

Chapter 5



Biblical

Themes:

(Primary scripture used is from the New American Standard Bible 1995 version (NASB).

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.”



Chapter 5

Biblical Themes

Listed in order

(Unless otherwise noted the scriptures quoted are from the New American Stand Bible)

Why I Need to Share the Message of Jesus Christ
& God's Method of Reaching the world

Romans Road

The Promises of God

Small Group O.T. Discipleship Series

Three-Fold Salvation

Servant Leadership

Leadership Mandate

Prophecy Pt. 1 & 2

What about the People & the Land of Israel?

Prayer & Sample Daily Prayer Sheet

Biblical Warnings

The Believer's New Identity & New Reality

Sexual Purity Parts 1, 2, and 3

6 Principles of a Successful Christian Life

Facets of GRACE

View from a Cemetery

The Significance of the Resurrection & What It Proves

50 Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus Christ

Daily Prayer Sheet

WHY I NEED TO SHARE THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST

Because of what Jesus did for us:

II Corinthians 5:14,15 “For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”

Colossians 1:13,14 “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

John 8:36 NKJV “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

Because of the Love of God for all mankind:

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

Romans 5:8, 10 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

II Corinthians 5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

II Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

Because of the purpose of God for making us His children (Command):

Matthew 5:13–16 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

II Corinthians 5:18–20 “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

Matthew 28:18–20 NKJV “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses

to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Because of the reality of Hell:

Hebrews 9:27 NKJV “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

Revelation 20:11–13 NKJV “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.”

Therefore we must see that sharing Jesus is not an option but a necessity.

Romans 10:13–15 NKJV “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!’”

1 Thessalonians 2:4 NKJV –“But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.”

Ezekiel 3:18 NKJV “When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.”

God’s method of reaching the world with the message of Jesus Christ.

By His Word

Hebrews 4:12 NKJV “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

II Timothy 3:15–17 NKJV “And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

By His Spirit thru His people

Acts 1:8 NKJV “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

John 16:7–11 NKJV “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

1 Corinthians 9:16,17 "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship."

ROMANS ROAD

Romans 3:10 "As it is written, 'There is none righteous, not even one.'"

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 10:13 "For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord, 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.'"

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; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

The Promises of God

Their place in the life of the Christian
The promise of God's Word!!!

**MAKING GOD'S PROMISES
A BELIEVER'S LIFE EXPERIENCE.**

God's Ability

God's Character & Greatness

Psalms 100:5 "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting and His faithfulness is to all generations."

Jeremiah 32:27 "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?"

Titus 1:2 "In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago."

Isaiah 40:21-26 "Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,
And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
And spreads them out like a tent to live in.

23 It is He who reduces rulers to nothing,
Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.

24 Scarcely have they been planted,
Scarcely have they been sown,

Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth,
But He merely blows on them, and they wither,
And the storm carries them away like stubble.

25 'To whom then will you compare Me
That I would be his equal?' says the Holy One.

26 Raise your eyes on high

And see who has created these stars,
The One who brings out their multitude by number,
He calls them all by name;

Because of the greatness of His might and the strength
of His power, Not one of them is missing."

His Word

Psalms 33:4 "For the word of the Lord is right,
and all His work is done in faithfulness."

Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withers, the flower fades, but
the word of our God abides forever."

His Power

1 Kings 8:58 "So that He may guide our hearts
toward Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep His
commandments, His statutes, and His ordinances,
which He commanded our fathers."

Joshua 23:14 "Now behold, today I am going the
way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts
and in all your souls that not one word of all the good
words which the Lord your God spoke concerning you
has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of
them has failed."

God's Promises

The Principle

1 Corinthians 1:20 – "For as many as the promises
of God are, in Him they are yes; therefore through Him
also is our Amen to the glory of God through us."

The Purpose

II Peter 1:4 – “Through 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 on account of lust.”

II Corinthians 7:1 – “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let’s cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

How Promises Work – Our Response to God

John 15:7–12, 16 – “If you remain in Me, and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; remain in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

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 remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.”

Romans 4:18–21 “In hope against hope he (Abraham) believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.”

Hebrews 6:11–20 “And we desire that each one of you demonstrate the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and endurance inherit the promises.

For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear an oath by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, ‘Indeed I will greatly bless you and I will greatly multiply you.’ And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. For people swear an oath by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath serving as confirmation is an end of every dispute. In the same way God, desiring even more to demonstrate to the heirs of the promise the fact that His purpose is unchangeable, confirmed it with an oath, 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 hold firmly to the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and reliable and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

Hebrews 10:23, 35,36 “Let’s hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was of God, you may receive what was promised.”

Psalms 119:49 “Remember the word to Your servant, in which You have made me hope.”

Our Daily Practice

1) **Faith’s Formula** “My faith can be based only on God’s faithfulness, made possible only through His Power and trusting Him to keep His Word to me.”

2) **Pray** for God to do in you and through you what He has promised in His Word to do.

3) **Be willing** for God to change you so He can fulfill His Word to You.

4) **Turn commands into promises**, realizing that God alone gives you the power enabling you to fulfill His commands.

5) **Recognize the difference** between conditional and unconditional promises. For example:

Hebrews 13:5b “For He Himself has said, ‘I will never desert you, nor will I ever abandon you.’ (unconditional)

John 8:31b, 32 “If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (conditional)

Pray that God would grant you the ability to meet the conditions for realizing these promises.

6) **Read and study God’s Word** to find and know the promises and commands which He intends to fulfill in your life.

Keep a “promises” list with dates and then refer to them often.

Some PROMISES VERSES:

Promises of God’s Provision:

James 1:17 “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”

II Corinthians 9:8 – “And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.”

Additional Scriptures on provision:

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| 1. Phil. 4:19 | 2. 1 Cor. 10:13 |
| 3. Matt. 6:19–21 | 4. Psalm 1:1–3 |
| 5. Rom. 8:28 | 6. Isaiah 41:10 |
| 7. 1 Peter 5:6–7 | 8. 1 Peter 1:3–4 |
| 9. II Peter 1:3 | 10. James 1:5 |
| 11. Rom. 8:11 | 12. Gal. 5:22–23 |

Promises of God's Forgiveness:

1 John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Colossians 1:13,14 – “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Additional Scriptures on forgiveness:

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| 1. Luke 15 | 2. Acts 3:1 |
| 3. Psalm 85:2 | 4. 1 John 2:1–2 |
| 5. Micah 7:18 | 6. Psalms 103:12 |
| 7. Psalms 34:18 | 8. Isaiah 44:21–22 |
| 9. Jer. 31:34 | 10. Jer. 33:8 |
| 11. Isaiah 43:25–26 | 12. Mark 3:28 |

Additional Promise verses

Psalm 16:11 – “You will make known to me the way of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.”

Isaiah 30:18 – “Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who long for Him.”

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| 1. 1 Cor. 2:9 | 2. II Peter 3:13 |
| 3. 1 John 2:25 | 4. 1 John 3:2–3 |
| 5. Hebrews 6:12 | 6. Romans 4:21–22 |
| 7. Eph. 1:13 | 8. 1 Timothy 4:8 |
| 9. Romans 8:37–39 | 10. Hebrews 11:11 |
| 11. James 1:12 | 12. Luke 11:9–10 |

For an additional study, learn from David's response to the Promise of God in II Samuel 7:8–29

II Samuel 7:8–29 The Promise to David

“Now then, this is what you shall say to My servant David: ‘This is what the Lord of armies says: “I Myself took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader over My people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have eliminated all your enemies from you; I will also make a great name for you, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. And I will establish a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will malicious people oppress them anymore as previously, even from the day that I appointed judges over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you. When your days are finished and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he does wrong, I will discipline him with a rod of men and with strokes of sons of mankind, but My favor shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from you. Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”’ In accordance with all these words and all of this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.”

