and therefore we are called to love all people regardless of where they come from and regardless of what they look like. Jesus has even told us to pray for and love our enemies.

But when Jesus says the law and the prophets, He is referring to the old covenant. From Genesis to Malachi, we have God's word based on the Old Covenant. But when Jesus came, everything changed. Through faith in Christ, we enter into a better and new covenant. Because of the blood of Jesus, our sins are washed away, and the Spirit of God comes to live within us. If we are truly abiding in Christ, His character and nature will be manifest in us and our lives will be lived to bring Him glory.

Some have a misconception of Christianity believing it is but a bunch of rules that God has given to hinder humanity from pursuing that which they desire. But in fact, Christianity is a living relationship with the Living God in which we are freed from the curse of sin and death, we are born again to new life, and the very Spirit of God comes to live inside us supernaturally transforming us from the inside out.

*Prayer*

*Father help me each day to live for you. Help me to fix my eyes on you. There are many distractions and many voices that would try to pull me in many directions. But help me to love*

*people as you love. May your compassion, grace, mercy, and love mark my life. May I simply walk in obedience to your word and truth. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 73

### Righteousness exalts a nation

#### **Proverbs 14:34 NET**

*<sup>34</sup> Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.*

Righteousness exalts a nation. The major issue in America today is moral depravity and decline. We as a nation have pushed God out of our educational system and every major institution. This nation when it began was built upon the truth of God's word and we desired to honor God as a nation. It doesn't mean we were perfect by any means. Just like any individual is not perfect because they are human, America as a nation is not perfect because it is made up of human beings and it is led by human beings.

American is not called to be a theocracy. We are the only nation in the history of the world at its founding who has chosen to honor the Living God. Israel was a nation was chosen by God. God established a covenant with Abraham that was passed on to Isaac and then to Jacob. Jacob's name was changed to Israel and through Israel the twelve tribes were established by his twelve sons. Israel throughout its history was called to be a theocracy but sadly during the time of Samuel they told God they wanted a king like all the other nations. That is exactly what God gave them, King Saul. Saul looked like a king but sadly he was not a man who had a heart that was truly committed to the Living God.

But in America, we find ourselves where we are today because we have abandoned God and His ways. Great blessing is placed on a nation when they honor God. Proverbs 14:34 tells us that righteousness exalts a nation, but sin or wickedness is a disgrace or reproach to any people. When a nation gives itself to moral depravity what looms on the horizon is the judgement of

Almighty God. A nation that continues in wickedness and sin with no fear of the Living God in time will cease to exist. It isn't because God is cruel or unjust, but He must rightly deal with sin and when His mercy is rejected, the only thing that remains is His judgement.

But the question remains what should believers do at this time in history in America? Should we simply stand by and watch it burn to the ground? Should we simply proclaim judgement over America and wait for the hammer to fall? I believe when we examine 2 Chronicles 7:14 it states clearly "if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, turn from their wicked ways, and cry out to me, I will hear from heaven and heal their land". As believers and followers of Christ we only have control over our personal relationship with God. We can't control what people do with in our local church or even in the body of Christ as a whole across the nation. But if we are willing personally to commit all we are and truly take the word of God seriously, I believe there is always hope.

Daniel is a perfect example of God using one man in history and his faithfulness to the Lord in prayer, to impact the course of an entire nation. As followers of Jesus, we have been authority directly from Jesus Christ. It is only God who can change hearts and it is only God who can open blind eyes. In this time of ever-increasing darkness may we choose to be a light. May we choose to live for Christ and consecrate our lives to Him. He is coming soon but that doesn't mean we are called to simply put our lives on autopilot waiting for Him. May we diligently seek the Lord. May we cry out to God to move in our schools and in the halls of government. May we pray that God would raise up leaders and empower leaders to do that which is right. The hope of America lays in the hands of the American church. May we truly be a house of prayer and may we be the bride Christ has called us to be.

*Prayer*

*Father today we lift up the nation of America to you. We pray for the hearts and lives of our leaders. Father may you give them wisdom and understanding. May your will be done in their hearts and in their lives. Father may we as a nation do what is right according to your word. May you forgive us for the ways we have abandoned and forsaken you and your word. Father may believers across America understand the authority they have in you and use that authority diligently in the place of prayer. Father help us in our weakness. Help us in our unbelief. Help us to be the church and bride you have called us to be. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 74

### For You Were Called To Freedom

#### **Galatians 5:13 NASB2020**

*For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love.*

In Christ we are called to freedom. Who the Son has set free is free indeed. We are no longer under the demands of the law. We are called to live by the Spirit and to walk by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one who leads and guides us into all truth. He is our guide; He is our paraclete. But the freedom we have in Christ carries a great responsibility.

We are not called to use the freedom we have to indulge the sinful nature or as an opportunity for the flesh. We might have the opinion that we are covered by the grace of God and have placed our faith in Christ, so what I do with my body doesn't really matter because I have been born again spiritually. But Paul makes it clear in 1 Corinthians that our bodies are a temple of The Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God lives inside of us. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we have The Holy Spirit with us. What we do with our physical bodies does indeed impact our relationship with Almighty God.

But instead of using our freedom to indulge the sinful nature, we should instead use our lives to serve one another. The freedom we have in Christ actually sets us free to live in obedience. We were once slaves of sin before we came to Jesus Christ. Now we have been called to become slaves of righteousness. The law of God has been written on our hearts. In Christ we are a brand-new creation. As we grow in Christ our hearts and minds become one with His. We are transformed from the inside out. May we be committed to truly be living sacrifices unto the Lord.

Are you serving the body of Christ? In the local church you are a part of have you begun to find a place to serve. God hasn't called anyone to merely be a spectator, but He has called us to use the gifts He has given us, to use them to benefit the greater good of His people, and to get off the sidelines and into the game. Our Lord and Savior is coming soon. May we live each day for His glory and not use the freedom we have to pursue the things of the flesh and the world. Instead, may we use the freedom we have to truly serve one another.

Prayer

Father help me to live each day for you. Help me to find a place to serve and to use the gifts and talents you have given me. Help me not to waste my life on pursuing the flesh and the emptiness of this world. But may I be changed and transformed each day by the power and might of The Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit have your way and use my life for your glory and your honor, in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!

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## Day 75

### The Harvest Is Plentiful

#### **Matthew 9:37 NASB2020**

*Then He \*said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.*

The harvest is plentiful. These words were spoken at first from Jesus to the disciples. As Jesus looked out over the brokenness of humanity and how many were simply lost sheep, without a shepherd, He told His disciples how important prayer was in the raising of workers and laborers.

How much more today are workers and laborers needed. Our world is broken, sinful, and darkness is increasing daily. But for the child of God, we are not called to live in fear, but we are called to see the opportunity before us. We may look at our lives and not think much of ourselves, but when we place our lives in the hands of Almighty God, there is nothing that is impossible with Him.

Wherever we find ourselves is our mission field. We are surrounded daily by people who are lost and going to hell. God has called us not only to plant seeds, but to water those seeds through prayer and intercession. Prayer is vital to see the purposes and plans of God accomplished. There are many things that we can focus our time and attention on, but where we must keep our focus is God, His coming kingdom, and the need to go and make disciples.

Today may we pray. May we simply live according to the word of God and do what Jesus has called us to do. The world needs laborers. The coming of the Lord is very soon. The harvest is ready before us. Throughout every nation there is a mighty harvest. May we pray and fast as the

Lord leads. May our hearts and minds be committed to Him and His kingdom. May we not become distracted by the lies and deceptions of this age. May we keep the main thing the main thing.

