



JESUS IS THE ANSWER

Senior Minister



Sean Patrick

[Be Free in God](#)

**In this way the Word of the Lord
spread widely and grew in power. -**

Acts 19:20 NIV

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Jesus Is the Answer, Edition 1

By [Senior Minister Sean Patrick,
Be Free in God](#)

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FOREWORD

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Hi. I am [Senior Minister Sean Patrick](#) at www.BeFreeinGod.com. Be Free in God spreads the Gospel of Jesus Christ through community outreach. We meet people in their community and pray with them. We talk with them in person or online. We serve as a hub between their community, faith, churches, and God's Word to ultimately [receive Jesus' promise of saving grace and mercy](#).

The goal of this book is the same by highlighting key Bible verses in devotionals which resonate in the reader's heart and mind. It is another way to bring people to ultimately receive Jesus' promise of saving grace and mercy. Bringing the good news of Jesus Christ showing "*Jesus Is the Answer*". Leading them to His Holy Word.

Jesus Christ inspired the apostle Paul to teach Christians in Rome: **For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 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, 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*. - Romans 8:14-17 NASB1995**

It is God’s desire to welcome us into His eternal family as His children. He has shown His love by providing mercy and grace to have our sins forgiven and to be restored to a right relationship with Him. Eternity with Him is for our acceptance and following. I hope and pray this book is a blessing to you and your relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

OUR LIGHT

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This truth lights our path forward.

**In this way the Word of the Lord spread widely
and grew in power. - Acts 19:20 NIV**

**So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and
prevailing. - Acts 19:20 NASB1995**

THE LORD IS OUR SALVATION

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**The LORD is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation;**

This is my God, and I will praise Him;

My father's God, and I will extol Him.

- Exodus 15:2 NASB1995

Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth;

For I am God, and there is no other. - Isaiah 45:22

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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“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. SO DO NOT BE LIKE THEM; FOR YOUR FATHER KNOWS WHAT YOU NEED BEFORE YOU ASK HIM.

“Pray, then, in this way:

‘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. Amen.']

For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive you. - Matthew 6:7-15 NASB1995

Pray the Lord's Prayer daily at least morning, afternoon, and night. It covers all aspects of life, to whatever degree we are facing. It shields us and reminds us we are children of God. It can free us from temptation, while it allows us to give thanks and praise Him. It reminds us of His will be done in His timing. It shows us his power, presence, and all knowingness. It reminds us to forgive others so we too may be forgiven. Examine the Lord's prayer. It truly is the greatest prayer of all. Pray also throughout the day in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

THE LORD'S GREATEST COMMANDMENT

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One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “What commandment is the foremost of all?” Jesus answered, “**The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’ The second is this, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.**” - Mark 12:28-31 NASB1995

THE HOLY WORD

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The [Word of God](#) is infallible. We can depend on it, know its truth, and find it is a reliable source of direction in our lives. The Trinity is the Father, son, and Holy Spirit. Paramount, Jesus Christ is God incarnate and His provision on the cross is the only way to salvation. Permanently, once we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, His Holy Spirit comes to live in us. They are equal and eternal (permanently forever). Jesus took our place on the cross for our sins. It is by His blood we are saved if we accept His offer.

Our gifts and talents are given to us by the Holy Spirit once we are saved, and He helps us fulfill God's will in our life and in the lives of others and the church. This all ultimately glorifies our God. He is with us, and

we are with Him through our prayers and supplication. We have an omniscient (all knowing), omnipresent (always present), omnipotent (all powerful) God who is on our side if we accept Him.

We all have our own witness testimony. His disciples did also. Even more, there are millenniums of documented, substantiated prophecy, acts, facts, artifacts, and historical references which translate across languages, people, generations, and continents. The evidence is clear.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NASB1995

Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I SAID, YOU ARE GODS’? If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the

Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.” - John 10:34-38

NASB1995

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. - John 1:1-5 NASB1995

His saving blood atoned for our sins, and if we simply accept his grace and mercy on the cross, we are free indeed. Today, I pray with deepest sincerity and fervent heart you accept the saving blood of Jesus Christ.