David's response to God's promise to him

“Then David the king came in and sat before the Lord, and he said, ‘Who am I, Lord God, and who are the members of my household, that You have brought me this far? And yet this was insignificant in Your eyes, Lord God, for You have spoken also of the house of Your servant regarding the distant future. And this is the custom of mankind, Lord God. Again what more can David say to You? For You know Your servant, Lord God! For the sake of Your word, and according to Your heart, You have done all this greatness, to let Your servant know. For this reason You are great, Lord God; for there is no one like You, and there is no God except You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. ... Now then, **Lord God, the word that You have spoken** about Your servant and his house, **confirm it forever, and do just as You have spoken, so that Your name may be great forever**, by saying, ‘The Lord of armies is God over Israel’; and may the house of Your servant David be established before You. For You, Lord of armies, God of Israel, have given a revelation to Your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house’; therefore Your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to You. **Now then, Lord God, You are God, and Your words are truth; and You have promised this good thing to Your servant. And now, may it please You to bless the house of Your servant, so that it may continue forever before You. For You, Lord God, have spoken; and with Your blessing may the house of Your servant be blessed forever.**”

One final word of caution – *Be careful to make sure that a promise which you are trusting the Lord to accomplish in your life is intended for you. Some promises are specific in nature and are given to an individual such as Abraham, David, or Jesus Christ, or is directed to the nation of Israel and is not directed generally for other believers.*

**SMALL GROUP
or Personal
Old Testament Discipleship Series**

When Recruiting: One-on-one or large group announcement. Share several personal experiences of God's blessing when you put yourself in a discipline-type situation. Share some of the following Scriptures, then use the rest at your first lesson time:

Psalms. 1:1-3; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Hebrews 5:11-14; Psalms.16:11; II Peter 1:2-4; Matthew 7:24-27; 1 Timothy 4:8; James 1:22-25; II Timothy 2:15; Romans 15:4, 10:17

Ask fellow believers if they would commit themselves to God and then to you with a few others for a period of time seeking the Lord through an Old Testament study.

Lesson Plan / Basic Study Format:

1. **Open** in prayer (assign a different person each time)
2. **Ask** group members if they recognized God's Hand in their lives this past week, and if they would please share it with the others.
3. **Share** their personal discoveries in the assigned chapters, a chapter at a time, answering **the three basic questions**.
4. **Develop** a list of items to pray for personally from today's lesson.
5. **Pray**. Each person pray for the one on the right or left, the list that night, and every day throughout the week.
6. **Make** next week's assignment.

Three basic questions for each chapter:

1. What do you think is important from this chapter?
2. What spoke to your heart from this chapter?
3. What questions do you have from this chapter?

Each person needs to bring a notebook
and keep notes!

Suggested Lessons:

1. **Share basic format**, give lesson demonstration:
Genesis 1-3
2. Genesis 4-9
3. Genesis 11-14; Hebrews 7
4. Genesis 15-19; II Peter 2:1-9
5. Genesis 20, 22-24; Romans 4
6. Genesis 37, 39, 40, 41, 50
7. Exodus 1-5
8. Exodus 7-11
9. Exodus 12-14, 19-20
10. Numbers 11; Exodus 32; Numbers 16:41-17:11; Numbers 21, 25; 1 Cor 9:24-10:13
11. Deuteronomy 8, 11, 28, 30, 32:44-47
12. Joshua 1, 4, 5, 6
13. Joshua 7, 8, 23, 24
14. Judges 1-2, 6, 7
15. Judges 13-16, 21
16. 1 Samuel 1-4
17. 1 Samuel 12-16
18. 1 Samuel 17, 28, 31; II Samuel 1:1-16
19. II Samuel 5, 7, 11, 12:1-14; Psalm 51
20. **Psalms of David** -
Psalm 19, 23, 32, 37, 91, 139
21. 1 Chronicles 22; II Chronicles 6, 7; 1 Kings 3
22. II Chronicles 9:1-12
23. **The wisdom of Solomon**-
Proverbs 1, 4, 7, 24; Ecclesiastes 2, 12
24. 1 Kings 11, 12, 13, 14; II Chronicles 9, 12
25. 1 Kings 16; II Chronicles 13, 14, 16
26. 1 Kings 16; II Chronicles 17-20
27. 1 Kings 17-19, 21, 22
28. II Kings 1-5
29. II Kings 6-9, 13
30. **Other prophets of this time:** Hosea 1-5
31. Hosea 4, 6, 7, 11, 14
32. II Chronicles 24-28
33. II Kings 17-20; II Chronicles 32
34. **Other Prophets continued**-Isaiah 6, 40-43
35. Isaiah 44-48
36. Isaiah 53, 55, 58, 59
37. II Kings 21-25
38. Jeremiah 1-3, 7, 17
39. Jeremiah 31, 32, 42, 43, 44
40. Daniel 1-5
41. Daniel 6-10
42. Ezekiel 2, 3, 12, 20, 33
43. Ezra 1, 7-10
44. Nehemiah 1-2, 4-6
45. Haggai 1, 2
46. Esther 1-5
47. Esther 6-10
48. Hebrews 10-13; Psalm 78
49. Extra Psalms: 73, 119

Salvation

Definition: Deliverance from the Penalty, Power, and Dominion of sin.

The Christian's Salvation is a 3-fold Salvation

It is a Salvation from the: Penalty of Sin Judgment

- ❖ **PAST—JESUS CHRIST** paid our penalty for sin before a Holy God.

Romans 8:1 "Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Peace replaces guilt.
Here Jesus is our **SAVIOR**

This is the foundation for a Relationship with God

Supportive verses:

Romans 5:1 NKJV "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 5:16 NKJV "And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification."

Ephesians 2:8 NKJV "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."

Titus 3:5-7 NKJV "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

It is a Salvation from the: Power of sin Daily victory

- ❖ **Present—GOD'S SPIRIT** provides for us the ability to overcome sin patterns and temptations.

Galatians 5:16 "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."

We experience freedom from sin resulting in Joy.

Here Jesus is our **LORD**

This is when one's Relationship with God is cultivated

Supportive verses:

1 Thessalonians 4:3 "For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality."

Romans 13:11-14 "Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we first believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let's rid ourselves of the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let's behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and debauchery, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts."

Romans 12:1,2 "Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

Philippians 2:12,13 "So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure."

It is a Salvation from the: Presence of sin Eternal state

- ❖ **FUTURE—We will be united WITH GOD FOREVER** in a totally sinless state.

II Peter 3:13 – "But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells."

Develops hope which is guaranteed instead of an elusive dream.

Here Jesus is **GLORIFIED** and we with Him forever.

This is when one's Relationship with God is consummated

Supportive verses:

Colossians 3:1–4 “Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

Romans 8:16,17 “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”

1 Peter 1:3,4 “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, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”

Ephesians 1:18 “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.”

An important consideration: What God has started, He will finish.

Philippians 1:6 NKJV “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Jude v.24 “Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy.”

Servant Leadership is a Biblical Principle

THE SCRIPTURAL MANDATE:

Matthew 20:25–28 “But Jesus called them to Himself and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles domineer over them, and those in high position exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wants to become prominent among you shall be your servant, and whoever desires to be first among you shall be your servant; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.’”

John 13:12–17 “Then, when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done for you? You call Me “Teacher” and “Lord”; and you are correct, for so I am. So if I, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I gave you an example, so that you also would do just as I did for you. Truly, truly I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.’”

