

Chapter 2

The ABC's of the Christian Life

Pt. 1 – Laying a Solid Foundation

Pt. 2 – Building a Quality Life

Pt. 3 – Christian Discipleship

Pt. 4 – Christian Leadership

Pt. 5 – Christian Suffering

(Scripture used is from the Legacy Standard Bible - LSB)



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Personal Study Notes

Suggestions on where to use these ABCs

- For Personal Enrichment
- As a Staff or Discipleship Guide
- As a Training Manual for Volunteers
- As a Small Group Study
- As a Teaching Tool with sons or daughters
- As a Lesson Guide for Christian Campus Clubs
- As a Memorizing Tool

However the Lord leads you to use the ABCs of the Christian Life, understand that this is just a biblical snapshot of these topics. Its purpose is to spur all believers on to pursue a life pleasing to the Lord.

Some additional suggestions on how these ABCs could be used:

- ❖ You may want to look at the larger context of the passages listed plus do some further cross referencing of each verse.
- ❖ You may want to evaluate yourself from one to ten on how you would do in each area, and then determine a course of action for personal development.
- ❖ You may want to make a prayer list within each of the letter categories for yourself and for others.
- ❖ You may want to add additional topics that you think could be included in the list.

FIRST THINGS FIRST:

Read through these first two **ABCs** on your own then do a read through with another person. After that you may want to go through them again asking questions with the verse represented by each letter of the alphabet.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All scripture References are from the **Legacy Standard Bible** unless indicated.



**The ABCs of the
Christian Life**
A Biblical Ministry Concept
Pt. 1 – Laying a Solid Foundation

Matthew 7:24–27

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain descended, and the rivers came, and the winds blew and fell against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone hearing these words of Mine and not doing them, may be compared to a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain descended, and the rivers came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

A Abundant Life – John 10:10

(Jesus said) “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly..”

B Believe in Jesus Christ – John 1:12

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,.”

C Confession of sin – 1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

D Delight yourself in the Lord – Psalms 37:4

“Delight yourself in Yahweh;
And He will give you the desires of your heart.

E Example of Believers – 1 Timothy 4:12

“Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but show yourself as a model to those who believe in word, conduct, love, faith, and purity.”

F Faith – Hebrews 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who draws near to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him..”

F Gift of God – Romans 6:23

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

H Hope – Romans 15:4

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through the perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope..”

I Indwelling Holy Spirit – Ephesians 1:13

“In Him, you also, after listening to the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.”

J Jesus – John 14:6

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.”

K Know the Lord – John 17:3

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

L Love of God – John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

M Message – Acts 4:12

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

N Name of Jesus – Philippians 2:10, 11

“so that at the name of Jesus **EVERY KNEE WILL BOW**, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that **EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS** that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father..”

O Overflow With Kindness – Ephesians 4:31, 32

“31 Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and shouting and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Instead, be kind to one another, tender-hearted, graciously forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has graciously forgiven you.

P Prayer – Philippians 4:6, 7

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Q Quest – Ephesians 3:17–19

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being firmly rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

R Renew Your Mind – Romans 12:1, 2

“Therefore I exhort you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy, and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may approve what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect..”

S Seek First – Matthew 6:33

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

T Thankful – Colossians 3:15,16

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with gratefulness in your hearts to God..”

U Understanding – Psalms 119:130

“The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple..”

**V Victory Over Temptations –
1 Corinthians 10:13**

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it

W Word of God – II Timothy 3:16, 17

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

X eXpect Great Things – Ephesians 3:20,21

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or understand, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”

Y Yield to Others – Philippians 2:3, 4

“Doing nothing from selfish ambition or vain glory, but with humility of mind regarding one another as more important than yourselves,
4 not merely looking out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others..”

Z Zealous for Good Deeds – Titus 2:11-14

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,
12 instructing us that, denying ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live sensibly, righteously, and godly in the present age,
13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,
14 who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all lawlessness and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good works..”