**For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time. - 1 Timothy 2:5-6
NASB1995**

He died so you may live. His Holy Word says so.

**“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. - John 3:16
NASB1995**

God's absolute truth is His Holy [Word](#) and the Holy Spirit. As Christians, God is our provider, and He directs us through His [Holy Word](#) and Spirit.

VALUES

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As Christians, it is important to know our values, and in whom and in what we are investing our time and resources. We need to be sure the knowledge we are receiving is affixed in God's absolute truth. Jesus Christ is God incarnate and His provision on the cross is the only way to salvation. Once we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, His Holy Spirit indwells us permanently. Known as the Trinity, this is the backbone of Christian values.

With the Holy Spirit in us, we are enabled to learn and live a Christian life as we walk and talk with God through [prayer](#) and the study of His [Word](#). His ways are miraculous and unlimited. The Lord brings peace to our life as we continually develop through Him. God is always navigating our Christian journey with us —

not apart from us. God then prevails through us in His will, purpose, and time.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." - Mark 10:45 NASB1995

The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. - Luke 1:35 NASB1995

If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." Philip *said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus *said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am

in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you

will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) *said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. You heard that I

said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here. - John 14:7-31 NASB1995

SNAPSHOT

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God

God, eternally exists as the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and His Holy Word. - **John 1:1-3 NASB1995**

Bible

The [Bible](#) is [God's Word](#), and when correctly interpreted and obeyed, it is the expression of His Lordship in written form in the [church](#) and in the life of believers. - **2 Timothy 3:16 NASB1995, John 10:34-35 NASB1995, John 1 NASB1995**

Sin

Humanity starts separated from God by sin. - **Isaiah 59:2 NASB1995**

Salvation

Jesus Christ does away with sin's effect and unites us

with God. We believe in salvation initiated by God's grace and activated by a person's faith expressed through calling on the name of Jesus Christ. This unites God and anyone who will receive Jesus Christ.

- **1 Peter 3:18 NASB1995, Ephesians 2:8**

NASB1995, Romans 10:31 NASB1995, Acts 2:21

NASB1995, Isaiah 45:22-23 NASB1995

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Submersed baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues as a second work of God's grace is in the life of a believer. This brings power into a believer's life. - **Acts 1:8, 2:1-4, 10:44-46, 19:6 NASB1995**

Other Significant Beliefs & Experiences

Worship with every believer. [Prayer](#) is God's method of getting His will done on earth through every believer. Hearing the Word of God taught is how God infuses faith into His people. Faithfulness to a local [church](#) is the mechanism God uses to operate

throughout the earth. Miracles are God's expression of Himself among His people. - **John 4:23**

NASB1995, Matthew 6:10 NASB1995, Romans 10:17 NASB1995, Hebrews 10:25 NASB1995, Mark 16:20 NASB1995, Acts 14:3 NASB1995

NASB1995 Bible Version

The New American Standard Bible (NASB) 1995 (Year released) edition, known as NASB, is an original translation from the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts claiming to be both reliable and faithful to the original languages. The NASB is considered by some sources as the most literally translated of major 20th-century English Bible translations.

WITNESSING

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Witnessing is our greatest calling to share the love and forgiveness He has given us with those who have never received Him as their Lord and Savior. Helping to fulfill the Great Commission is both a duty and a privilege. We witness because we love Jesus Christ. We witness because He loves us. We witness because we want to honor and obey Him. We witness because He gives us a special love for others. God wants us to witness because of the benefits He offers to those who receive Jesus Christ.

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.” - Acts 1:8 NASB1995

For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’ - Acts 22:15-16 NASB1995

And we are witnesses of these things; and so *is* the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.” - Acts 5:32 NASB1995

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 would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. - 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 NASB1995

There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light. - John 1:6-8 NASB1995

Stop and take a moment of your day. Pray to God to bring someone into your path so you may share your witness. You will be surprised how eager people are to hear your testimony today. It takes only a few minutes of your time but may help bring someone to Jesus Christ for eternity with generational impact!