Prayer

Father raise up workers. Raise up laborers. In every nation raise up those who will proclaim the gospel. Those who will disciple people in your name and for your kingdom. Father help us in our weakness and our unbelief. Help us not to focus on what the enemy is doing, but to fix our hearts upon your plans and your purposes. Thank you for your grace. Thank you for your faithfulness. Forgive us when we fall short. May we live each day for you. Thank you for saving us and setting us free. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!

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Day 76

Nothing Is Too Hard For You

**Jeremiah 32:17 (New International Version)**

*“Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.*

We need to remind ourselves of this daily. Nothing is too hard for God. So many times, we can become overwhelmed by things we face on a daily basis. The enemy will assault us with lie and temptation to try to get us to either step out of the will of God, not follow the will of God, or get our eyes off Jesus. But when we sit back and think about who God is, reflecting on His greatness and power, it truly puts things in perspective.

Today you might be facing something that is overwhelming in your life. You may even believe or feel that God has abandoned you and that you have lost all hope. But understand what you are feeling and what you are believing is not based on truth. God will never abandon us, nor forsake us. His grace is sufficient for all we will face. His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

Often, we feel overwhelmed and we begin to think about quitting when we begin to rely on our own strength and power.

In ourselves we are nothing. The quicker we can come to that conclusion the better. The more time we spend with the Lord in His presence, the more we are changed by Him. As we spend time in God's word, our minds are renewed, and our lives are transformed. We will begin to see the trials we face as blessings and tools God is using to mold and shape us. Regardless of what we face today we must remember that the one we are able to draw near to and have an audience with is the same one who *made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm.*

Today be willing to trust the Lord. Be willing to let go of your fear, worry, anxiety, and unbelief. Ask Him to help you in your unbelief. Every trial you face has an eternal purpose. Nothing you face now on this earth is by accident and chance. As a child of God your steps are ordered by God and ultimately our eyes must be fixed on the soon return of our Lord and Savior. Today be willing to live in His presence. Be willing to walk with Him at all times. May we surrender every area of our lives to Almighty God.

#### Prayer

Father thank you for your love. Thank you that you never abandon us nor forsake us. That you always provide, protect, guide, lead, and direct. Thank you that nothing we face is by accident. That even the hard and difficult things in our lives have an eternal purpose. Help me in my unbelief. Forgive me when I fall short. May I fall in love with you more and more each day. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!

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## Day 77

Then Jesus Was Led By The Spirit Into The Wilderness To Be Tempted By The Devil

**Matthew 4:1-4 New International Version**

*4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*

There is much we can learn about when Jesus was tempted by the Devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights. Because He was in the wilderness, and it was dry and hot, most likely He also went without water. It shows us that even though Jesus was fully human in every way, He was empowered supernaturally by The Holy Spirit. It is also important to see that The Holy Spirit didn't lead Him into the wilderness until He was baptized in water and The Holy Spirit came upon Him.

Everything Jesus did was according to the Father's will and timetable. Jesus never did anything because it seemed like a good idea or because He lived according to His own wisdom. Jesus' life was built in deep prayer. Jesus didn't do anything without spending time in His Father's presence and seeking Him in prayer. There is much we can learn from the life of Jesus by simply studying His prayer life.

But it was in His weakest moment that the devil came to tempt Jesus. Often the devil will sit back and observe us. He is committed to be patience and wait on the perfect opportunity to strike. As he observed the Son of God in the wilderness and observing that He is not eating for forty days, he knew that Jesus would be hungry. The devil tempted Jesus to use His authority and power selfishly to meet a need that existed physically but that was outside the Father's will. Jesus was led into the wilderness to fast and was led by The Holy Spirit. Before Jesus would begin His public ministry, He would face the temptations of the devil. It would prepare Him to face the devil many times on many occasions and ultimately to face the devil at Calvary and overcome him.

The devil will always attack at our weakest moment. He will thoroughly study our lives and when he finds a weak spot, he will exploit it with all that he has. But the key to overcoming the devil is the word of God and the leading of The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will always give us a way out, but we must see when Jesus responded, He responded with the truth of scripture.

Spending time in God's word daily is essential for victorious Christianity. We are not called to be doormats of the enemy. We are called to bring glory to the name of Jesus. This can only happen as we spend time each day meditating on the truth of God's word and allowing The Holy Spirit to transform and change us from the inside out.

Today you might be facing temptations that you have struggled to overcome. Begin to cry out to God and place the battle in His hands. Confess your need for God’s power and strength, humble yourself under His mighty hand, and fully rely on His grace and strength. Stop trying to overcome that which the devil is throwing at you in your own strength. His strength is sufficient in our weakness. The more we humble ourselves, the more victorious we will be.

*Prayer*

*Father help me each day in every temptation I face. Deliver me from every device and scheme of the devil. May my life glorify you in all things. May my heart and mind be one with yours. Help me to live a life committed to holiness and righteousness. Have your way Father in all things. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 78

### If You Keep My Commandments

#### **John 15:9-11 Amplified Bible**

*<sup>9</sup> I have loved you just as the Father has loved Me; remain in My love [and do not doubt My love for you]. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments and obey My teaching, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy may be made full and complete and overflowing.*

It is amazing thing that God chooses to love us. Here Jesus says “I have loved you just as the Father has loved me”. Everything Jesus did was driven and motivated by His love for us. His choosing to go to the cross was because of His love for us. His remaining on the cross when He could have called legions upon legions of angels to rescue Him was because of His love for us. But He calls us to remain in His love. We are called to abide in His love. It is not a love based on feelings or emotions. It is not a romantic love. It is a love based on a decision of will. It is a

sacrificial love in which we are willing to lay down all because of our love for Him. This is the love we are called to remain in.

To remain in this love, we are called to obey His commandments and teachings. Simply we are called to live out the word of God daily. At the forefront of every decision, we must have the word of God. In everything we do we must ask ourselves “does this glorify and honor Jesus”. If the answer to that question is wrong, it is the wrong decision and wrong choice. He must be the priority. Our sole purpose for living must be to worship and honor Him in all things.

Jesus lived a life of complete surrender and obedience. A big part of Jesus life was prayer. When prayer becomes the focal point of our lives, we will naturally walk in obedience to the Lord. We will hunger for His presence in a greater way. The mind and heart of Christ will be produced within us and every decision we make will be filtered through this. But we must look at how Jesus lived His life and emulate it in every way. We must become dependent on the Holy Spirit at all times. In every situation and decision our lives must be placed in the hands of The Holy Spirit.

Jesus’ desire is that our joy may be full, complete, and overflowing. The joy of the Lord that is only supplied by God Almighty and a result of knowing Him may be full in our lives. That Jesus would become our joy and delight. There are many things in this world that compete for our time and attention. But there is only one who is worthy to sit upon the throne of our hearts. There is only one who deserves our time and attention and that is Jesus.

May we be committed to live in obedience to His word and His leading. May we be surrendered to God Almighty and be willing to die to self daily. Jesus says, “if any man is to come after me, He must deny Himself and take up His cross”. This isn’t complicated, but it doesn’t mean it is easy. May we surrender all for the glory and honor of Jesus Christ.

#### Prayer

Father help me in my weakness and my shortcomings. Forgive me when I sin, and I fall short. Help me each day to rely fully on your grace and your power. Holy Spirit fill my life and immerse my life to overflowing. May the fruit of the Spirit be produced; may the gifts of the Spirit be manifested. Father have your way in my heart and mind in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!