Matthew 20:26 “It is not this way among you, but whoever wants to become prominent among you shall be your **servant**.”

Matthew 23:11 NKJV “But he who is greatest among you shall be your **servant**.”

Mark 9:35 NKJV “And sitting down, He called the twelve and *said to them, ‘If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and **servant** of all.’”

Mark 10:43 “But it is not this way among you; rather, whoever wants to become prominent among you shall be your **servant**.”

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Luke 22:27 NIV “I am among you as one who serves.”

Philippians 2:7 “But emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men.”

II Corinthians 12:15a “I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls.”

Luke 16:13 “No **servant** can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

John 12:26 “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My **servant** will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

John 3:27, 30 “John replied, “A person can receive not even one thing unless it has been given to him from heaven. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease.”

II Corinthians 4:5 “For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as **your bond-servants** on account of Jesus.”

Romans 16:1 "I recommend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea."

Hebrews 3:5 "Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a **servant**, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later."

Psalms 78:70 "He also chose **His servant** David And took him from the sheepfolds."

Matthew 25:40 NKJV "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

Definition of a Christian Servant Leader

A Servant Leader is a person who is committed to another person's (spiritual) success.

The question a Christian leader needs to ask themselves is "How am I helping others to succeed in their walk with the Lord?"

PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE SERVANT LEADERSHIP

1. HEART FOR GOD

1 Samuel 16:7 "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God does not see as man sees, since man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'"

II Chronicles 16:9a "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His."

2. GODLY LIVING

Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

Ephesians 5:8 "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light."

3. THE ATTITUDE FACTOR

A. HUMILITY

Philippians 2:3,4 "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

1 Peter 5:6 "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time."

B. GRATITUDE

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Hebrews 12:28 "Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let's show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe."

C. SPIRITUAL ROLE MODEL

John 13:14,15 "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you."

John 13:34,35 "I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another."

4. CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES

1 Timothy 4:7b,8 "On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come."

Hebrews 12:1,2 "Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let's rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the 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."

5. THE BIG "3"

1 Thessalonians 1:3 "Constantly keeping in mind your **work of faith** and **labor of love** and **perseverance of hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father."

A. FAITH

Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

B. HOPE

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

Hebrews 6:19 "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and reliable and one which enters within the veil."

C. LOVE

II Corinthians 5:14,15 "For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 "If I speak with the tongues of mankind and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give away all my possessions to charity, and if I surrender my body so that I may glory, but do not have love, it does me no good."

6. VISION

A. PERSONAL

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

Galatians 6:9,10 "Let's not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let's do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."

B. CHURCH

Ephesians 4:11-13 "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ."

Acts 13:1-3 "Now there were prophets and teachers at Antioch, in the church that was there: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set Barnabas and Saul apart for Me for the work to which I have called them.' Then, when they had fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

7. SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

Hebrews 5:14 "But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."

Colossians 3:15,17 "Let the peace of Christ, to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in your hearts; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

8. LOVE FOR OTHERS

1 Thessalonians 2:7,8 "But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us."

Galatians 5:13 "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

9. CONVICTION OF FUNDAMENTALS

A. THE WORD OF GOD

Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of God."

Isaiah 55:11 "So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the purpose for which I sent it."

B. THE SPIRIT OF GOD

John 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment."

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 as far as the remotest part of the earth."

C. THE MESSENGER OF GOD

John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you."

Romans 10:14,15 "How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!'"

D. THE NECESSITY OF PRAYER

Matthew 9:37,38 "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

Ephesians 6:18 "With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints."

MARKS OF A SERVANT LEADER'S INFLUENCE

I'd rather see a lesson
Than to hear one any day;
I'd rather you'd walk with me
Than to merely show the way.
The eye's a better teacher
And more willing than the ear,
And counsel is confusing
But examples are always clear;
The best of all the teachers
Are the ones who live the creed,
To see good put into action
Is what everybody needs.
I soon can learn to do it
If you let me see it done;
I can see your hand in action
But your tongue too fast may run.
And the counsel you are giving
May be very fine and true,
But I'd rather get my lesson
By observing what you do!

Author Unknown

LEADERSHIP Mandate

- **EXAMPLE is our Motto**
- **LOVE is our Motivation**
- **GOD'S KINGDOM is our Mission**
- **DEPENDENCY is our Mode**
- **JESUS is our Message**
- **PRAYER is our Muscle**
- **GOD'S WORD is our Manual**
- **FAITH is our Method**
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT is our Means**
- **HUMILITY is our Mindset**
- **INTERGITY is Mandatory**
- **SACRIFICE is our Manner**
- **PLANNING & PREPARATION is a Must**
- **TO SERVE is our Marching Orders**
- **CHRIST'S LIKENESS is our Mark / Measure**

Example is our Motto:

1 Timothy 4:12 "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."

1 Corinthians 11:1 "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ."

Ask yourself:

- Do I see myself as an example to others?
- In what ways am I a godly example?
- Where do I need to make some major improvements in my character and conduct?

Love is our Motivation:

II Corinthians 5:14,15 "For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."

Romans 5:5 "And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Ask yourself:

- Does the love of God move me to minister?
- When do I have to choose to love even though I don't feel like loving?
- How sacrificial is my love for God?

God's Kingdom is our Mission:

1 Thessalonians. 2:10-12 "You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory."

Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

Ask yourself:

- Whose kingdom am I building?
- What concerns me most, my reputation or Christ's?
- How does building God's Kingdom express itself in my ministry?

Dependency is our Mode:

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing."

Psalms 127:1 "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain."

Ask yourself:

- How dependent on the Lord am I?
- What is often substituted for dependency on the Lord in your ministry?
- How often do you become jealous while serving the Lord?

J E S U S is our Message:

II Corinthians 4:5 "For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake."

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."

Ask yourself:

- How do I lift up the name of Jesus in my ministry?
- How often is the gospel made clear when you speak?
- How do I attempt to have others follow Jesus instead of me?

Prayer is our Muscle:

Ephesians 6:18–20 “With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Matthew 7:7,8 “Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.”

Ask yourself:

- How am I depending on God for answered prayer?
- Is my prayer life a model for other Christians?
- Why don't I pray more?

God's Word is our Manual:

Psalms 19:7–11 “The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.”

II Timothy 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.”

Ask yourself:

- What are my ministry promise verses?
- In what ways does my ministry model that of Jesus Christ?
- How do I incorporate the Scriptures into the ministry?

Faith is our Method:

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

Habakkuk 2:4 “Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith.”

Ask yourself:

- What do I do that is an exercise of faith?
- How is my faith expressed in the leadership team?
- In what areas of the ministry does faith need to increase?

The Holy Spirit is our Means:

Zechariah 4:6 “Then he answered and said to me, ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the LORD of hosts.”

John 7:38,39 “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

Ask yourself:

- In what ways is the Holy Spirit evident in the ministry?
- How do the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures, faith, and dependency relate?

Humility is our Mindset:

Philippians 2:3,4 “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

1 Peter 5:6 “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.”

Ask yourself:

- How has humility become increasingly evident in my life?
- In what areas is pride evident in my life?
- How do you deal with anger in your personal life?

Integrity is Mandatory:

1 Timothy 3:2 “An overseer, then, must be above reproach.”

1 John 1:6–9 “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 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. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.”

Psalms 97:10a “Hate evil, you who love the Lord.”

Ask yourself:

- Can you see progress over sin in your life?
- How often do you confess sin? Does your confession or lack of it say something about your attitude about sin in your life?
- How strong is your hatred of sin?

Sacrifice is our Manner:

II Corinthians 12:15 “And I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls. If I love you the more, am I to be loved the less?”