SALVATION

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Accepting Jesus Christ

By faith, pray: *Dear Father, Lord Jesus and Holy Spirit (Trinity), I know that I am a sinner, and I ask Your forgiveness. I believe You shed blood on the cross and died for my sins (Good Friday) then rose from the dead the third day (Easter). I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart, soul, spirit and life. Lord Jesus, I rebuke anything in my life not of You. Let no spirit but Yours speak to or enter me or anything in my life and show Your will in my life so it may glorify You now and forever. I now trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior in every aspect. I thank you Lord for your saving grace and mercy. Amen.*

God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. - Genesis 1:31 NASB1995

Right away, God gave people He had created an opportunity to choose whether to obey Him. -We are sinners by Adam and Eve's actions of disobeying God's Word and direction. Thus, we are by birth sinful. We are separated eternally from God. Jesus understood we are all capable of sin, and we should not judge others for it. Because of this, we must understand our journeys toward salvation require more than prayer alone. The road to salvation requires an active, personal relationship with God and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. Prayer is a good place to start when building this relationship.

Anyone can be saved and be free in God regardless their past, by the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. For Jesus said, **"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that**

whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. - John 3:16-18 NASB1995

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— for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. - Romans 5:12-13 NASB1995

Whereas God's love is unconditional and gives complete liberation. Righteousness by God is given through our believing Christ has saved us through His blood on the cross. We accept His provision by faith. God's liberty is divine, agape love. His love is

manifested in us as liberation, righteousness, virtue, hope, promise, approval, acceptance, justification, guiltlessness, and unshackled freedom.

For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time. - 1 Timothy 2:5-6 NASB1995

All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly. - John 10:8-10 NASB1995

Many people think living a good life, doing good things, being good to people, etc. brings us closer to God, that God gives us credit, is pleased, or

something similar. The case is these things done by us apply by faith only if we are saved; otherwise, they are done for not. In fact, they are for loss unless you are saved. Just to be clear, before we are saved, God's will was and is not considered paramount in us by the actions taken and choices made. The Bible references this in many places. Let us share some of God's Word related to this aspect: **because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. - Romans 3:20 NASB1995**

nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified. - Galatians 2:16 NASB1995

**For we maintain that a man is justified by faith
apart from works of the Law. - Romans 3:28
NASB1995**

**For by grace you have been saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves, *it* is the gift of God; not
as a result of works, so that no one may boast. -
Ephesians 2:8-9 NASB1995**

There is replacement of our old self. The law is to bring realization of our saving being needed and to highlight our sinfulness. Everyone can be free of eternal separation from God.

Free of: eternal death, spiritual poverty, religious legalism, our enemies, addictions, worry, fear, suicidal thoughts, ridicule, penalties, lies, greed, immoralities, weaknesses, abuse, anger, hate, anxiety, depression, darkness, disease, infirmity, disappointment, unforgiveness, self-blame, pity, resentment, bitterness, shame, guilt, self-virtuous, and having worldly: ideals, standards, attitudes, expectations, and

improvements with temptation all hung in shackled legalism.

The list goes on and on of what shackles us, holds us up, and brings us down. Free of our old selves. Free of those shackles, empowered, and lifted through grace, faith, and mercy. Triumphant! God desires us and expects us to be free, but He loves us enough to give us choice. We have an inheritance we can lay claim to with love surpassing all understanding -- making us expectant of all God has promised us! An entirely selfless agape love. We are created to do so much, to be a beacon of light for so many, and a vessel of God's greatness in His glorious light and power.