**THE ABCs OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
Pt. 1 - Laying a Solid Foundation:**

A Suggested Study Format:

Ask the **who, what, when, where, and how questions.**

For example, with the first “A” **Abundant** Life you could ask, “What connection does “Abundant Life” have with Jesus?

What is the warning in this verse?
What does that mean?

How does a person know if they have Abundant Life?

What do you think Abundant Life looks like?

Can you have life with Jesus and it not be Abundant?

Think about an example of this principle in your own life that you could share.

In making an **application** you could ask:

1. Have you ever experienced Abundant Life?
2. Is there something you can do so that this Abundant Life is a reality in your life?

In conclusion develop a **closing prayer** in light of this verse and the Word.

Can you think of some additional questions?

The ABC's of the Christian Life

A Biblical Ministry Concept

Pt. 2 – Building a Quality Life

II Corinthians 5:14, 15

“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this: that one died for all and therefore all died. 15 And He died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for Him who died and rose on their behalf.”

A Acknowledge God – Proverbs 3:5, 6

“Trust in Yahweh with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Adoration – Psalms 34:1-3 “

“I will bless Yahweh at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul will make its boast in Yahweh; The humble will hear it and rejoice. 3 O magnify Yahweh with me, and let us exalt His name together.”

Attitude – Philippians 2:5-8

“Have this way of thinking in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

B Blood of Christ – Hebrews 9:22

“And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

1 John 1:7 “but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Believe in Jesus Christ – Acts 10:43

“Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

C Confess – Romans 10:9, 10

“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, leading to righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, leading to salvation.”

Creation – Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:27 “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Christ is coming back – Acts 1:11

“They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-19)

D Disciples – John 8:31b, 32

“Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly My disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Discipline – 1 Timothy 4:7, 8

“But refuse godless myths fit only for old women. On the other hand, train yourself for the purpose of godliness; 8 for bodily training is of some value, but godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the one to come.”

E Exceptional – Psalm 1:1-3

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! 2 But his delight is in the law of Yahweh, and in His law he meditates day and night. 3 And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.

F Faith – Romans 1:16, 17

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous will live by faith.”

Fellowship – Hebrews 10:24, 25

“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near”

Fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22, 23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

G Give Thanks – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

Give Cheerfully – II Corinthians 9:7

“Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Matthew 10:8e “Freely you received, freely give.”

Gospel in one verse – Romans 6:23

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

Grace – II Corinthians 8:9

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though being rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich..” (Eph.2:8, 9)

H Heavenly minded – Colossians 3:1-3

“Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you died and your life has been hidden with Christ in God.

Heart – Proverbs 4:23

“Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”

I Imitators of God – Ephesians 5:1, 2

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, just as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma..”

Indwelling Holy Spirit – Ephesians 1:13

"In Him, you also, after listening to the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Romans 8:11 "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

J Jesus the Lamb of God – John 1:29

"On the next day, he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Joy of the Lord – Nehemiah 8:10

"for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Judgment – **Hebrews 9:27** "And inasmuch it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgement."

(Revelation 20:11–15)

Justified – Romans 5:1

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

K Know the Lord – Jeremiah 9:23, 24

"Thus says Yahweh, "Let not a wise man boast in his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast in his might; let not a rich man boast in his riches,24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am Yahweh who shows lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares Yahweh.

L Love of God – Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

I John 4:9,10 "By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Love for God – I John 4:19 (NKJV)

"We love Him, because He first loved us."

Matthew 22:37 "And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

M Mercy – Titus 3:5-7

"He saved us, not by works which we did in righteousness, but according to His mercy, through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that having been justified by His grace, we would become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

Missions – Acts 1:8

"but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the end of the earth."

N Never stop doing good – Galatians 6:9

"Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary."

New Creation – II Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

No Condemnation – Romans 8:1

"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Psalms 32:1, 2 "How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! 2 How blessed is the man whose iniquity Yahweh will not take into account, and in whose spirit there is no deceit!"