Gallatians 6:14 “But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Ask yourself:

- What am I sacrificing while serving the Lord?
- In what ways does sacrifice and humility relate to each other?
- How conscious am I of sacrificing for the Lord and what does that reveal about me?

Planning and Preparation is a must:

1 Corinthians 14:40 “But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.”

James 4:15 “Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.’”

Ask yourself:

- How much time do I spend in planning and in preparation for the ministry?
- Is my planning and preparing time used well?
- What can I do better here?

To Serve is our Marching Orders

Matthews 20:26–28 “Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Joshua 24:14,15 “Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods ... and serve the Lord. If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Ask yourself:

- What does serving your staff and volunteer leaders look like? How can you do better?
- How are you serving the members of your church? Can we do better? How?
- How are you serving the community around your church? Can we do better? How?

Christ's Likeness is our Mark / Measure

Romans 8:29 “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Romans 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Ask yourself:

- Do you measure yourself in comparison with others or with Christ?
- Do you hope others will be impressed with you or are you hoping they see Jesus in you?

PROPHECY Pt.1

What is prophecy? The theological term is Eschatology which is the study of future events foretold by the God of the Bible.

Isaiah 46:9–11 “Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, ‘My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure’; calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely, I will do it.”

Why study / understand Bible prophecy?

(Because the Bible is 25-30% prophetic)

Matthew 16:2,3 “But He replied to them, ‘When it is evening, you say, “It will be fair weather; for the sky is red.” And in the morning, “There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.” You know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but are you unable to discern the signs of the times?’”

II Peter 1:20, 21 NKJV “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Biblical mandate for prophecy.

For Prophets:

Deuteronomy 13:1–5 “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let’s follow other gods (whom you have not known) and let’s serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you to find out whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken falsely against the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to drive you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall eliminate the evil from among you.

Deuteronomy 18:20–22 “But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name, a word which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ And if you say in your heart, ‘How will we recognize the word which the Lord has not spoken?’ When the prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, and the thing does not happen or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you are not to be afraid of him.”

For Believers in Christ:

Revelation 1:3 “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.”

Matthew 24:42–44 “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you must be ready as well; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”

II Peter 3:10–13 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

1 John 2:28 “Now, little children, remain in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not draw back from Him in shame at His coming.”

1 John 3:2,3 “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope set on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

II Peter 1:20, 21 NKJV “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:9–11 “And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were watching, and a cloud took Him up, out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, then behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them, and they said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.’”

How to best understand Bible Prophecy?

(Critical Biblical Prophecies as background for understanding how to interpret current events)

First is the central personality of the Scriptures and of Prophecy—Jesus Christ (The Messiah)

Hebrews 1:1,2 “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

Revelation 19:11–16 “And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He

judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, ‘KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.’”

Second is the Prominence of the Nation of Israel in End Time Events

Daniel 9:24–27 “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the wrongdoing, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. So you are to know and understand that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, until Messiah the Prince, there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with streets and moat, even in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks, the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate.”

Isaiah 66:7–9 NKJV “‘Before she was in labor, she gave birth; before her pain came, she delivered a male child. Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children. Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?’ says the Lord. ‘Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?’ says your God.”

Ezekiel 34:13 NKJV “And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country.”

Joel 3:1,2 NKJV “For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land.”

Third is the significance of Jerusalem in End Time Events

Zechariah 12:1–3 “Thus declares the Lord who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him, ‘Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against

Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah. It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.”

Some Bible Prophecies relevant to our times

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 NKJV “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

II Peter 2:1–3 “But false prophets also appeared among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their indecent behavior, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

Colossians 3:1–4 “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 have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

II Peter 3:3,4 “Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’ For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”

Isaiah 5:20–23 NJKV “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away justice from the righteous man!”

Titus 2:11–14 “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”

Romans 13:11–14 “Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near.

Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”

1 Thessalonians 5:1–10 “Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’ then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.”

Matthew 24:3–16 “As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’ And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ,” and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.”

Matthew 24:32–39 “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and

drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

II Timothy 3:1–5 “But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these.”

PROPHECY Pt. 2

Please think about how these warnings apply to prophecy and to us today.

1 Thessalonians 4:13, 16 NKJV “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ... **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.”

Romans 11:25 NKJV “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**”

Mark 13:5,6 “And Jesus, answering them, began to say: ‘Take heed that **no one deceives you.** For many will come in My name, saying, “I am He,” and **will deceive many.**”

Luke 21:8 “And He said: ‘Take heed that **you not be deceived.** For many will come in My name, saying, “I am He,” and, “The time has drawn near.” Therefore do not go after them.”

II Thessalonians 2:3 NKJV “**Let no one deceive you by any means;** for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.”

Matthew 24:4–7 “And Jesus answered and said to them, “**See to it that no one misleads you.** For many will come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ,” and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.”

Revelation 1:3 “**Blessed is the one who reads, and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it; for the time is near.**”

Colossians 3:1–4 “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 have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.**”

Understand there is prophecy about coming

Judgment:

Acts 10:42 “And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is **the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.**”

Acts 17:31 “Because **He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world** in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

Romans 2:16 “On the day when, according to my gospel, **God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.**”

Hebrews 9:27 NKJV “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but **after this the judgment.**”

II Corinthians 5:10 “**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,** so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

(Believers are judged {evaluated} by God {Christ} for rewards. This is different from the Great White Throne of Judgment.)

1 Corinthians 3:10–15 “According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

Revelation 20:11–15 “Then I saw a **great white throne** and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the **book of life**; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

(At the end of time all nonbelievers will be judged. None will be found worthy of eternal life.)

Understand there is prophecy about the RETURN OF JESUS TO THE EARTH at the end of the 7-year tribulation.

Acts 1:9–11 “And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? **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.**”
Revelation 1:7 “**Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.**”

Revelation 19:11–16 “**And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.** His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, **‘KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.’**”

This event is predicted to take place at the END OF THE TRIBULATION with a number of major catastrophic events that will precede it. (More about those events later.) *But first here are several major prophetic events that have yet to be fulfilled and are likely to take place before the Tribulation, the 7 terrible years before Christ’s return to earth. These events do not have a timeline attributed to them.*

Understand there is prophecy about JESUS COMING BACK FOR HIS CHURCH (BELIEVERS) (meeting them in the clouds and returning with them to heaven):

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 NKJV “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.**”

1 Corinthians 15:51–53 “Behold, **I tell you a mystery**; we will not all sleep, but **we will all be changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; **for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed**. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

John 14:1–3 “**Do not let your heart be troubled**; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself**, that where I am, there you may be also.”

In regards to the Middle East:

Prophecy about Damascus, Syria

Isaiah 17:1, 14 “Behold, Damascus is about to be removed from being a city and it will be a ruinous heap. Then behold, at eventide, trouble! And before the morning, he is no more. This is the portion of those who plunder us, and the lot of those who rob us.”

Prophecy about the war of Gog & Magog

Ezekiel 38:1–6, 8–12, 18, 21–23 NKJV

“Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you. ... “After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you.” ‘Thus says the Lord God: “On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwallled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates’— to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.

‘And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,’ says the Lord God, ‘that My fury will show in My face. For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: ... ‘I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains,’ says the Lord God. ‘Every man’s sword will be against

his brother. And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.”

These 3 events have no date ascribed to them –THEY COULD HAPPEN AT ANY TIME!!!

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Scoffers

II Peter 3:2–8 “That you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles. Know this first of all, **that in the last days scoffers will come with their mocking**, following after their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.’ For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, **kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men**.

II Timothy 3:1–5 “But realize this, that **in the last days difficult times will come. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; avoid such people as these.**”

Zechariah 12:2–4 “Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes staggering to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah. It will come about **on that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will injure themselves severely. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.**”

Matthew 24:37 “For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.”