By faith we cross the bridge from death to eternal life through the cross. These verses highlight Jesus Christ brings us closer to Him upon acceptance of Him dying on the cross for our sins:

**Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth;
For I am God, and there is no other. - Isaiah 45:22
NASB1995**

**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the
right to become children of God, even to those
who believe in His name, who were born, not of
blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of
man, but of God. - John 1:12-13 NASB1995**

**And it shall be that everyone who calls on the
name of the Lord will be saved.' - Acts 2:21
NASB1995**

**Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized,
and wash away your sins, calling on His name.' -
Acts 22:16 NASB1995**

**Now when they heard this, they were pierced to
the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the
apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said**

to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. - Acts 2:37-38 NASB1995

So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. - Acts 2:41 NASB1995

Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, - Acts 3:19-20 NASB1995

For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where a covenant is, there

must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives. - Hebrews 9:15-17 NASB1995

Jesus said:

"Pray, then, in this way:

'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. Amen.']

For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will

**not forgive your transgressions. - Matthew 6:9-14
NASB1995**

Also, Jesus said we have a helper, the Holy Spirit who resides in us. We are not in this alone. God helps us navigate our life through its trials and victories. God has covered every base on our behalf when we live in obedience to His will in His time for His glorification. See the following verse:

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; *that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.* - John 14:16-17 NASB1995

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do

not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. - John 14:26 NASB1995

Our first steps after receiving Christ are:

- [Read the Bible](#) daily. It is God's letter to us. He will speak to us through His Word. If we have never read the Bible, consider starting with the Gospel of John.
- [Pray](#). Talk with God. He wants to hear from us. He wants us to tell Him our hopes, desires, fears and needs. He wants us to invite Him into every day.
- Be submersed baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
- Begin to meet with other Christians regularly. [Join a church](#) who teaches the Bible and believes people are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone.

- [Contact • Connect](#) with us so we can pray with and for you; we are now your brothers and sisters in Christ!

- Tell others about Jesus. The invitation from Christ to be forgiven and adopted as a child of God is open to everyone in the world. God wants no one to die separated from Him because of sin. People who do not receive Christ as Savior will not be saved from the penalty of sin. (**Matthew 28:18-20 NASB1995**)

- Being free from the penalty of sin does not mean we will never sin again. It does mean; however, we are no longer a slave to sin (**Romans 6 NASB1995**).

Now, by the power of God in us through the Holy Spirit, we can say no to sin and yes to God's ways. God will not allow us to be tempted to sin beyond what we can handle, and He will provide a way of escape when we are tempted (**1 Corinthians 10:13 NASB1995**). When we do sin, here are steps to take to get back on God's path:

- Confess our sin to God (**1 John 1:9 NASB1995**)

- Confess our sin to other Christians (**1 John 1:7 NASB1995, James 5:16 NASB1995**)

- Repent (turn) from our sin and turn back to Christ (**2 Timothy 2:22 NASB1995**)

- Walk with God daily, stay near and visible to Him. Remember, God loves us! Because of Christ, we will never lose our salvation (**Galatians 5:16 NASB1995, John 10:27-29 NASB1995**). Go back to steps 1, 2 and 3 above to reconnect with Him.

FREEDOM FROM SIN

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Freedom is the privilege and power to do what is right and good. It is the absence of coercion, confinement, and restriction. It speaks of the liberty of the mind, feelings, and actions of a person's life.

On the other hand, enslavement is lost freedom, confinement, and bondage. It results in restriction, governed behavior, denial, anger, fear, joylessness, dishonesty, guilt, insecurity, depression, anxiety, and ensnarement. Spiritual enslavement is the worst. It is an attitude and feeling of being restrained and controlled. For instance, it boggles the mind some people fight and die in wars for freedom, then submit themselves to spiritual enslavement by some form of sin that dictates, dominates, restrains, and controls their lives completely.