O Overcomers – 1 John 5:4, 5

"For everything that has been born of God overcomes the world; and this is the overcoming that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"

P Promises of God – II Peter 1:4

"For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust (Romans 8:28)

Prayer – **Ephesians 6:18** "praying at all times with all prayer and petition in the Spirit, and to this end, being on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,"

Matthew 9:38 "Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

Peace of God – Philippians 4:6, 7

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.." (Isaiah 26:3)

Q Quality Christian Living – Colossians 3:12–17

"So, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and graciously forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone, just as the Lord graciously forgave you, so also should you. 14 Above all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing]with gratefulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.."

R Run the Race – Hebrews 12:1-3

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, laying aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Resurrection – 1 Peter 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

S Sanctified – Hebrews 10:10,12,14

"By this will (God' will) we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, 14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Serve the Lord – Joshua 24:15

“If it is evil in your sight to serve Yahweh, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh.”

Matthew 20:28 “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

T Transformed Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may approve what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Treasures in Heaven – Matthew 6:19–21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

(Luke 12:15–21)

U Use your Spiritual Gift – Romans 12:4–8

“For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another, 6 but having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: whether prophecy, in agreement with the faith; 7 or service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with generosity; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

V Vessels for the Lord’s use – II Timothy 2:20, 21

“Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of clay, and some to honor and some to dishonor. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, having been prepared for every good work.”

W Word of God – Psalm 119:9, 11

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. Your word I have treasured in my heart that I may not sin against You.”

Psalm 19:10, 11 “They are more desirable than gold, even more than much fine gold; 11. Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.”

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Will of God – 1 John 2:15–17 “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and also its lusts, but the one who does the will of God abides forever.”

Wisdom – Proverbs 9:10

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

Worship – John 4:24

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Worthy of Praise – Philippians 4:8

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is dignified, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, consider these things..”
(Revelation 4:11)

X eXperience His Pleasure – II Corinthians 5:9

“Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.”

Y Yield humbly – 1 Peter 5:5c, 6

“God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

Z Zealous for good deeds – Titus 2:11–14

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us that, denying ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live sensibly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all lawlessness, and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good works..”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

FOR THE ABC’S OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE Pt. 2 - Building a Quality Life:

A Suggested Study Format:

Ask the **who, what, when, where, and how questions.**

For example, with the first “A,” Acknowledge, you could ask, “What kind of connection does “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding,” have with “in all your ways acknowledge Him.”?”

What does Acknowledge look like in a person’s life?

You could just ask, “Why do you think Acknowledge is important?”

What is the promise in this verse and what do you think that means?

Think about an example of this principle in your own life that you could share.

In making an Application you could ask:

1. How have you acknowledged the Lord in your daily life?
2. How can you improve in this area of acknowledging?

In conclusion develop a **closing prayer** in light of this verse and the Word.

Can you think of some additional questions?

**The ABC's of the
Christian Life**
A Biblical Ministry Concept
Pt. 3 – Discipleship

Matthew 28:19,20
(The Great Commission)

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

A Approved – II Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

Hebrews 11:39 “And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,

Armor of God – Ephesians 6:10–18

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the might of His strength. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all, having taken up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one, 17 also receive the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

Adequate – II Corinthians 3:5 NASB

“Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

B Belonging – Galatians 5:24 NASB

“Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

“B” Attitudes – Matthew 5:3–12

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the lowly, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

C Chosen by God – Colossians 3:12–16

“So, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and graciously forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone, just as the Lord graciously forgave you, so also should you. 14 Above all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with gratefulness in your hearts to God..”

Counsel of the Lord – Psalms 32:8

“I will give you insight and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you..”

D Discipline – Hebrews 12:4–8

“You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin. 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reprovved by Him; 6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He flogs every son whom He receives.” 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

E Eternal Perspective – II Corinthians 4:16–18

“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

17 For our momentary, light affliction is working out for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

F Faith – Ephesians 2:8, 9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and [a]this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not of works, so that no one may boast..”