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Day 79

## I Am Not Ashamed of The Gospel

### **Romans 1:16-17 Amplified Bible**

*<sup>16</sup> I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation [from His wrath and punishment] to everyone who believes [in Christ as Savior], to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed, both springing from faith and leading to faith [disclosed in a way that awakens more faith]. As it is written and forever remains written, “THE JUST and UPRIGHT SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”*

The gospel is the power of God for salvation. When the gospel is proclaimed, it opens the door for people to come to saving faith in Jesus Christ through the power and work of The Holy Spirit. The only way we can be saved and come to repentance is if God allows us to. It is only God who can change the human heart and it is only God who can open the eyes of those who are spiritual blind and dead.

We are saved from the wrath and punishment of Almighty God. Our sin deserves the wrath of God. The Son of God took the wrath and punishment we deserve. By living a life without sin, He became the perfect substitute who would stand in the place of all humanity. He would take the full measure of The Father's wrath upon Himself. By faith alone in Jesus is the only way anyone can be saved. Our works will never save us.

The gospel was first proclaimed to the Jew and then the way was opened to the gentiles. For it says that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. For God so loved the entire world. Though the Jews are God's covenant people, the way of salvation has been open to all gentiles. We enter into covenant relationship with the Living God through faith alone in Jesus Christ. This is the new and better covenant purchased and sealed by the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

The righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel. Through faith alone in Jesus Christ the righteousness of God is released into the life of the person. Our sins are washed away the moment we place our faith in Jesus. Our sins are atoned for, and our debt is paid. Through faith alone we are no longer separated from God, but we are reconciled. Through faith alone we are brought into right relationship with Almighty God.

The just shall live by faith. When we come to understand the biblical truth that all we have is a gift and is received by faith, it enables us to live and walk in true freedom. So many today believe that their works or performance can change their standing before God or the love He has for them. But all that we have in Jesus is because of His finished work. This is why the gospel is good news. It is not based on our works. Our past does not define us. In Christ all our sins are washed away. Salvation is open to all who will come to believe in Jesus as The Son of God.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to walk and live by faith each day. Help me to keep my eyes fixed upon Jesus and protect my heart and mind from the lies, deceptions, and temptations on a daily basis. Help me to grow each day in your love and may my life be used to glorify and honor you in all things.*

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## Day 80

### I Will Praise You With An Upright Heart

#### **Psalm 119:7-8 NIV**

*<sup>7</sup> I will praise you with an upright heart  
as I learn your righteous laws.*

*<sup>8</sup> I will obey your decrees;  
do not utterly forsake me.*

The word upright in the original Hebrew means **upright, straight, right**. *Can refer literally to being straight or metaphorically to having moral integrity.*<sup>12</sup> When we come to God we should come with a pure heart that is upright and committed to integrity. Integrity is what we do when no one is watching. One of the great weapons of the enemy is to get us to give into compromise. Every area of our lives in which compromise is taking place is an open door for the devil to not only influence us, but also to destroy our lives. But we must guard our hearts against sin and wickedness. The greatest way that we will overcome temptation of any kind is to walk and live in the Holy Spirit. We must be fully yielded and surrendered to the Spirit's leading.

The writer of the psalm speaks of learning the righteous laws of God. Under the Old Covenant they lived under the demands of the law. The law was to dictate every area of their lives. Every choice and decision were to be examined and measured by the law. Every thought was to be examine and compared to the law. The same stands today as it has to do with God's word from Genesis to Revelation. The word of God is our standard of righteousness and truth. Every thought and desire must be examined against the word of God. If it is in opposition against the word of God we can be aware that there is an area of deception in our life that is trying to take hold. Anytime we build our lives on deception or lie we open the door to live imprisoned to the devil.

Obedience is important to Almighty God. Here the writer says I will obey your decrees. Decrees mean **enactment, statute, decision; allotment, boundary**. *In its underlying meaning, indicates something prescribed, whether a rule or otherwise.*<sup>13</sup> The decrees he speaks of once again is the law of God. It is the boundary God set for His people. It is the rule by which they are to conduct themselves. All of Psalm 119 is committed to the majesty and beauty of God's word. When God's word dictates the course of our lives, great blessing will be poured out in every area of our lives. We will truly come to know His peace and joy even in the most difficult and hard times.

We can be certain that God will never leave us nor forsake us. Even in our failing, His grace holds us near, and The Holy Spirit empowers us to live and be a witness for Jesus. We must learn from our mistakes and why disobedience may have taken hold in an area of our lives. Often disobedience is a result of unbelief or fear. But the more we spend time in God's word and His presence, the more our lives will be immersed and led by The Spirit of God.

Prayer

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<sup>12</sup> Garwood P. Anderson, "[Righteousness](#)," ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

<sup>13</sup> Timothy A. Gabrielson, "[Law](#)," ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

Father thank you for loving me. Thank you for giving me your word. Thank you for choosing and using me in the midst of my failures and my weaknesses. Thank you for your grace. May your word be written upon the depths of my heart. May you give me greater understanding and revelation when it comes to your word. Thank you for saving me and transforming my life. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!

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## Day 81

### I have Chosen The Way of Faithfulness

#### **Psalm 119:30 (New International Version)**

*I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws.*

Every day as followers and believers in Jesus we have a choice to make. We can either choose to walk in obedience to God's word and the leading of The Holy Spirit, or we can choose to chase after and indulge in the sinful nature. There is a real battle that exist between the desires of our sinful nature and the leading and guidance of The Holy Spirit.

But the choice to indulge and chase after our sinful nature carries great consequences. Saul is a perfect example in the bible of someone who began well, but at the end crashed and burned. He had everything you would need to be a great king, but what he lacked was a heart truly surrendered to the Living God. This was the distinction of David who followed him. David was known as a man after God's own heart. David wasn't perfect by any means and his failures are well documented in scripture. But even in the midst of great sin, when confronted by that sin, David humbled himself and repented before the Lord.

The Psalmist writes that he has set his heart on the laws of God. The only way we can truly walk in obedience to the word of God and God's leading is to determine in our hearts that we will pursue God with our whole heart. We must set our hearts on the word of God. There will be

many things that will try to pull us to the left or to the right. But if we desire to experience the abundant life that Jesus talked about, we must set our hearts to honor God in all our ways. His word must be the priority of our lives.

*Prayer*

*Father help me in my weakness. Help me to build my life upon your word. May your word be written on the depths of my heart. May you transform and change me from the inside out. Help me to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. Remove anything from my life that would stand in the way of what you desire to do. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 82

### You Are The Christ

#### **Matthew 16:15-16 (New King James Version)**

*He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

Everything changes when our eyes are open to who Jesus truly is. Many in this world use the name of Jesus as a curse word. Often, they use His name when they are upset. It is telling that you don't hear people doing this with the name of Buddha or Mohammad. But Jesus is the Christ, He is the Son of the Living God.

Christ means anointed one. It points to Jesus being the Messiah. All throughout Israel's history they were awaiting the coming of the Messiah. Many knew that the Messiah would come from the line of King David and therefore many believed that when the Messiah came, He would be a conquering King like David who would establish His throne and would make everything right according to God's plan concerning Israel.

But often the ways and thoughts of God are much different and higher than those of man. The first time the Messiah came He had to deal with sin. Sin is the foundational issue as to why man is separated from God. God's concern was not only for the nation of Israel, His concern was for

all of humanity. His desire is that none would perish, but all would come to everlasting life. Because of this He so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, that whoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.