Spiritual enslavement in its very nature is doing our desire and will vs God's. Doing what we please will enslave us to sin. We cannot stop it, but do the sin repeatedly, even after asking forgiveness. For example, drugs, drinking, overeating, cussing, wanting prestige, gaining power, and gambling. Violating one or more of the Ten Commandments. There are many more examples. It is amazing what can enslave a person. It can be something simple or some very deep emotional hurt resulting in an addiction. Sin is disobedience, transgression, and/or iniquity tracing its roots to insecurity, driven ness and/or never enough of something. Sin brings people's lives to darkness, and it divides the mind. We rationalize our sin and continue to fall under sin. It is rebellion against the will of God, spiritual conflict, and progresses:

1. Slowly - 1 thought, 1 step, and 1 action repeating by degrees
2. Deceitfully with excuses
3. Progressively, gaining momentum

4. Prominently versus doing the right thing
5. Demandingly requiring much of our effort or attention to the point of exhaustion
6. Destructively to ourselves and/or others around us
7. Completely outside of God's will

Redemption is by God through Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and Word of God. We must trust in God and the Holy Spirit admitting our sin by identifying it and acknowledge we need God's help. Until we deal with it, we will never really be free.

The book of John tells us how to know Jesus. The book of 1 John tells us how we know we know Him.

The book of Matthew speaks to the Jews, Mark speaks to the Romans, Luke speaks to the Greeks and John speaks to all gentiles.

The Truth Will Make You Free

Establish my footsteps in Your word, And do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.

Redeem me from the oppression of man, That I may keep Your precepts.

Make Your face shine upon Your servant, And teach me Your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of water, because they do not keep Your law. - Psalms 119:133-136

NASB1995

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if the Son makes you

free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak the things which I have seen with *My Father*; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father."

They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus * said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word. You are of *your father* the devil, and you want to do the desires of your

father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."

The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death." The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets *also*; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.' Surely You are

not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out *to be*?" Jesus answered, "**If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.**" So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.**" Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple. - John 8:31-59 NASB1995

Jesus answered and said to him, "**If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does**

not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. - John 14:23-24 NASB1995

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. *But they have*

***done this* to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'**

"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you *will* testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning. - John 15:18-27

NASB1995

For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. - 1 Peter 3:17 NASB1995

If you are living in sin repent of it. Repentance is the way provided for us to become free from our sins and receive forgiveness for them. Sins slow our spiritual progression and can even stop it. Repentance makes it possible for us to grow and develop spiritually again. The privilege of repenting is made possible through the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." - Mark 1:14-15 NASB1995

How to Repent: 5 Steps

1. Be honest about your need for repentance.

Repentance requires honesty. No one comes to God with true repentance in their heart unless they have first acknowledged their need for forgiveness and reconciliation with Him. Only those who have ceased trying to cover up their sin with self-righteousness and deceit can experience the deep and lasting change that comes only through repentance.

2. Acknowledge the danger of sin and damage of guilt.

We often blame others for our stress and general moodiness, but many times we simply feel bad because we have done bad things. We must honestly

assess the consequences of our sin, which means assessing both personal consequences and the impact it has had and will continue to have on ourselves and others.

3. Confess fully.

Deep repentance demands full confession. The only way to be truly covered by Christ is to fully expose your sin. In the process of repentance, we must fight to be utterly transparent before God about the depth and breadth of our sin. Only ruthless honesty will suffice and lead to freedom and joy.

4. Hide in God.

A Christian does not just repent of their outward sins, but also of their attempts to hide behind self-made righteousness or excuses. Stop hiding in your effort. Hide in God.

5. Seize the hope.

How can you be sure God will forgive you? His

unfailing love. Recall and find assurance in the great promises He has made, and how they have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit clearly want us free from sin. Jesus points out sin is from the devil, and how Abraham's descendants were acting in sin, quick to judge, and punish the very truth which would set them free from their own sin. Dead to sin means our soul is not controlled by the influence of sin. It is a status of freedom from the bondage of sin. Jesus was dead to sin when on earth because He worshiped God every day and night. Heaven is sinless because the angels worship God every day and night. We can be sinless worshipping God every day and night steadily in our hearts.

THE COMMANDMENTS

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The Ten Commandments are in the Old Testament Book of Exodus chapter 20. The first Five Commandments were for Honoring God whereas the last Five Commandments were for treatment of others.

Then God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

"You shall have no other gods before Me.

"You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the

earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and

rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

"You shall not murder.

"You shall not commit adultery.

"You shall not steal.