Faithfulness – Psalms 91:4

“He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you will take refuge; His truth is a large shield and bulwark..”

Fruitful – John 15:16

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would abide, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you..”

G Gifted – 1 Peter 4:10

“As each one has received a gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Good Foundation – Matthew 7:24–27

“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain descended, and the rivers came, and the winds blew and fell against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone hearing these words of Mine and not doing them, may be compared to a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain descended, and the rivers came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

H Heaven – Philippians 3:20

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Humble yourselves – 1 Peter 5:6, 7

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you

I Intercedes for us – Romans 8:26

“And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”

Romans 8:34 “Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.”

J Jesus, Oh to be like Him – Romans 8:29a

“Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son.” (1 John 3:2,3)

K Know God – 1 John 5:20

“And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”

(11 Peter 1:3)

L Love that conquers – Romans 8:37–39

“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

M Meditate – Psalms 1:1–3

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! 2 But his delight is in the law of Yahweh, and in His law he meditates day and night. 3 And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.

Ministry conviction – John 3:27

“John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.”

Mindset – Romans 8:6

“For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.”

N Never leave you – Hebrews 13:5

“Make sure that your way of life is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,”

O Obedience – 1 Samuel 15:22

“And Samuel said, “Has Yahweh as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of Yahweh? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.”

P Presence of the Lord – Acts 3:19

“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

Priesthood of Believers – 1 Peter 2:5

“you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen family, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Q Quit sinning – 1 Peter 1:14–16

“As obedient children, not being conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your conduct; 16 because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Romans 13:12–14 “The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Therefore, let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”

R Role of Holy Spirit – John 16:7–14

“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. 12 “I still have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak from Himself, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

S Suffering – 1 Peter 4:19 NASB

“Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.”

Struggle – Galatians 5:16,17

“But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you do not do the things that you want.”

T Transferred – Colossians 1:13–14

“Who rescued us from the authority of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Fall of Man – Genesis. 3:1–8

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which Yahweh God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God said, ‘You shall not eat from it, and you shall not touch it, lest you die.’” 4 And the serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! 5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, so she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

8 Then they heard the sound of Yahweh God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Yahweh God in the midst of the trees of the garden..”

The Exchange Life – 1 Peter. 2:23, 24

“who being reviled, was not reviling in return; while suffering, He was uttering no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously. 24 Who Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that having died to sin, we might live to righteousness; by His wounds you were healed.

U Unashamed – Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Unlimited Power – II Corinthians 4:7

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;.”

V Victory – 1 John 5:4

“For everything that has been born of God overcomes the world; and this is the overcoming that has overcome the world—our faith.

Vigilant – 1 Corinthians 16:13

“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”

1 Peter 5:8 “Be of sober spirit, be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour..”

W Wait for the Lord – Isaiah 40:31

“Yet those who hope in Yahweh will gain new power; they will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not get tired; they will walk and not become weary..”

What God did – Romans 8:2–4

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit..”

Warning – II Corinthians 11:3, 14

3 “But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be corrupted from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light..”

X eXcellence – Philippians 4:8

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is dignified, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, consider these things.

Y Yearnings – Isaiah 30:18

“Therefore Yahweh waits with longing to be gracious to you, and therefore He is on high to have compassion on you. For Yahweh is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who wait for Him.

Z Zoom in for what is good and profitable –

Titus 3:8

“This is a trustworthy saying. And concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be intent to lead in good works. These things are good and profitable for men.

The ABC's of the Christian Life

A Biblical Ministry Concept

Pt. 4 – Leadership

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

A Abide – John 15:4

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit from itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

Able, God is – II Timothy 1:12

“For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

B Behavior – James 3:13

“Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good conduct his works in the gentleness of wisdom.

Biblical examples –

Ezra 7:10 “For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of Yahweh and to practice it, and to teach His statute and judgment in Israel..”

Genesis 50:19,20

“But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to do [a]what has happened on this day, to keep many people alive.”

Numbers 14:24

“But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his seed shall take possession of it.”