Genesis 6:5, 11–13 NKJV “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ... The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the

earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”

Are we in the Time of the Signs?

Passages of Scriptures to consider:

II Timothy 4:1, 3,4 “I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, **who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom. ... For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and **they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.**”

Matthew 24:4–8, 10–12 “And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ,” and they will mislead many people. And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. But all these things are merely the beginning of **birth pains**. ... And at that time many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will rise up and mislead many people. And because **lawlessness is increased**, most people’s love will grow cold.”

Matthew 24:36, 42, 44 “**But of that day and hour no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. ... Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ... **Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**”

What about the People and the Land of Israel?

Why is there so much attention given to this small piece of real estate (about the size of New Jersey) that Israel occupies?

It is simply because **Israel is God’s chosen people** even though they are currently experiencing what God calls a time of partial hardening.

Deuteronomy 7:6–11 “For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the Lord brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face. Therefore, you shall keep the commandment and the statutes and the judgments which I am commanding you today, to do them.

Romans 11:25 “For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.”

Here are a few interesting things to keep in mind:

Israel is the geographical center of the world.

Ezekiel 5:5 “Thus says the Lord God: ‘This is Jerusalem; I have set her at the center of the nations with lands around her.’”

It is here at this tiny nation that three great continents Europe, Asia, and Africa meet together.

Israel is the spiritual center of the world. It is here that Jesus was born, lived, died, was raised, ascended, and one day He will return to rule and reign over this earth. The three major religions of this world, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, claim Jerusalem as a spiritual capital.

Israel is the prophetic center of the world. If you want to know what time it is on God's clock, look at Israel. You can summarize biblical prophecy in three words: Jews, Jerusalem, and Jesus. All are inextricably interwoven.

Israel is the political center of the world. It is here that Armageddon, the last battle of the last war, will be fought. David exhorted in

Psalms 122:6 “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.”

Now why did he not say pray for peace on earth? *Because there will be no peace on earth until there is peace in Jerusalem, and there will be no peace on earth until the Prince of Peace returns to Jerusalem.*

Israel is the miraculous center of the world.

Every Jew on the face of the earth owes his existence to the miraculous birth of Isaac to Abraham as promised by God.

Genesis 18:9–14 “Then they said to him, ‘Where is Sarah your wife?’ And he said, ‘There, in the tent.’ He said, ‘I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son.’ And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him. “Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing. Sarah laughed to herself, saying, ‘After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?’ And the Lord said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh, saying, “Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?” Is anything too difficult for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.’”

God is called the Lord God of Israel 108 times, the God of Israel 203 times, and the Holy One of Israel 31 times. He promises that Israel will never be assimilated or eliminated because His covenant with them is everlasting.

Genesis 17:7 “I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.”

1 Chronicles 16:17,18 “He also confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, ‘To you I will give the land of Canaan, as the portion of your inheritance.’”

Psalms 105:8–11 “He has remembered His covenant forever, the word which He commanded to a thousand generations, the covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac. Then He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, ‘To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion of your inheritance.’”

Romans 9:4 “Who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises.”

Psalms 89:28, 37 “My lovingkindness I will keep for him forever, and My covenant shall be confirmed to him. ... It shall be established forever like the moon, and the witness in the sky is faithful.”

God says that whoever touches Israel, touches the apple of My eye.

Zechariah 2:8 “For thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘After glory He has sent me against the nations which plunder you, for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye.’”

Israel is the nation that will not go away.

Amos 9:13–15 “‘Behold, days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘When the plowman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; when the mountains will drip sweet wine and all the hills will be dissolved. Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; they will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit. I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them,’ says the Lord your God.”

Jeremiah 31:31–36 “‘Behold, days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,’ declares the Lord. ‘But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,’ declares the Lord, ‘I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, “Know the Lord,” for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,’ declares the Lord, ‘for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.’”

“Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; the Lord of hosts is His name: ‘If this fixed order departs From before Me,’ declares the Lord, ‘Then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever.’”

Romans 11:1–11 “I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? ‘Lord, they have killed Your prophets, they have torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they are seeking my life.’ But what is the divine response to him? ‘I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.’ In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God’s gracious choice. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace. What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened; just as it is written,

‘God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes to see not and ears to hear not, down to this very day.’ And David says,

‘Let their table become a snare and a trap, and a stumbling block and a retribution to them. Let their eyes be darkened to see not, and bend their backs forever.’ I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.”

Zechariah 12:3 “It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.”

And eventually all the nations of the world will gather against her to attempt to destroy her once and for all.

Zechariah 14:2 “For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.”

But God will step in and physically and spiritually rescue them.

Romans 11:25,26 “For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written,

‘The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.’”

Zechariah 12:10 “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

Zechariah 13:8–9 “‘It will come about in all the land,’ declares the Lord, ‘That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; but the third will be left in it. And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them; I will say, “They are My people,” and they will say, “The Lord is my God.”’”

Selected Scriptures on Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

“Our Father, who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our
debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. (For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the
glory forever and ever, Amen.)”

Jesus Prays (intercedes) for us.

Hebrews 7:25

“Therefore He (Jesus) is also able to save forever
those who come to God through Him, since He always
lives to make intercession for them.”

The Holy Spirit Prays (intercedes) for us

Romans 8:26,27

“Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our
weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we
should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with
groanings too deep for words; and He who searches
the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is,
because He intercedes for the saints according to the
will of God.”

Paul's Prayers

Philippians 1:9–11

“And this I pray, that your love may overflow still more
and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so
that you may discover the things that are excellent, that
you may be sincere and blameless for the day of
Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness
which comes through Jesus Christ, for the glory and
praise of God.”

Ephesians 1:18,19a

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened,
so that you will know what is the hope of His calling,
what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the
saints, and what is the boundless greatness of His
power toward us who believe.”

Colossians 1:9–12

“For this reason we also, since the day we heard about
it, have not ceased praying for you and asking that you
may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all
spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will
walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in
all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and
increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with
all power, according to His glorious might, for the
attaining of all perseverance and patience; joyously
giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to
share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”

Prayers of Confession

Psalms 51:1-4, 9,10, 17

“Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your
lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your
compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me

thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my
sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my
sin is ever before me. 4 Against You, You only, I have
sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that
You are justified when You speak and blameless
when You judge. ...

9 Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my
iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and
renew a steadfast spirit within me. ...

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken
and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”

Psalms 32:3–6a

“When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted
away through my groaning all day long. For day and
night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was
drained away as with the fever heat of summer. I
acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not
hide; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the
Lord’; and You forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore,
let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when
You may be found.”

Prayer Promises

Philippians 4:6,7

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

Jeremiah 33:3

“Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you
great and mighty things, which you do not know.”

Mark 11:24

“Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray
and ask, believe that you have received them, and
they will be granted you.”

1 Peter 3:12

“For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous,
and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the
Lord is against those who do evil.”

Pray to the Lord of the harvest

Matthew 9:37,38

“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is
plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, plead
with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into
His harvest.’”

The Prayer of Jabez

1 Chronicles 4:10

“Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, ‘Oh
that You would greatly bless me and extend my
border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that
You would keep me from harm so that it would not
hurt me!’ And God brought about what he requested.”

Instruction on Prayer

Colossians 4:2

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with
an attitude of thanksgiving.”

Matthew 26:41

“Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come
into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is
weak.”

Matthew 7:7

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will
find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

Matthew 6:6,7

"But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words."

Mark 11:25

"Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions."

Luke 6:28

"Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

Luke 18:1

"Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart."

John 16:23b

"Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you."