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance. Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin." So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'You yourselves have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven. You shall not make other gods besides Me; gods of silver or gods of gold, you shall not make for yourselves. You shall make an altar of earth for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your

peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen; in every place where I cause My name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you. If you make an altar of stone for Me, you shall not build it of cut stones, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it. And you shall not go up by steps to My altar, so that your nakedness will not be exposed on it.' - Exodus 20:1-26 NASB1995

In the New Testament, Jesus told us what is known as the Eleventh Commandment, to love and is the greatest Commandment of all.

One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" Jesus answered, "**The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'** The second is

this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'
There is no other commandment greater than
these." - Mark 12:28-31 NASB1995

And this commandment we have from Him, that
the one who loves God should love his brother
also. - John 4:21 NASB1995

By this we know that we love the children of God,
when we love God and observe His
commandments. - John 5:2 NASB1995

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." - John 13:34-35 NASB1995

"If you love Me, you will keep My
commandments. - John 14:15 NASB1995

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 15:10 NASB1995

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. 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. 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. This I command you, that you love one another. - John 15:12-17 NASB1995

This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. - 1 John 3:23 NASB1995

And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it. - 2 John 1:6 NASB1995

JESUS CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

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Many of us believe Jesus Christ died for our sins and would not think twice about our belief. However, many people ask what makes us believe what we do.

Some people say Jesus was a prophet. Some say He was a man. Some say He was a person who did good. Some say He did things for others. Some say they only believe in science. Some say they do not believe in Jesus and are steadfast in their belief. This is the extent of what they believe.

Some say, "Give me some reasons why you think Jesus Christ's resurrection is real." This all seems a

contest to our faith but looking at this ask a little closer there is someone looking for an answer for whatever reason they may have.

Too often we see others seeking answers as unthinkable, yet we too sought answers in our own path to Jesus' saving grace and mercy. It *may* only be unthinkable to not seek answers. So, the quick answer comes in 3 infallible statements:

1. Jesus foretold his death and resurrection - **John 11:13 NASB1995**

2. there was eyewitness testimony - **Matthew 27 NASB1995**

3. there has been unstoppable, retelling of the resurrection since

After supplying these statements, a person may ask further questions from a place of self-interest. Talk with them. Give them your testimony and follow with 3 more facts from **Matthew 27 NASB1995**:

1. He was physically alive
2. He physically died Good Friday
3. He was not revived but was physically alive
Easter Sunday in a perfected body never to die
again

Then give them this list of facts:

1. Jesus' resurrection was predicted in the Old Testament - **For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. - Psalms 16:10 NASB1995**
2. Jesus' tomb was well known, guarded by the Roman government, and not enshrined when an estimated other 50 tombs were - **Matthew 27 NASB1995**
3. Jesus' followers and family worshipped Him as God - **John 11 NASB1995**
4. Jesus' appearances after Easter Sunday over forty days were to his mother, aunt, disciples, onlookers, bystanders and to crowds upwards of

500 plus - **Acts 1:3 NASB1995**

5. Jesus' enemy Paul was a convert

6. Jesus' resurrection is unique in history and verified by history

7. Jesus' church has stood the test of time

8. the Bible is the most printed book in history, in most languages, in most versions and in all formats.

The Guinness Book of World Records estimates more than 5 billion copies of the Bible have been printed

9. Jesus' Ascension occurred the fortieth day of the first Easter in the presence of His eleven apostles

- **Acts 1:1-11 NASB1995**

Then close your supported testimony with He is still changing lives and performing miracles today.

Finally, if the person still has questions, help them find a local church and point them to read **Matthew**

28 NASB1995. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess.

BECAUSE HE LIVES

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Sometimes we wonder what if someone important to us lived again. The thought of them reappearing before us, although wanted, would be totally unexpected. Well, many thought this very thing about Jesus with much anticipation. But once the events of Good Friday occurred, the people of that time could not remember the details Jesus told them of His resurrection.

Jesus was dead.