Jesus came because of His love for us. He is indeed the Messiah and the anointed one. This revelation was only given to Peter because of the person and work of The Holy Spirit. Today the only way a person can come to salvation is if it is revealed to them by the person and work of The Holy Spirit. May we treasure our salvation. May we understand we are saved by His grace and mercy alone. Today we have hope because Jesus is the Messiah, He is the Christ, He is the anointed one, and one day He is returning.

*Prayer*

*Father thank you for sending your Son Jesus. Jesus thank you for giving your life and taking the punishment and wrath we deserve. Thank you for being our Lord and Savior. Thank you that all hope is found in you. That regardless of what I face today, I thank you that you are in control and that you have a plan. You have a plan and purpose for all that I face each day. I thank you that you always provide and I never have to worry at all. Thank you for being my Lord and Savior. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 83

### You Are The Light of The World

#### **Matthew 5:14-16 New English Translation**

*<sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they can see your good deeds and give honor to your Father in heaven.*

Jesus has called us to be the light of the world. The purpose of a light is to illuminate the darkness. The world that we live in is darkened by sin, wickedness, and deception. As followers of Jesus, we have The Holy Spirit living inside of us. He transforms us from the inside out. The more time we spend with Him in prayer and His word, the more we are transformed by His presence and His grace.

A city located on a hill is not hidden because it is light up for all to see. This should be the life of the Christian. We are not called to walk with Jesus and hide the light and truth we have in Him. Many people around us are lost and in darkness. Though we may not know it, they are seeking after truth and the Lord is pursuing them. He desires to use us to be His hands and His feet.

The purpose of a lampstand is to give light to the whole house. It is useless if it is simply lit and then placed under a basket. When a person comes to saving faith in Jesus Christ, we are called to let our light shine. We are not called to hide the faith we have. Yes, we may be rejected and face persecution, but the whole point of walking with Jesus is to be His disciples and to do the very same things He has done. It is to let our light shine for all to see.

We are called to let our light shine so that those around us will see our good deeds and great glory and honor will be brought to our Father in Heaven. The Christian life is a life of action. Biblical faith is a faith that is marked by works. Faith without works is dead. So, a Christian life with good works is not truly manifesting the life that is found in Jesus. If the Spirit of God is truly living inside of us, it will impact every decision we make. It will impact every interaction we have on a daily basis.

Today if there are areas in your life that you know need to be pruned or refined, be willing to surrender and submit to the Lordship of Jesus and allow the Father to do the surgery needed to cut away things that are hindering truth growth and kingdom increase. Let your light shine for all to see. Regardless of what challenges and assaults from the enemy we may face, may our hearts and minds be focused on Him alone.

#### *Prayer*

*Father let my light shine for all to see. Help me to live this life to honor you in all things. Help me in my weakness and my unbelief. Move in my heart and life and may all that I do glorify and honor you. Help me to truly be a witness for you. To be filled with your power and your boldness. Father have your way in my heart and life in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 84

### Thank You For Making Me So Wonderfully Complex

#### **Psalm 139:14-17**New Living Translation

*14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. 15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. 16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. 17 How precious are your thoughts about me,[a] O God. They cannot be numbered!*

Our lives are a gift from Almighty God. No one on this earth is an accident. Regardless of skin color, every person is created in the image of God. When we understand this truth it will impact the way we see and treat others. It will impact the way we value human life. It will impact the way we see the unborn. God has made us wonderfully complex, we are His workmanship and His masterpiece.

May we value every moment and every breath. Every heart beat we have from God is a miracle. He holds all things together by His mighty power and He has given us life. We were formed in our mothers womb. We were developed in the unseen places. Life begins in the womb and that is where our first heart beat took place. God created us with purpose and destiny. As we trust Him each day, He reveals to us why we are here. God has planned out and laid out our days.

Nothing that happens in our lives is by accident. He has drawn us and He has opened our eyes. We are chosen by Him. He knows every failure we will ever have and every mistake we will ever make, yet He still chooses us. The thoughts of God toward us are precious. His plans are for our good and for His glory. He desires to use our lives to bring Him glory. May we not waste a moment on this earth. For this life is but a breath compared to eternity. May we treasure every moment.

*Prayer*

*Father thank you for creating me. Thank you for designing me with purpose. May my life glorify you in all things. May my heart and mind be fixed upon you. May you prune from my life anything that would hinder your purpose. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 85

### Be Humble, Thinking of Others As Better Than Yourselfes

#### **Philippians 2:3 NLT**

*Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.*

Humility is the key to greatness in God's kingdom. So many people get caught up and imprison to trying to please man. Today many are consumed with how many likes or views they get on a social media post. Or pastors become consumed with how large their audience is or how many campuses they have connect to their ministry.

But when we view God's word, we are called not to be selfish. We are called not to be self-consumed. We are called to abide in Jesus on a daily basis and to die to self. For Jesus said if any man were to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross. This call by Jesus applies to both men and women but it is a call to die to self and surrender all to Jesus. But this is only possible as we abide in Him.

We are called not to try to impress others. How many of us become enslaved in trying to impress others. True freedom comes when we no longer care nor consider the opinion of man. True freedom begins when we let go of trying to please people and make God the only one we are concerned with pleasing.

We are called to be humble and think of others better or more highly than ourselves. How different would our nation or world be if we actually put this into practice. Today many simply think of others less themselves and tread all over them. But when humility becomes the desire of our heart, there will be some painful things we will go through, but through every painful season God will do a deep work in our hearts and lives to bring forth His character and nature.

The things described here in scripture can only come to pass as we abide in Jesus on a daily basis. As we walk with Him and ask to be filled daily with The Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit will enable and empower us for all things. Greatness in God's kingdom happens when our focus is humility. Jesus gave us the greatest example of greatness when He got down and washed the disciple's feet.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to die to self. Help me to desire humility and to pursue it. Create in me a clean heart and prune from my life anything that hinders your work and purpose. Help me to live for you every day. Help me to see others as you see them. Help me to think of others more highly than myself.*

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## Day 86

### When Brothers Dwell In Unity

#### **Psalm 133:1 ESV**

*Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!*

Today we have a unity problem. We are racially divided and hate continues to grow across the earth. Recently in South Africa many have been made aware of white farmers who have been murdered because of hatred and wickedness.

Many today want to call racism a white man problem. But it is a humanity problem. The foundation of racism and hatred is sin. The human heart is inherently wicked and the only one who can forgive sin, remove it, and change the human heart is Almighty God.

Jesus made it very simply when He said love your neighbor as yourself. But even then He was asked who is my neighbor because the Jews at that time saw the gentiles as unclean. But in Christ every life is made whole and in Christ regardless of skin color, a person is received into God's family and kingdom.

Jesus said a new command I give you that you love one another. Imagine how different the world and life would be if we simply followed the truth of God's word. Today in America our greatest problems are a result of moving farther and farther away from God and embracing things that are simply destroying us. May we love one another.

*Prayer*

*Father help us in our weakness. Remove all hatred from our hearts. Forgive us for anything we have done to wrong another. Help us to see others as you see them and to love as you love. Help us to be the people you have called us to be and to walk in unity. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 87

### Fix Your Thoughts On What Is True

#### **Philippians 4:8 NLT**

*And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.*

What does it mean to fix our thoughts? In other translations it says to dwell or think about such things. How a man thinks, so he is. Where we focus our thoughts is what will determine the course of our lives. The way we live is a result of what happens between our two ears.