Colossians 4:2,3

"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

"Pray without ceasing."

II Thessalonians 1:11

"To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will consider you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power."

II Thessalonians 3:1

"Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it was also with you."

1 Timothy 2:1

"First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made in behalf of all people."

1 Timothy 2:8

"Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger and dispute."

Hebrews 13:18

"Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things."

James 5:13-17

"Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. A prayer of a righteous person, when it is brought about, can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months."

James 4:2c,3

"You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures."

1 Peter 3:7

"You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered."

1 Peter 4:7

"The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer."

Psalms 66:18 NKJV

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear."

Proverbs 28:9

"One who turns his ear away from listening to the Law, even his prayer is an abomination."

Psalms 122:6

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you.'"

1 Samuel 12:23

"Furthermore, as for me, far be it from me that I would sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way."

II Chronicles 7:14

"If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Matthew 7:11b

"How much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"

Matthew 18:19

"If two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven."

John 15:7

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

1 John 5:14,15

"This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."

Jesus' Priestly Prayer**John 17**

"Jesus spoke these things; and raising His eyes to heaven, He said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, so that the Son may glorify You, 2 just as You gave Him authority over all mankind, so that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 **And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.** 4 I glorified You on the earth by accomplishing the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now You, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world existed. 6 I have revealed Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have followed Your word. 7 Now they have come to know that everything which You have given Me is from You; 8 for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. 9 I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but on the behalf of those whom You have given Me, because they are Yours; 10 and all things that are

Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11 I am no longer going to be in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, so that they may be one just as We are. 12 While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name, which You have given Me; and I guarded them, and not one of them perished except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

13 But now I am coming to You; and these things I speak in the world **so that they may have My joy made full in themselves.** 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I am not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them away from the evil one. 16 **They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.** 17 **Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.** 18 **Just as You sent Me into the world, I also sent them into the world.** 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, so that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. 20 **"I am not asking on behalf of these alone, but also for those who believe in Me through their word,** 21 that they may all be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, **so that the world may believe that You sent Me.**

22 The glory which You have given Me I also have given to them, so that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, **so that the world may know that You sent Me,** and You loved them, just as You loved Me. 24 Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. 25 'Righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; 26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, **so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.**"

(Please Note – The Sample Prayer Sheet at the end of this Chapter is a recommendation for how a believer could organize a daily prayer routine.)

BIBLICAL WARNINGS!!

Psalms 19:11 "Moreover, by them (the Scriptures) Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward."

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling."

1 Peter 2:11 "Beloved, I urge you as foreigners and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul."

Romans 13:14 "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts."

Ephesians 5:15,16 "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil."

Proverbs 4:23 "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life."

Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

James 4:1-4 "What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

Psalms 66:18 NKJV "If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear."

1 Timothy 6:9,10 "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

II Corinthians. 2:11 "That no advantage would be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes."

II Corinthians 11:3 "But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."

1 Timothy 4:1 NKJV "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?"

Jeremiah 17:10 'I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.'

Hebrews 3:12 "Take care, brothers and sisters, that there will not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God."

Proverbs 25:28 "Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit."

Isaiah 5:20 NKJV "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

1 Thessalonians. 5:22 "Abstain from every form of evil."

1 Corinthians 15:33 "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals.'"

Matthew 7:1–5 "Do not judge, so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and look, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye!"

1 John 1:6, 8, 10 "If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ... If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ... If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us."

Hebrews 3:12,13 "Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today,' so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

James 1:6–8 "But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

James 2:1, 9 My brothers and sisters, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. ... But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the Law as violators."

James 1:19–25 "You know this, my beloved brothers and sisters. Now everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger; for a man's anger does not bring about the righteousness of God. Therefore, ridding yourselves of all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But

prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who has looked intently at the perfect law, the law of freedom, and has continued in it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an active doer, this person will be blessed in what he does."

Matthew 5:28 "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

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. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Luke 12:21 "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

James 3:1,2 "Do not become teachers in large numbers, my brothers, since you know that we who are teachers will incur a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to rein in the whole body as well."

II Peter 1:9 "For the one who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins."

1 Timothy 6:3–5 NKJV "If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself."

Hebrews 10:23–25 "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 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."

II Timothy 4:3,4 "For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires, and they will turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths."

Luke 12:48 "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more."

II Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad."

II Chronicles 16:9a “For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.”

Psalms 4:2 “O sons of men, how long will my honor become a reproach? How long will you love what is worthless and aim at deception?”

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. 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. The world is passing away and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever.”

Judges 21:25 “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Acts 20:29-31a “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be on the alert.

Romans 14:3,4,10 “The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. . . . But as for you, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or you as well, why do you regard your brother or sister with contempt? For we will all appear before the judgment seat of God.

II Corinthians 6:3 “Giving no cause for offense in anything, in order that the ministry be not discredited.”

1 Timothy 4:16 “Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

Psalms 81:11,12 “But My people did not listen to My voice, and Israel did not obey Me. So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their heart, to walk in their own devices.”

Psalms 106:13–15 “They quickly forgot His works; they did not wait for His counsel, but craved intensely in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. So He gave them their request, but sent a wasting disease among them.” (Leanness to their souls)

Psalms 1:1 “How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!”

James 1:26 “If anyone thinks himself to be religious, yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this person’s religion is worthless.”

1 Corinthians 3:11–15 “For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones,

wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

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

Matthew 7:24–27 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

Mark 10:43,44 “But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.”

1 Timothy 4:7b,8 “On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

The Believer's New Identity

When a person becomes a Christian they are immediately changed. Here is a list of a few of the New Things God has done in our lives.

New Creation

II Corinthians 5:17

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

Ephesians 4:24

"And put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

Citizen of heaven

Philippians 3:20

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

Saint

1 Corinthians 1:2

"To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours."

Ephesians 1:18

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

Child of God

Romans 8:16

"The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God."

1 John 3:1

"See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."

Adopted

Romans 8:15, 16

"For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God."

Ephesians 1:5

"He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will."

Bride

Revelation 21:9

"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, 'Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.'"

Revelation 19:7

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:27

"Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it."

Romans 12:5

"So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

Temple

1 Corinthians 3:16

"Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

1 Corinthians 6:19,20

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."

Ambassadors

II Corinthians 5:20

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

Holy priesthood

1 Peter 2:9

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a Holy Nation, people for God's own possession so that you may proclaim the excellences of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Revelation 1:5c,6

"To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever."

Bond Servants

Revelation 1:1

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John."

II Corinthians 4:5

"For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake."

Stewards

1 Peter 4:10

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

1 Corinthians 4:1,2

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

Chosen race

1 Peter 2:9

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a Holy Nation, a people for God's own possession that you may proclaim the excellences of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Aliens & Strangers

1 Peter 2:11

“Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.”

Redeemed

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Galatians 3:13

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.’”

Joint Heirs with Christ

Romans 8:17

“And if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”

The Believer’s New Reality

Living 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.”

Romans 5:5

“And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Like Branches CONNECTED TO THE VINE

John 15:5

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

Bought with a price

1 Corinthians 6:20

“For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

Indwelled by the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 3:16

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

Jesus as Lord and Savior

II Peter 3:18

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

Jude v. 24, 25

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

Fellowship with God

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.”

1 Corinthians 1:9

“God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Purpose

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 remotest part of the earth.”

John 13:34,35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

New Self

Ephesians 4:22–24

“That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

Sanctified

Hebrews 10:10

“By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

1 Corinthians 6:11

“Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

No condemnation

Romans 8:1

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

Romans 4:8

“Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.”

Better Promises

Hebrews 8:6

“But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better 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.”

Sealed by the Spirit

Ephesians 1:13

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

II Corinthians 1:22

“Who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.”