Everyone around Jesus knew He was dead. People were in anguish over His death. Joseph of counsel had asked the Romans for Jesus' body, and he was given Him. Spices were provided in custom to corpses of loved ones. Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary mother of James and other women went to

Jesus' tomb looking for Him but saw Him gone with His tombstone rolled away. They were perplexed. Keep in mind the tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers 24x7. They were greeted by 2 dazzling men: angels. The women were afraid, but they were reminded by the angels to remember He has risen and what Jesus had told them regarding His resurrection in 3 days after crucifixion. Yet, according to **Luke 24:1-12 NASB1995**, as well as the apostles said Jesus coming to life was nonsense. Our very Lord they had walked and talked with was dead and the thought of Him reappearing back to life was unexplainable to them. Although Jesus had told them all the events with detail, they considered Him dead as many people do today.

Do you believe Jesus walked out of the tomb?

Peter got up, ran to the tomb, looked everywhere, and saw only Jesus' linen wrappings. He ran to his house and marveled. As believers we believe Jesus is with

us and He walked out of that tomb. He does live. So, what does it mean to us?

Because He lives.

- We do not have to live with loneliness in our hearts. We may feel alone, but as promised, He is with us all day, every day, anywhere we are. We have the Holy Spirit within us which He gave us. He promises never to leave you or forsake you.

- We do not have to worry about God providing for us. He promised to do this. He promised the disciples. As God also cares for the needs of the flowers, grass, and birds. In His time and how He wants to keep his promise. His promises are kept. He has removed all uncertainty.

- We can Pray with confidence. We can hope, but we must have confidence and reassurance, as **1 John 5:14-15 NASB1995** says. He says ask and it shall be given. Knock and it will be answered. Pray with

expectation, otherwise there is no confidence. Believe He is providing intercession. He rose from the grave, was seen and heard, and ascended to the right hand of God. Do not waiver. Everything is different because of Him.

- We can have a godly influence in others.

As **Matthew 5:14-16 NASB1995** states, we are the light of the world. A light to everyone we meet. We are His children. We should let our light shine and do good works in this dark world. Christ's light is in us, and it cannot be put out. We are the salt of the earth. Jesus lives through us.

- We experience the Holy Spirit within us. He is our helper. He seals each of us once we are saved as a child of God. God's seal cannot be broken by anything. Once saved, we are saved until the day of redemption. We are not saved when, or if, or why, or for a season. We are saved by the grace and mercy of God through the blood of Jesus eternally.

- We can be at peace during difficult times. We can face anything, anytime. Not as the world offers peace (I.e., drugs, alcohol, immorality). He gives us the peace to sustain us. He is our anchor. We must remember who He is. He is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent.

- What assurance do you have without Him, if you reject Him, if will not allow Him into your life? You cannot have enough money, things, places, control or be big enough because you have nothing without Him. With Him, it is a life undestroyed.

- We can face death courageously and boldly knowing when we are absent of the body, we are present with the Lord. He is the source of our Life. We must express our gratitude to Him. We have eternal life. Because of Him we can live forever.

- In **Romans 10:8-9 NASB1995**, Paul says the Word is near you in your mouth and in your heart. If we confess with our mouths Jesus as Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. We must believe in the Son of God who bore our sins in His redeeming blood. He indwelt us at the time we are saved. We must believe God raised Him from the dead. We make a confession. He is the only savior. He is our Lord. He was crucified. He rose from the dead.

- In **Romans 10:10 NASB1995** we are told with a heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth we confess resulting in salvation. Paul made it very clear. It is not about our works, church, or what we do. It is about our acknowledgement in Him asking for forgiveness. Only the living God could die and take upon Himself the sins of the whole world and then resurrect as the Lord rising from the grave.

Thank God our saving only comes from God. This is specific for a reason. It is God's plan for our salvation. That is who He is. It is His will for us. For Himself to be glorified.