It is any wonder today that we are bombarded with lies and deceptions. The main stream media lies to us on a daily basis. The leader of our nation lies to us on a daily basis. We are continually lied to. But the question is: is there truth? Is there objective truth or is it all simply subjective. For if objective truth does not exist than there is nothing we can build our lives upon because it simply means truth is fluid and what is true today could be false tomorrow.

When we examine the confusion over gender and sexuality we see that people view it as fluid. But is it really fluid? Is truth subjective or objective? When we examine the bible it is clear that truth is not only objective but it is determined by God. Everything Paul calls us to fix our minds on simply describes Jesus and His kingdom.

Paul says whatever is right, noble, true, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praise worthy. All of this describes Jesus. The world is dark, wicked, sinful, and based on the lies of the devil. We know from 2 Corinthians 4:4 that the devil has blinded the minds and hearts of people today and we see the result of deception on a daily basis.

But if we would truly call ourselves a child of God and a follower of Jesus, then our minds and hearts must be fixed on Jesus, our world view must be based on biblical truth. Until we know Jesus the world will not make sense. Until we know Jesus we will be like a blind man who keeps bumping into walls and hurting ourselves because we have no one to guide us. But when we come to know Jesus, The Spirit of God comes to live within us. He will lead and guide us into all truth.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to fix my mind on you and your kingdom. Help me in my weakness and unbelief. Deliver me from every lie of the devil. Help me to have eyes to see and ears to hear. Guard my heart and may my life glorify and honor you in all things. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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Day 88

Share With Others

**Hebrews 13:16 NIV**

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

God calls us to do good and to share with others. If we are a follower of Jesus our lives will be marked by His love. His love is sacrificial. It will lead us to give sacrificially and live a life of generosity. Those who can be entrusted with little will be entrusted with much. When we choose to be generous, we will see the blessing of the Lord poured out in our lives. He will honor those who honor Him.

It is a sacrifice to live generously. Often when we see a need and we feel led by The Holy Spirit to give to or meet that need, it may lead us to personally sacrifice. But this is the love of God at work. This is the life of Christ within us. God calls us to be transformed and changed. What we do with our money is a reflection of what is in our heart and what is truly important.

If we simply spend all of our money on ourselves, then the most important thing is self and we have learned nothing. We are actually living in obedience. But if we begin to use our money as God's word instructs, we begin to show through our actions that His kingdom is the priority and what we are seeking.

He has called us to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. May we be a people of generosity. May we be willing to give as the Holy Spirit leads. We are never called to give out of compulsion, but the Lord tells us that He loves a cheerful giver.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to have eyes to see the needs before me. Help me to live a life of generosity. Help me to die to self and may you remove from my life all selfishness. May my priority be you and your kingdom. Forgive me for any selfishness that has been manifested in my life, help me each day to grow in my relationship with Jesus. Father I pray for greater intimacy and maturity with you. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 89

### Is Anyone Among You Suffering

#### James 5:13 ESV

*Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.*

God's instruction to us concerning suffering and being cheerful is to pray and sing praise. There are seasons and times in our lives when we will suffer for the name of Jesus. Suffering can come in many different forms. It can come in the form of sickness and disease, persecution, financial hardship, hardship in our family and our marriage. But in all suffering we are called to pray.

Sometimes the natural response of human beings when we suffer is to isolate. The danger of isolation is mind and hearts become bombarded with the lies of the enemy. The enemy desires to overwhelm us with discouragement, doubt, worry, and fear. He is trying all that he can to paralyze the faith we have in Christ.

But when we turn to God in prayer, we will find strength in Almighty God. It is not always easy to pray in the midst of suffering but sometimes our prayer may be as simply as Lord help me. Jesus help me in my pain and in my weakness. Deliver me from the hand and work of the enemy. When we cry out to God, He not only hears us but He will answer from on high.

But when we are cheerful may we praise the Lord with all our hearts. Even when we find ourselves in the midst of a great trial and storm, we can choose to praise the Lord. He is fully in control and whatever we are facing, He is faithful to us it for our good and for His glory. A big part of overcoming any trial and any hardship we face is right perspective. Understanding that God is in control at all times will enable us to pray continually and to praise the Lord with all our hearts.

#### *Prayer*

*Father help me to come to you each day and to pray and seek your face. Deliver me from the hand of the enemy. May your blessing continually fill my life and may my life be filled with praise unto you. I thank you for every heart beat and every moment. I thank you that you are always faithful. I may not understand all that I am going through and facing, but I thank you that you are in control. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## Day 90

### We Live For The Lord

#### Romans 14:8 (New American Standard Bible)

*for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.*

If we live, we live for the Lord. What does it mean to live for the Lord. Does it mean to simply give God lip service and go through the motions. Many today would call themselves Christians but if you take time to exam their lives you would find that the word of God doesn't govern their lives and the Jesus they claim to serve is not the Jesus of the bible.

One of the things we must come to understand is we are not God. We are not the ones who determine what is right and what is wrong. We are not the ones who determine what is true and what is false. The problem for humanity is we can't know who we are unless we are in right relationship with the one who created us. God didn't have to save us, but He chose to. He chose to make a way that our sins could be forgiven and His grace could be lavished upon us.

But it requires that we come into relationship with Jesus. That we surrender all to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Because Paul says here if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die we die to the Lord. It means that everything belongs to God. Nothing belongs to us. When we come to saving faith in Jesus Christ, we see that our lives no longer belong to us. In everything we do we desire to glorify and honor Him. It doesn't mean that our life gets easier or somehow, we never go through pain and hardship, but we understand that our lives are no longer our own.

We are the Lord's. Whether we live or die we belong to the Lord. Many today fear death and what stands on the other side when we do die. But our fear of death is removed when we come to know Jesus. In knowing Him we understand our lives are in His hands and He is guiding and establishing every step (Psalm 37:23-24, Proverbs 16:9, Psalm 31:14-15).

I would encourage you today to rest in the love that Jesus has for you. To rest in the finished work of Jesus. Stop focusing on the things around you, but know whether we live or die, we live or die to the Lord. All things are in His hands. Begin to trust today in Him and that He desires the very best for your life. Whatever He is allowing has an eternal purpose.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to live for you. Help me to give all that I am to you and for your glory. May my life be worship unto you. In all that I do, I pray that I would honor and glorify you. I pray that your strength would be made perfect in my weakness and that you would lead, guide, and establish every step. Father thank you for your goodness and your love. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## **Day 91**

### **Living Is Christ and Dying Is Gain**

#### **Philippians 1:20-21 New English Translation**

*<sup>20</sup> My confident hope is that I will in no way be ashamed but that with complete boldness, even now as always, Christ will be exalted in my body, whether I live or die. <sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.*

Paul's hope was found in Jesus Christ. He was rooted and grounded in Christ. He learned the secret of the Christian life in willingly being able to suffer for Jesus to stand against the opposition of the enemy. The secret is abiding in Christ. The secret is understanding to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Paul lived his life with complete boldness in proclaiming the gospel. His lack of fear on a daily basis was due to his reliance on The Holy Spirit. He knew who he was before Jesus got a hold of his life. Paul was a man who before coming to know Christ desired to zealously destroy Christianity. He was driven by satanic zeal and deception. Even though he believed that he was doing the work of God and defending the law, he in fact was doing the work of Satan.