The Great exchange

II Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

II Corinthians 8:9

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”

Transferred

Colossians 1:13

“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.”

Seated with Christ

Ephesians 2:6

“And raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

New life

Romans 6:4

“Therefore we have been 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.”

Divine Motivation

II Corinthians 5:9

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

II Corinthians 5:14,15

“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”

Workmanship

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.”

Philippians 2:13

“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

Heavenly minded

Matthew 6:20 NKJV

“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.”

Colossians 3:1–4 NKJV

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

SEXUAL PURITY – Pt. 1

Why is sexual purity so important? Pt. 1a

Matthew 5:6, 8

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. . . . Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality.”

1 Peter 1:15–17

“But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written: “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth.”

Numbers 14:18

“The Lord is slow to anger and abundant in mercy, forgiving wrongdoing and violation of His Law; but He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, inflicting the punishment of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.”

Luke 8:14

“And the seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.”

II Timothy 3:4

“Treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”

James 4:3

“You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

Ephesians 4:1

“Therefore I . . . implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.”

Revelation 4:11 KJV

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

Proverbs 7:22–27

“Suddenly he follows her as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as one walks in ankle bracelets to the discipline of a fool, until an arrow pierces through his liver; as a bird hurries to the snare, so he does not know that it will cost him his life. Now therefore, my sons, listen to me, and pay attention to the words of my mouth. Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths. For many are the victims she has brought to ruin, and numerous are all those slaughtered by her. Her house is the way to Sheol, descending to the chambers of death.”

Hebrews 13:4

“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.”

1 Corinthians 6:18

“Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.”

John 4:23, 24

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Galatians 6:7, 8

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Numbers 32:23

“Be sure your sin will find you out.”

Proverbs 23:7a

“For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”

Psalms 66:18 NKJV

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.”

Psalms 130:3, 4 NKJV

“If You, Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with You,
that You may be feared.”

II Corinthians 5:10

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

1 Corinthians 3:11–15

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

What does one understand from these passages?

Why is sexual purity so difficult? Pt. 1b

Matthew 5:27–29, 48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Now if your right eye is causing you to sin, tear it out and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. . . . Therefore you shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Jeremiah 17:9,10

“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, to give to each person according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.”

Ephesians 6:12

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Hebrews 3:12,13

“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

Psalms 4:2

“O sons of men, how long will my honor become a reproach? How long will you love what is worthless and aim at deception?”

Proverbs 27:20

“Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.”

Proverbs 25:28

“Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.”

II Timothy 3:4

“Traacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”

Galatians 5:16,17

“But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the desire of **the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, in order to keep you from doing whatever you want.**”

II Peter 2:7–9

“And if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (**for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds**), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.”

Romans 7:15–24

“For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?”

Romans 1:32

“And although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”

II Corinthians 4:4

“In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

1 Corinthians 15:33

“Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”

Hosea 4:12b

“For a spirit of harlotry has led them astray, and they have played the harlot, departing from their God.”

Hosea 5:4

“Their deeds will not allow them to return to their God. For a spirit of harlotry is within them, and they do not know the Lord.”

II Corinthians 6:12

“You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections (feelings, emotions).”

James 1:8

“Being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

Proverbs 16:18

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.”

1 Timothy 5:6

“But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives.”

Please make some basic Observations from these verses.

SEXUAL PURITY – Pt. 2

How to keep oneself sexually pure

1 John 1:5–10

“This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 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. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

1 John 2:1–3

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”

1 Peter 1:13–16

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written: “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Psalm 119:9,11, 24

“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. ... Your testimonies also are my delight; they are my counselors.”

Titus 2:11–14

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”

Psalm 1:1–4

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.
“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.”

Romans 6:15–22

“What then? Are we to sin because we are not under the Law but under grace? Far from it! 16 Do you not know that the one to whom you present yourselves as slaves

for obedience, you are slaves of that same one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were entrusted, 18 and after being freed from sin, you became slaves to righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented the parts of your body as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your body's parts as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in relation to righteousness. 21 Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. 22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.”

Proverbs 8:13

“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.”

Psalms 97:10

“Hate evil, you who love the Lord.”

Galatians 5:16,17

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, in order to keep you from doing whatever you want.”

Galatians 5:22–24

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Romans 13:11–14

“Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”

Ephesians 4:22–24

“That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

Colossians 3:1–4

“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 have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

II Corinthians 5:14,15

“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 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.”

Psalms 23:1–3

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

II Timothy 2:21,22

“Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”

Psalms 37:4

“Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

Matthew 25:21

“Well done, good and faithful slave; ..., enter into the joy of your master.”

Hebrews 11:6

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

1 Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you except something common to mankind; and God is faithful, so He 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.”

Psalms 16:11

“Thou wilt make known to me the path of life; in Thy presence is fullness of joy; in Thy right hand there are pleasures forever.”

Nehemiah 8:10c

“The joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

Hebrews 11:25

“Choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.”

Hebrews 5:14

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

Hebrews 12:10b

“But He (God) disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.”

Proverbs 3:5–7

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.
Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.”

Proverbs 9:6

“Forsake your folly and live, and proceed in the way of understanding.”

Proverbs 14:16

“A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is arrogant and careless.”

II Corinthians 5:7–9

“For we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.”

What do we learn from these verses?

6 Principles to a Successful Christian Life

1st is KNOWING -----

John 15:15

"No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you."

John 17:3

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

2nd is LOVING -----

John 15:9

"Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love."

John 17:23

"I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me."

3RD is OBEYING -----

John 15:10

"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love."

John 15:14

"You are My friends, if you do what I command you."

4th is ABIDING -----

John 15:4

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

John 15:7

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you."

5th is FRUITBEARING -----

John 15:2 NKJV

"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit."

John 15:8

"By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."

John 15:16

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you."

6th is FELLOWSHIP -----

Hebrews 10:24,25

"And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 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."

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."

Some Facets of **GRACE**

Jesus full of grace & truth

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

II Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

Throne of Grace

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.

Grow in Grace

II Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Abundance of Grace

Romans 5:17

For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Word of Grace

Acts 20:32

And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Greater Grace

James 4:6

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Strong in Grace

II Timothy 2:1

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Stewards of Grace

1 Peter 4:10

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

Joint Heir of Grace

1 Peter 3:7

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Fall Short of Grace

Hebrews 12:15 NIV

See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.

Received in Vain

II Corinthians 6:1

And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

Fallen from Grace

Galatians 5:4

You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

A simple way of remembering the meaning of Grace is:

G – God's

R – Riches

A – at

C – Christ's

E – Expense

View from a Cemetery



What do we learn about life from a cemetery?

Some Basic Observations:

Age is not a determining factor — people are buried there from minutes to over 100 years.

I think **Perspective would also change**. What you think is important while you are living probably would change once you have died. It seems funny to me that some people come up with a bucket list of things they want to do or achieve before they die. I wonder what that list would look like after they die.

1. The uncertainties of Life

I think that most of a person's life experience could not have been anticipated. There are few guarantees in life—only 2 things for certain—Death and Taxes. You and I don't know how long we will live, what our life experiences will be, or how we will die!!

In the book of Ecclesiastes we have these words:

Ecclesiastes 3:2–8

“A time to give birth and a time to die;
A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.
A time to kill and a time to heal;
A time to tear down and a time to build up.
A time to weep and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn and a time to dance.
A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;
A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.
A time to search and a time to give up as lost;
A time to keep and a time to throw away.
A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;
A time to be silent and a time to speak.
A time to love and a time to hate;
A time for war and a time for peace.”

From the graves perspective it is imperative for the living to take advantage of God's guarantee of life which is possible with Jesus now and then life with Jesus in the hereafter.