1 Samuel 12:23,24

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against Yahweh by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and upright way. 24 Only [a]fear Yahweh and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for see what great things He has done for you”.

John 3:30 “He must increase, and I must decrease.”

C Commission (Great) –

Matthew 28:19,20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Commandment (Greatest) –

Matthew 22:37,39

37 And He said to him, “‘You shall love the [a]Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 39 And the second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

D Disciple – John 13:35

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”.

Discipline – 1 Corinthians 9:24–27

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 Now everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

E Entrust – II Timothy 2:2

“And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also..”

Edification – Ephesians 4:29

“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for building up [b]what is needed, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

F Faith – Romans 10:17

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

Fruit – Matthew 3:8 “Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”

Matthew 13:23

“And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

Follow – Matthew 4:19

“And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

G Gratitude – Hebrews 12:28

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;”

Goal – I Timothy 1:5

“But the goal of our command is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and an unhypocritical faith..”

God draws to Himself – John 6:44

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day..”

H Hardship – II Timothy 2:3–6

“Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. 5 And also if anyone competes as an athlete, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.”

Holy Spirit – Zechariah. 4:6b

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says Yahweh of hosts.

I Identity – 1 Peter 2:9,10

“But you are a chosen family, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Implore – I Thessalonians 2:10-12

“You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly and righteously and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; 11 just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and bearing witness to each one of you as a father would his own children, 12 so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

J Judgment – 1 Corinthians 3:11–15

“For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each man’s work will become evident, for the day will indicate it because it is revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. 14 If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Joy in the ministry – Philippians 2:1,2

“Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 fulfill my joy, that you think the same way, by maintaining the same love, being united in spirit, thinking on one purpose,”

K Knowing God – Philippians 3:8–10

“More than that, I count all things to be loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own which is from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God upon faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Knowledge – Ephesians 1:17,18

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the full knowledge of Him, 18 so that you—the eyes of your heart having been enlightened—will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,.”

L Labor – 1 Thessalonians 1:3

“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love and [a]steadfastness of hope [b]in our Lord Jesus Christ before our God and Father,”

Liberty – II Corinthians 3:17

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

Life-style change – Ephesians 4:22-24

“To lay aside, in reference to your former conduct, the old man, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and to put on the new man, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

M Maturity – Hebrews 5:14

“But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.”

N Nearness – Psalms 73:28

“But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have set Lord Yahweh as my refuge, That I may recount all Your works..”

Newness – Romans 6:4–8

“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died has been justified from sin..”

O Obedience – 1 Peter 1:14

“As obedient children, not being conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

One another – 1 Peter 1:22

“Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a love of the brothers without hypocrisy, fervently love one another from the heart,

P Practice – II Peter 1:5–10

“Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these things are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For in whom these things are not present, that one is blind, being nearsighted, having forgotten the purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and choosing sure; for in doing these things, you will never stumble;”

Productive Lives – Matthew 13:23

“And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

Purity – II Timothy 2:22

“Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Q Qualification – 1 Timothy 3:1–7

“It is a trustworthy saying: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good work. 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but considerate, peaceable, free from the love of money; 4 leading his own household well, having his children in submission with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to lead his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), 6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

R Reconciliation – II Corinthians 5:18,19

“Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their transgressions against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation..”

Redeem the Time – Ephesians 5:15,16 NKJV

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

Remember – Hebrews 13:7

“Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.”

Responsibility – Hebrews 13:17b

“Obey your leaders and submit to them—for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account

S Self-denial – Mark 8:34

“And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me..”

Servant Leader – Mark 10:43,44

“But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.

Stewardship – 1 Corinthians 4:1,2

“Let a man consider us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found faithful.

T Triumph – II Corinthians 2:14

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ, and manifests through us the aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place..”

U Unity – Ephesians 4:1–3

“Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace..”

Unless the Lord – Psalm 127:1

“Unless Yahweh builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless Yahweh watches the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.

V Vision – Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

Value – II Corinthians 12:15

“So I will most gladly spend and be fully spent for your souls.