But Paul knew he was saved by the grace of God through faith. On the road to Damascus his life was forever changed. He met the Living Christ. He would be blinded for three days and during those three days I have no idea all that went through Paul's mind, but one thing that he most likely meditated on was that the very one he was trying to destroy was the Messiah. The very one he was trying to stand against was the one that all the scriptures he had studied all his life pointed to.

Paul's aim was that Christ would be exalted in his body. Worship is far more than simply singing praises at the beginning of a service. Worship is a lifestyle. It is an understanding that our entire being is a living sacrifice and that in all we do we should live to glorify the name of Jesus. This was Paul's mindset and aim. The more that Paul abided in Christ and walked with Him, the more he fell in love with Jesus and Jesus became his obsession. For all of us this should be our aim and lifestyle if we are to truly call ourselves disciples of Jesus.

But the secret for victorious Christianity is found here: living is Christ and dying is gain. When you fight a battle, it is a dangerous thing to face an opponent who cares very little if they will live or die. In battle if a person is concerned and even fearful if they die, they will be hindered in their ability to be effective. But if they have no fear of death, they will fight and battle without abandon. Their sole aim is to destroy their opponent.

This is the reality for every Christian that comes to the revelation that living is Christ and dying is gain. One of the great hindrances in America is we become married to comfort. We pursue the American dream without even realizing it. But we should be pursuing the one who has given His life for us. We should be willing to lay down all for the sake of God's kingdom. May we pray that this attitude and mindset be developed within us. Daily may we care very little if we die, but may we pursue and chase after living for Christ.

*Prayer*

*Father I thank you for your love and grace. Help me in my fear and deliver me from self-preservation. Help me to give up my life on a daily basis and simply to choose to live for you regardless of the cost. Father give me eyes to see and ears to hear. Deliver me from pursuing comfort, but instead being willing to suffer for the name of Jesus. Father help me daily through the Holy Spirit to truly be a living sacrifice for you. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## **Day 92**

### **God Has Given Us Eternal Life**

#### **1 John 5:11-12 New English Translation**

*<sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> The one who has the Son has this eternal life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have this eternal life.*

The word testimony means **testimony, witness**. *Someone who gives testimony about something, or the content of the testimony.*<sup>14</sup> John was an eyewitness to not only the earthly ministry of Jesus, he saw the risen Christ. John sat at the foot of the cross as Jesus suffered and took on the punishment for the sins of humanity. If anyone was an authority on Jesus, His ministry, His life, and His message it was John the Apostle.

God has given us eternal life. Our lives on this earth are but a breath. Our time on this earth is very brief compared to our lives in eternity. But what determines if a person enters into Heaven is not their works, nor their ability to keep the law. What determines if a person is able to enter into Heaven is simply faith in Jesus Christ. John says, “this life in his Son”. Jesus is the Son of God. He has come to give life and give it abundantly. Sometimes we wrongly think that means abundant life is all about health and prosperity on the earth. But abundant life focuses more on the eternal life that He provides. It doesn’t mean that we will not experience the blessing of God on this earth. But when we examine church history, we find that the true servants of The Most High who made the greatest mark for God on this earth had lives that were marked by suffering for the glory of God.

The one who has the Son has eternal life. We are called to proclaim the gospel to all nations. We are called to proclaim the gospel to all who will hear. God’s word tells us that God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son. It doesn’t say so God so loved only Israel or God so loved only certain people. But the invitation goes out to all. But sadly, many are called but few are chosen. Narrow is the road that leads to life, and few will find it, but broad is the road that leads to destruction and many will walk on it (Matt 7:13-14). The sad reality is that many people love this world and love sin and choose to reject the precious salvation that is found in Jesus Christ.

The one who does not have the Son does not have eternal life. The sad reality is there is a Hell. The suffering that will be experienced in Hell is far greater than we can comprehend (Mark 9:43, Matt 25:41). Our entrance into Heaven is not based on good works. If it was based on our works, then we would have something to boast to God about. But we are simply saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9). Those who are saved are chosen by

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<sup>14</sup> G. D. Taylor, [“Testimony.”](#) ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

God. No one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws them. But ultimately the offer of salvation is open to all people and God has given man a freewill and has given Him and opportunity to reject or receive the offer of salvation.

Today if you have loved one's in your life who do not know Jesus, pray unceasingly that they would come to know Jesus. That their eyes, ears, and hearts would be open to know The Living Christ. For those who have the Son have eternal life. All of us one day will spend eternity somewhere. But where we spend eternity is wholly dependent on what we do with Jesus.

*Prayer*

*Father today I lift up all those in my family who do not know you. Father I pray that their mind and hearts would be open to know and understand the saving knowledge of Jesus. Father I pray they would encounter you. That the veil of the enemy over their mind and heart would be removed. Father give them eyes to see and ears to hear. May their names be found written in the book of life. Thank you for saving me and opening my eyes to the truth. Thank you for your precious grace and mercy that I don't deserve but is abundantly poured out on my life. In the name of Jesus, Amen!*

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## **Day 93**

### **What Then Shall We Say To All These Thing?**

#### **Romans 8:31-32 Amplified Bible**

*<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to all these things? If God is for us, who can be [successful] against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare [even] His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?*

If God is for us who can be against us? When we come into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and we begin a personally relationship with Jesus, it is God who saves us. We are saved by the grace of God. God in His mercy grants us repentance. Regardless of what the devil may throw at us, it doesn't matter because if God is for us, who can be against us.

I mean honestly think about that statement and truth. The God of all creation chooses us. He calls us. He draws us. He has created and designed us. The journey of faith is one of developing trust each step of the way. Yes, there will be spiritual warfare. Spiritual warfare is a daily part of the journey with following Jesus. Most satanic assaults come in the form of lies, deception, or temptation. But we are called to put on the full armor of God everyday so that we can take our stand against the schemes and assaults of the enemy.

But a big part of taking our stand against the devil is understanding truth. God did not spare His own Son. When we understand that God so loved the world, that He gave, we understand that God is driven and motivated by His love for us. Paul says that if God did not spare His own Son, how will He not graciously give us all things. Everything we have from God is a gift. The air we breathe, our every heartbeat, the food we eat, grace on a daily basis are all gifts from Almighty God.

Whatever God is asking and calling us to do, He will provide the grace needed to accomplish His purposes. Regardless of what Satan throws at us, we will not be moved. But we must be rooted and grounded in Christ. Our lives must be built upon the solid foundation of Jesus. This all begins with building our lives on the word of God. Our faith is not built on our feelings. Regardless of if I feel that God is with me, if my faith and hope are placed in Jesus Christ He is not only with me, but as I build my life upon Jesus, we will not be shaken.

*Prayer*

*Father thank you for your goodness and love. Thank you that you provide the grace needed to accomplish all you have called me to do in my life. Help me to build my life each day on the truth of your word. Guard my heart against every lie and deception of the enemy. Deliver my life daily. Us my life for your glory and your honor. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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**Day 94**

**I Love The Lord, For He Heard My Voice**

**Psalm 116:1-2 (New International Version)**

***I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.***

It is pretty amazing to think that God hears us when we pray. King David knew this very well. He understood that everything He accomplished as a king was because of God's hand on his life. David as a young man killed a lion and bear with his bare hands. He killed Goliath not with the armor of Saul, but by the hand of the Lord. With only five stones and a sling, David stepped onto the battlefield simply trusting God and relying fully on His anointing.