The Dash —by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on her tombstone from the beginning...to the end. He noted that first came the date of her birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years. For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth... and now only those who loved her know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own;
the cars...the house...the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard...
are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left.
(You could be at "dash midrange.")

If we could just slow down enough
to consider what's true and real,
and always try to understand
the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
and show appreciation more
and love the people in our lives
like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect,
and more often wear a smile...
remembering that this special dash
might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy's being read
with your life's actions to rehash...
would you be proud of the things they
say about how you spend your dash?

2. What else do we know about life from the perspective of a cemetery?

That Death is a certainty.

Everyone who is born dies. It's a fact of life. If you were to take a walk through this cemetery, you would notice that every head stone indicates a life. Cemeteries declare a birthday and a death day. Everyone has a birthday, and everyone has an end-of-life day.

Scripture declares that.

Psalms 39:4

Lord, make me to know my end and what is the extent of my days; let me know how transient I am.

Psalms 39:5

Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight; surely every man at his best is a mere breath.

Psalms 139:16

Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.

Psalms 90:12

So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom

It is interesting to note that there are some headstones that have a

person's name & date of birth but no date of death (they haven't died yet). It's like they have a reserved seat, or rather a reserved burial site, in anticipation of the inevitable.

Hebrews 9:27

It's appointed for a man once to die and after that the judgment.

We need to be prepared for life's certainty – death.

Why do people die?

Romans 5:12

Death spread to all men, because all sinned. *There are no exceptions.*

Romans 6:23

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

Jesus paid for our debt of sin. He died in our place so we could live with Him in His place.

3. The Scriptures declare that there is Security in Jesus Christ.

The Bible makes it clear to us that there is an life after death!

Ecclesiastes 3:11a

He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart.

John 11:25,26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.

Then Jesus called Lazarus to come forth from the tomb to demonstrate His authority and power over death and the grave.

Later Jesus died and rose from death to declare that He had conquered death, sin, and our enemy, the devil.

Hebrews 2:14,15

Through death He (Jesus) might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

"Consider the question of whether there is a God.

Suppose you wager that God is. If you're right, you have gained everything. If, on the other hand, you are wrong, you have lost nothing. Should you wager however, that God is not and He is, you have lost all."

Pascal, 17th Century French Philosopher

1 John 5:11,12

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Remember John 11:25,26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die." *Do you believe this?*

Everyone should answer this question – Do you believe that faith in Jesus makes life after death possible?"

John 14:1–6 NKJV

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

In reality the cemetery is only a terminal for the believer – they are just passing through.

Have you made your reservation?

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION & THE CHRISTIAN LIFE:



THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 28:6,7a

He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead.

Mark 16:6, 9

And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him."

Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.

Mark 16:14

Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

Luke 24:6

He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee.

Luke 24:34

Saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon."

Luke 24:46

And He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day."

John 20:9

For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

John 21:14

This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:3-7

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

Revelation 1:17,18

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Acts 1:3

To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Acts 3:15

But put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses.

Acts 4:10

Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health.

Acts 13:30

But God raised Him from the dead.

Acts 13:34

As for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.'

Acts 17:31

Because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

Romans 1:4

Who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 4:24

But for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

Romans 6:4

Therefore we have been 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.

Romans 6:9

Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.

Romans 7:4

Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

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.

Romans 10:9

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.

Galatians 1:1

Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead).

Ephesians 1:20

Which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.

Colossians 2:12

Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Peter 1:21

Who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Acts 23:6b

“Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!”

Acts 24:15

Having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

Mark 9:9

As they were coming down from the mountain, He gave them orders not to relate to anyone what they had seen, until the Son of Man rose from the dead.

The Significance of the Resurrection for the Believer

1 Peter 1:3-5

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, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

II Corinthians 5:14,15

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Hebrews 2:14,15

Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death, He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”

John 11:25,26

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

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.

John 5:24

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

Romans 6:1–13

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4

Therefore we have been 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 self 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 is freed from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Romans 8:16,17a

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:17, 20–23, 42–49, 50–57

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. **21** For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. **23** But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; **43** it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; **44** it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **45** So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. **46**

However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.

49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:10,11

That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:12–14

Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:1–4

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 have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Romans 6:13

And do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Ephesians 2:5

Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

Colossians 2:13

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.

Revelation 1:17,18

Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Peter 3:21

Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Now consider this:

Believers often go through a type of death & resurrection experience during their lifetime.

II Corinthians 1:9

Indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead.

Mark 8:34–37

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. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

John 12:24–26.

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

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.

Philippians 3:7–11

7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view 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 may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

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.

Psalms 23:4

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for You are with me."

Romans 6:4

Therefore we have been 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.

Romans 8:31,32

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Philippians 3:10,11

That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

II Corinthians 1:8,9

For we do not want you to be unaware brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death, within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead.

Colossians 3:1–5

If then 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 have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Romans 6:11

Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:2

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Romans 8:11–15

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. 12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

1 John 3:14

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren, he who does not love abides in death.

John 5:24

Truly, Truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

John 10:10

I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.

1 Corinthians 3:11–15

For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be 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.

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 momentary, light affliction is producing 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.

James 4:14

Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

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.

Another thing to think about—

**The question is are you as a believer
in Jesus Christ truly living life or
actually living death?**

(Please Note: In keeping with the copyright guidelines the remaining verses in this section are from the Legacy Standard Bible)

1 Timothy 5:6

But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives.

Romans 6:10–14

10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Romans 6:23

The wages of sin is death.

Romans 8:6

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

Romans 13:12–14

The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave 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.

1 Peter 4:2

So as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the 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 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Ephesians 4:17–24

So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. 20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Galatians 5:16–18

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 may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

**Because Jesus Christ rose from
the dead, it proves:**

**He is a true prophet who predicted
His own resurrection.**

John 2:19–22

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said

this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

Matthew 16:21

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

Matthew 17:22,23

And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day." And they were deeply grieved.

Matthew 20:18–20

Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up.

Matthew 26:32

But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

He is a true priest forever.

Hebrews 2:17,18

Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

He is declared the Son of God with great power.

Romans 1:4

Who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

He is the Lord of the dead and the living

Romans 14:9

For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Acts 10:42

And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

He is the final Judge of the world.

Acts 17:31

Because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

Matthew 16:27

For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds.

1 Peter 4:5

But they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

He is coming again to deliver believers from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 1:9,10

For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

He holds the keys of death and of Hades.

Revelation 1:17,18

I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

He is the head over all things to the church.

Ephesians 1:22

And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church.

He is far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named.

Ephesians 1:20–22

Which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church.

He has all things in subjection under His feet as the One who must reign.

Ephesians 1:20–22

Which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church.

1 Corinthians 15:25–28

For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. 27 For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. 28 When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

He has been given glory from His heavenly Father

1 Peter 1:21

Who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

He intercedes for us in His prayers.

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.

He was given the holy and sure promises of David.

Acts 13:34

As for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: "I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David."

He is exalted to the right hand of the Father.

Acts 2:32,33

This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

He is the centerpiece and subject of our gospel proclamation.

Acts 4:2, 33; 17:33

Being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

33 And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

17:31 Because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead. 32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this."

He is the singular focus of our faith and hope of salvation.

Romans 10:9

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.

The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is monumental in its testimony of His indisputable identity and supremacy. There is no one higher, no one greater, and no one stronger than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who gave us a living 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 Corinthians 15:45

So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a **life-giving spirit**.

So love Him, worship Him, serve Him, treasure Him, obey Him, cling to Him, and be faithful to Him as the living One.

Luke 24:5

And as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead?"

Revelation 1:18

And the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.