W Warfare – II Corinthians 10:3–5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the tearing down of strongholds, 5 as we tear down speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

Warning – James 3:1

“Do not, many of you, become teachers, my brothers, knowing that we will receive a stricter judgment.

Worship – Psalms 29:2

“Ascribe to Yahweh the glory of His name; Worship Yahweh in the splendor of holiness.”

X eXhortation – 1 Thessalonians 2:3-7

“For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts. 5 For we never came with a flattering word, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness— 6 nor seeking glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you. 7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.”

Y Yoke fellow – Matthew 11:28–30

““Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light..”

Zero in on God’s purpose – II Corinthians 3:18

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. Galatians 4:19

The ABC's of the Christian Life for those who SUFFER

A Biblical Ministry Concept

I Peter. 4:19 NASB

"Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right."

A Affliction has purpose – Psalm 119:67

"Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep Your word." Psalm 119:71 "It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes."

1 Peter 1:6, 7; John 15:1, 2

B Believe – Romans 8:28

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."

C Confidence – Philippians 1:6

"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."

Comfort – II Corinthians 1:3, 4a

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction."

D Dispel Doubts – Mark 9:24

"Immediately the boy's father cried out and was saying, 'I do believe; help my unbelief.'"

Psalm 27:13 "I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of Yahweh In the land of the living."

E Endurance – James 1:3

"knowing that the testing of your faith brings about perseverance."

James 5:11 "Behold, we count those blessed who persevere. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful."

F Faith – 1 Peter 4:19 (NASB)

"Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right."

Fear – II Timothy 1:7

"For God has not given us a spirit of [a]timidity, but of power and love and [b]self-discipline."

G Grace is sufficient – II Corinthians 12:9a

"And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.'"

H Hope is critical – Romans 15:13

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

A Short List of Hope Promises:

Romans 15:4 "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through the perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

1 Peter 5:10 NASB "After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you."

Matthew 19:26 "And looking at them Jesus said to them, 'With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"

Psalm 33:18,19 Behold, the eye of Yahweh is on those who fear Him, On those who wait for His lovingkindness, 19 To deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine.

Psalm 42:5 "Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me? Wait for God, for I shall still praise Him, for the salvation of His presence."

Psalm 69:13–17 "But as for me, my prayer is to You, O Yahweh, at an acceptable time; O God, in the abundance of Your lovingkindness, answer me with the truth of Your salvation. 14 Deliver me from the mire and do not let me sink; May I be delivered from my foes and from the deep waters. 15 May the flood of water not overflow me Nor the deep swallow me up, Nor the pit shut its mouth on me. 16 Answer me, O Yahweh, for Your lovingkindness is good; According to the abundance of Your compassion, turn to me, 17 And do not hide Your face from Your slave, For I am in distress; answer me quickly.

Psalm 119:49,50 "Remember the word to Your slave, In which You have made me wait. 50 This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your word has revived me."

I Include others is our – II Corinthians 1:11

"you also joining in helping us through your prayers on our behalf, so that thanks may be given on our behalf by many persons for the gracious gift bestowed on us through the prayers of many."

James 5:14,15 "Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, [a]nointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him."

J Jesus is our example – Hebrews 12:2

"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the [b]author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 5:8 "Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered."

K Know God's promises – II Peter 1:4

"For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Short list of additional Promises:

1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."

Romans 8:18, 32 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 32 He who indeed did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

Psalms 34:17-19 "The righteous cry, and Yahweh hears And delivers them out of all their troubles.

18 Yahweh is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.

19 Many are the evils against the righteous, But Yahweh delivers him out of them all.

Psalms 40:1-3, 13, 17 "I hoped earnestly for Yahweh; And He inclined to me and heard my cry for help.

2 He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a high rock, He established my steps. 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in Yahweh... Be pleased, O Yahweh, to deliver me; Make haste, O Yahweh, to help me.... As for me, I am afflicted and needy, may the Lord think of me. You are my help and the One who rescues me; Do not delay, O my God.."