All of us face our own battles. In the midst of every battle our cry should be to the Lord and for His mercy. There is never a moment when God abandons us. There is never anything we will face that is greater than the God we serve. But the Lord calls us to pray. The Lord shows us time and time again in His word how important prayer is and how connected to His purposes and plans it is. Prayer is essential for seeing the power and the hand of God released in every situation.

It is incredible that God turns His ear to us. When we understand this truth, we will call on Him time and time again. There is no need that is too great or too small for God. He is concerned with every detail of our lives. He knows every hair that is upon the top of our heads. He knows everything we need before we even ask. But He still calls us to pray and call out to Him. He says we have not because we ask not. When we ask according to His will, we know that it will be done because He will answer.

Today if you face a great and mighty battle, cry out to the Lord. If you feel overwhelmed and surrounded, cry out to the Lord. Seek Him with all your heart. Be led by The Holy Spirit in all things. Ask God to deepen your prayer life and to teach you how to pray. When we come to God in humility and we seek wisdom from His mighty hand, He will never disappoint us. He is always faithful and will always answer according to His will.

***Prayer***

***Father thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you that you turn your ear to me when I cry out to you. Thank you for every battle and trial because it is simply an opportunity for you to demonstrate your grace and faithfulness. Help me to pray according to your will. Help me in my weakness, my fear, and my unbelief. Help me to rely on your grace completely and to truly know that nothing is impossible to Him who believes.***

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## Day 95

### Those Who Love Your Law Are Completely Secure

#### Psalm 119:164-165 New English Translation

*<sup>164</sup> Seven times a day I praise you  
because of your just regulations.*

*<sup>165</sup> Those who love your law are completely secure;  
nothing causes them to stumble.*

All of us desire security. So many today are searching how and low for comfort and peace. Covid 19 and all the non-sense that came with it truly turn the world upside down. We were lied to repeatedly and sadly many even closed the doors of their churches because of this lie. But even though God is not the author or source of disease and sickness, the Lord will work in every circumstance to bring about His plans and His purposes.

The writer says seven times a day I will praise you. Why will He praise the Lord seven times a day? Because of God's just regulations. Because those who love the law of God, and the word of God are completely secure. Do we truly desire peace? Do we desire that the peace of God that is beyond all human understand would mark and fill our lives? If the answer is yes, then we need to love the word of God. We need to live according to the word of God. It must govern every decision in our lives. When we come to Christ our lives no longer belong to us, they belong to Almighty God.

Those who love the word of God and treasure it, will not stumble. They may make mistakes, but through every short coming and mistake they will grow and mature. They will learn from where they have fallen short. They will grow into the character and nature of Christ and as they come to know and understand God more, they simply desire to praise Him in all things. That is why the thought of praising God seven times a day for the person who honors His word is not extraordinary, it is what they are led to do.

May we honor God in all things. May we build our lives upon the word of God. May we ask the Lord to search us and remove anything that would hinder our walk with Him. May we ask to know and understand the word of God. His word is the playbook for our lives, may we study it and may we know it. May we implement it and live by it.

*Prayer*

*Father help me to treasure your word. Help me to understand and apply your word. May your peace and love fill my life. May your presence mark my life. May I be surrendered in all things to your will and purpose. May I never be shaken.*

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## **Day 96**

### **For Just As In One Body We Have Many Members**

#### **Romans 12:4-5 (New English Translation)**

*For just as in one body we have many members, and not all the members serve the same function, so we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually we are members who belong to one another.*

As the body of Christ, we are a team. Paul says here “just as in one body, we have many members”. Though we are a collective unit, within that unit we have many unique members. Every person who is part of the body of Christ is unique. They have a unique calling, anointing, journey, and destiny with God. But within that uniqueness they are connected to the greater body of Christ because every gift God has given is for the greater good of the whole.

Not all members serve the same function. How boring would it be if all of us were the same. If all of us had the same gifts, same style of speech, same skin color, same personality. It would be very boring and would get old very fast. But the diversity within the body of Christ shows how creative God truly is. Every person born on this earth is created in the image of God with a specific role and purpose. As the body of Christ though we are many different members, we are one collective body.

We who are many are one body. We are one team. One of the things I learned growing up playing football and spending time coaching football is that for a football team to truly be successful every member of that team must function within their assignment to the highest degree. We have been given an assignment by God and the gifts we are given by God has equipped us for the assignment He has created us for.

Thankfully God doesn’t call us to figure this out or do this on our own. He has equipped us and given us His grace. His favor covers our lives, and He enables us to do all that He has called us

to do. But it is important to see that Paul says we belong to one another. We are not our own. When we come to Christ our life belongs to God and anything God is doing in our lives is meant to be a blessing and benefit to the body of Christ as a whole. May we commit to live our lives each day for the glory of God. May we understand our lives do not belong to us. We are part of the body of Christ. We are part of team Jesus. We have an essential role to play. But it is not for our glory, it is for His.

**Prayer**

*Father help me to live each day for your glory and honor. Help me to surrender my wants, dreams, and desires for your greater will. Show me how to use the gifts and talents you have given me for the greater good of the body of Christ. Thank you for your patience and your kindness. Thank you that you have created me. May my life be a living sacrifice to you. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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**Day 97**

**To Believe In The One Whom He Sent**

**John 6:29 (New English Translation)**

*Jesus replied, “This is the deed God requires—to believe in the one whom he sent.”*

Before this verse the question is asked “what must we do to accomplish the deeds or works God requires. There is only one thing required to enter into Heaven. It is to believe in the one whom God has sent. Who is He who God has sent? John 3:16 tells us *For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.* Eternal life is dependent on one thing, it is dependent on believing in God’s one and only Son Jesus.

Why must we believe in Christ to be saved? Why is it by faith alone that we must be saved? Why can’t we be saved by our works? If salvation was dependent on the works of man, then man would have something to boast to God about. If it was dependent on our works, it would be impossible to be saved because we are broken and mired by sin. No matter how many works we do, they will never be good enough. Isaiah 64:6 states *We are all like one who is unclean,*

*all our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag in your sight. We all wither like a leaf; our sins carry us away like the wind.*

All of our so-called righteous works are like a menstrual rag in the sight of God. They are insufficient, they are wanting. If we could save ourselves by our good works, then Jesus didn't have to come. God could have laid out for us the law and we could have followed it without issue. But if we break one jot or tittle of the law, we are considered a law breaker. It is impossible to follow the law perfectly. This is why Jesus came. This is why Jesus was born as a Jew, lived under the law, never sinned, and then took the punishment that we deserve. It is the great exchange. God exchanges our sin and wickedness for the righteousness and perfection of His Son Jesus. We can be forgiven and saved today not because of what we have done, but because of what He has done.

The work or deed of God is to believe on the one He has sent. The question is do you believe Jesus is the Son of God? Do you believe that Jesus is God? Do you believe He died on the cross for your sins and rose three days later? He has done all the work. Receive today the precious love and salvation found in Jesus. Stop listening to the voice and lies of the enemy. Lay down every burden and simply receive all that Jesus has for you. We are free and forgiven because of what Jesus Christ has done for us.

***Prayer***

***Father thank you for sending your Son Jesus. Jesus thank you for coming to this earth. Thank you for giving your life. Thank you for shedding your blood. Thank you for doing all the work. Help me each day to grow in my understanding of your word and who you are. Help me to laydown every burden and battle. Help me to receive the forgiveness found in you. Fill me with your love and compassion and help me to love those who are lost and broken and to share the truth of who you are with them. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!***

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**Day 98**

**I Am The Door**

**John 10:9 New English Translation**

***<sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters through me, he will be saved, and will come in and go out, and find pasture.***

Jesus is the door. There is no other way that men can be saved. When we look at the Passover night when the death angel passed over, what saved the Israelites on that night was the blood of the Lamb applied to the door post of the home. The blood of the Lamb protected them from death and destruction. Today it is the blood of the Lamb that protects us from death and destruction.