Psalms 57:1,2 NKJV "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by. I will cry out to God Most High, to God who performs all things for me."

Psalms 73:26 "My flesh and my heart fail, But God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalms 86:1-7 "Incline Your ear, O Yahweh, and answer me; for I am afflicted and needy.

2 Keep my soul, for I am a holy one;

O You my God, save Your slave who trusts in You.

3 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to You I call all day long. 4 Make glad the soul of Your slave, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. 5 For You, Lord, are good, and by nature forgiving, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You. 6 Give ear, O Yahweh, to my prayer; and give heed to the voice of my supplications! 7 In the day of my distress I shall call upon You, For You will answer me.."

Psalms 138:8 "Yahweh will accomplish what concerns me; O Yahweh, Your lovingkindness endures forever; Do not fail the works of Your hands.

1 John 4:4b "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."

Hebrews 6:18-19 "so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and confirmed."

II Chronicles 20:15, 20 "Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. 20 establish your faith in Yahweh your God and you will be established. Establish your faith in His prophets and succeed."

L Love of God – Romans 8:38-39

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.."

M Mindset – Romans 8:6

"For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace."

Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is dignified, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, consider these things."

N Never – Hebrews 13:5b

"for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

Need – Hebrews 4:16

"Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

O Overcome the world – John 16:33

"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

P Prayer is essential – Philippians 4:6, 7

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Q Quiet before God – Psalm 46:10

"Cease striving and know that I am God."

R Remember God's faithfulness – Lamentations 3:21-25

This I will return to my heart; therefore I will wait in hope. 22 The lovingkindnesses of Yahweh indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 "Yahweh is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I wait for Him." 25 Yahweh is good to those who hope in Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

S Strength – Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.."

Shepherd – Psalms 23:1-3

"Yahweh is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

John 10:14, 27-29 "14 I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me,

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish—ever; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 [a]My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."

T Trust – Proverbs 3:5, 6

“Trust in Yahweh with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;

Fear Yahweh and turn away from evil.

Through – 1 Peter 5:10

“And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, strengthen, confirm, and ground you..”

Psalms 23:4 “Even though I walk through the [a]valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”

Isaiah 43:1, 2a “But now, thus says Yahweh, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel,

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;”

U Understand God’s purpose – II Corinthians 1:4

“who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God

II Corinthians 4:16–18 “Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our momentary, light affliction is working out for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal..”

V Vision – 1 Corinthians 2:9

But just as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

W Ways (God’s) – Isaiah 55:8, 9

““For My thoughts are not your thoughts,

Nor are your ways My ways,” declares Yahweh.

9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

So are My ways higher than your ways

And My thoughts than your thoughts.

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout,

And giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what pleases Me, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it..”

X eXpect trials – 1 Peter 4:12, 13

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you. 13 But to the degree you are sharing the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation..”

Hebrews 12:4–10 ““You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin. 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reproved by Him; 6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He flogs every son whom He receives. 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons

for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them. Shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our benefit, so that we may share His holiness.

Y Yield – Matthew 11:28–30

“Come to Me, all [a]who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is [c]easiness and My burden is light.”

Z Z From the beginning to the end it’s

all about Jesus!

Philippians 2:9–11 “Therefore, God also highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father..”

THE ABCs OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE PT. 4 — FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER

A Suggested Study Format:

Ask the **who, what, when, where, and how questions.**

1. For example with the first “A” **Affliction** you could ask; “What other purposes do you think Afflictions might have in a Christian’s life?”

2. What is the hope in each of these verses?
What does that mean?

- Are there life lessons learned through Afflictions?
- What do you think are the connections between Afflictions and Abundant Life?
- Can you have life with Jesus and not have Afflictions?

Think about an example of this principle in your own life.

In making an **Application** you could ask:

1. Have you ever experienced Afflictions?
2. Were there any benefits from them?

In conclusion, develop a **closing prayer** in light of these verses and the word Affliction.