The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. The devil desires to destroy the lives of as many as possible who are created in the image of God. But God in His mercy has sent His Son to die in our place. God has sent His Son to take the punishment and wrath we deserve. Jesus chose the suffering of Calvary because of His love for us.

Those who enter through Jesus will be saved. Those who enter through Jesus will come in and go out and find pasture. But how do we enter in through Jesus? What is required to enter in through Jesus? It is simply faith. By faith we are justified. By faith we are forgiven. By faith we are given brand new life. By faith our sins are washed away. By faith we receive the Holy Spirit. By faith we are redeemed.

It is by faith alone because Jesus has done all the work. He says <sup>28</sup> *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.* <sup>29</sup> *Take my yoke on you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* <sup>30</sup> *For my yoke is easy to bear, and my load is not hard to carry (Matthew 11:28-30).*” Jesus simply says come. He simply says receive. All of us are weary and heavy laden by sin, but it is in Him that the burden of sin is removed, and we begin to walk with Him. In Him His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

Today if you are weary turn to Jesus. If you are tired turn to Jesus. If you desire to spend all eternity in heaven, turn to Jesus. He is the door. No one comes to the Father except through Him. In Him is forgiveness and the fullness of joy.

### ***Prayer***

***Father thank you for your love and your grace. Jesus thank you that you are the door. Thank you for doing all the work. Thank you for taking the punishment that I deserve. Help me to live each day in your grace and your love. Help me to grow each day and be led by The Holy Spirit in all things. Holy Spirit take control of my life and may all things be surrendered to your will. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!***

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## Day 99

### O Come, Let Us Worship And Bow Down

#### Psalm 95:6-9 Amplified Bible

<sup>6</sup> *O come, let us worship and bow down,*

*Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker [in reverent praise and prayer].*

<sup>7</sup> *For He is our God*

*And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.*

*Today, if you will hear His voice,*

<sup>8</sup> *Do not harden your hearts and become spiritually dull as at Meribah [the place of strife],*

*And as at Massah [the place of testing] in the wilderness,*

<sup>9</sup> *“When your fathers tested Me,*

*They tried Me, even though they had seen My work [of miracles].*

We are called to bow down and worship. Jesus is the only one who is worthy of our praise. Many in this generation have looked at themselves as gods. They worship themselves and simply chase after their selfish, sinful desires. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. When we have a right understanding and a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, we come to understand that He is God, and we are not. When we live our lives in the fear of the Lord, our lives become a living sacrifice and in all that we do it is worship unto the glory and honor of Jesus.

He is our God. He is The Good Shepherd. He will always provide, protect, lead, and guide us. Though this journey is not an easy one and at times can be very difficult and painful, we can know in our hearts that we are the people of His pasture. That He holds us in His hands. He will never leave us nor forsake us. But simply calls us to trust.

May we heed His voice. May we learn from the Israelites of old the consequence of hardening our hearts at His voice. The only time Israel suffered loss and defeat is when they lived in rebellion against the Living God. He calls us to walk in obedience. Jesus tells us those who love Him will obey His commands (John 14:21). Obedience isn't an option or suggestion. We are not walking in obedience to earn His love or righteousness. We walk in obedience because we love Him and He first loved us. We walk in obedience because we have moved from being slaves of sin to slaves of righteousness.

The generation that died in the wilderness and never saw the promise land tested the Lord. How did they test the Lord? They tested Him by their rebellion and stubbornness. Though God is sovereign, He has given man freewill. It is our responsibility to respond to the word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit. God leads and guides us each step of the way. There is not a moment that He will not provide, and He will not establish our steps. But we are called to surrender. We are called to surrender to His Lordship. He is God and we are not. May we heed the leading and the voice of the Good Shepherd. Victorious living is simply found and experienced by abiding in and following Jesus.

**Prayer**

*Father help me to heed your voice. Help me to walk in obedience. By your grace and your strength, help me to fully rely on you. Remove from my life anything that would hinder your work. Prune me of attitudes and lies that would hinder your voice and leading. Establish my steps and help me to hear your voice clearly. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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**Day 100**

**Train Up A Child In The Way He Should Go**

**Proverbs 22:6 (Amplified Bible)**

*Train up a child in the way he should go [teaching him to seek God’s wisdom and will for his abilities and talents], Even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

The word train in the original Hebrew means **to train up, dedicate**. *Can refer to bringing up children as well as to dedicating buildings.*<sup>15</sup> When we train up a child in the Lord, we are dedicating that child to the Lord and His purposes. We spend each day diligently sowing the word of God in their lives. Some have understood this to mean I will simply take my child to church, and the church will raise and instruct my child spiritually. But this isn’t what God means.

The overall time a child spends at church during a given week is small compared to the rest of their week. If a child is growing up and must attend the public education system, they are going to be bombarded with philosophies that are steeped in demonic deception and influence. If we

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<sup>15</sup> Michael R. Jones, [“Teaching.”](#) ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

are to truly train up a child, we must be involved in the process. It begins before they are even born as we pray over the life of that child. Once they are born, we continue to pray for them day and night, praying their life be committed and dedicated to the purposes of God.

We see a great example of this in scripture as Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord. She physically gave over her child to the service of the Lord. Now God today is not asking us to bring our children to the church to have them live out their days in the church, but spiritually we can dedicate them to the Lord.

But it is important that we understand our prayer must be the will of God. As we surrender and dedicate their lives to the Lord, we are not trying to inject our dreams or desires into the life of that child. Sometimes parents try to live out their dreams and desires in the lives of their children and it causes strain and hardship between parent and child.

But within this verse we have a promise from the Lord. He says, “even when he is old, he will not depart from it”. Does that mean that our child may not go through a season of being a prodigal? No. I think one of the hardest things to be on this planet is a parent and especially when child become adults and live out their days. If we are to parent, the way God desires we must give up control to the Lord. We must daily trust their lives in the hands of God. The devil is real, and he will do all he can to lead our children astray. But this is why prayer is so important and vital.

We are engaged in a spiritual war. May we pray diligently over the lives of our children that God would protect and watch over them. God would deliver them from temptation and every lie and deception of Satan. Their lives would be marked by wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and revelation. They would love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. They would be the son or daughter of God that God has called them to be. The very destiny and purpose of God would be accomplished in their lives.

Often what you find in the lives of many great men and women of God is they had a parent or parents who were fully committed to the Lord and day and night prayed over the life of the child. Children’s ministry and Sunday school are wonderful things. But may we not leave the raising of our children spiritually to the church. May we be fully involved spiritually in their lives daily. It begins with our own personal walk with the Lord and being committed to walk with Him intimately.

### ***Prayer***

***Father help me to be the dad or mom you have called me to be. Help me to pray over my children day and night. Father protect them and watch over them. Deliver them from every scheme, lie, and purpose of the devil. Fill them with the Holy Spirit and may they walk, live, and be guided by The Holy Spirit in all things. May they treasure your word. May they live out your word. May their lives be a house of prayer. May they have eyes to see and ears to hear. Father help me each day to have the patience and wisdom needed to raise them according to***

*your will. May they be filled with your unconditional love and may their life be used for your glory. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!*

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