OUR SECURITY IN GOD

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Insecurity is a feeling of inadequacy and uncertainty. It affects our goals, relationships, mental state, and ability to handle situations. Everyone deals with insecurity from time to time. It can appear in all areas of life and come from a variety of causes. It surfaces as jealousy, self-doubt, irritation, procrastination, worry, anxiety and, etc. It impacts how we see, value, respect, and love ourselves. It can come from social anxiety, rejection, perfectionism and so on.

Bottom-line, we are all susceptible to insecurity. When we feel it, what do we do next? We can either run to God or run away from God. When running to God, we have security when we trust in the Lord. God provides us peace. If we feel insecurity, we know we have a God much greater setting our path. When running

from God, we may have a period of self-security, however, insecurity will rear its head over and over.

In **Psalms 91 NASB1995**, it tells us He dwells in us, delivers us, strengthens us, protects us, refuges us, guards, and shields us, gives His angels charge of us and arms us. We love Him therefore He delivers us and sets us on most high securely with a long life, because we know His name. We call Him and He answers. He will be with us in trouble and rescue us in honor. We see His salvation.

Take a moment to read Psalms 91. Read it slowly. Dissect each verse. Pray God to show Himself in your reading of the Psalm. You will find the Holy Spirit will guide you through it. You will find yourself rereading it as willful confidence in God exudes from its verses. Insecurity is no more after comprehending it as your faith, hope and love in God becomes clearer. He is with us.

KNOWING GOD'S PROMISE

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Sometimes when we pray, we pray for things which do not resonate with God's Word. An example would be, let me win the lottery Lord. The Bible says, **No one 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. - Matthew 6:20 NASB1995.**

Another example would be before committing a crime to not be hurt. The Lord admonishes stealing in the Ten Commandments.

However, to know God's promise when you pray is scripturally supported, heard by the Holy Spirit, and

promised by God. For example, Lord heal our troubled marriage, Lord heal our sickness, Lord protect us from our enemies. **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. - 1 John 5:14-15 NASB1995.**

I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. - Psalms 32:8 NASB1995 tells us not only does God promise our godly prayers, but he will also instruct and guide us. A good example of this is Abraham in **Genesis 12:1-3**. Verse 1 is God's instruction and verse 2-3 is God giving Abraham 9 clear promises (read it carefully). Then Abraham set forth as God instructed. He was 75 years old! The promises were God's time for God's glory. However, whenever Abraham veered from the path God set, he as well as others around him experienced trouble,

heartache, and loss. During his trouble, he was blessed coming out of it, however, the blessings came with consequences too where they would not have had Abraham stayed on God's set path.

Examples of unconditional promises:

- **But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. - John 1:12-13 NASB1995**
- **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23 NASB1995**
- **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love - Ephesians 1:4 NASB1995**

Examples of conditional promises:

- **If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.** - John 14:14 NASB1995

The conditions of this can be seen in other scriptures such as **and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.** - 1 John 3:22 NASB1995

It is when we keep his commandments and do what pleases Him, then we receive whatever we ask; as the things we now ask will be in alignment with His will.

- **And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."** - Matthew 21:22 NASB1995 Here we must have faith to believe He will provide.

- **But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. - Matthew 6:33 NASB1995**

The, 'all' these things is in verse 32 of the same chapter and talks about God's provision for our life. The condition making the promise possible is to put God first in our life and seek the things glorifying God in our lives. Then, these things shall be added.

- **Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. - Psalms 37:4 NASB1995**

It is conditional upon us delighting in Him and His character. This ensures our desires reflect Who He is, and God will then delight in giving us the desires of our heart.

- **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. - Proverbs 3:5-6 NASB1995

God has promised to guide and direct us, but His guidance is conditional upon us acknowledging and trusting Him in all our ways.

God's Promises are for His Ultimate Glory

When we think about the promises of God, we sometimes come with preconceived notions. We may think God is to fulfill His promises according to our standards, wants and needs. We must change our way of thinking towards a biblical perspective. God has His reasons and standards, and those work together for His Glory then for the good of those who love Him, according to his purpose.

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. And we know that God causes all things to work together

for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. - Romans 8:27-28 NASB1995

The reality is solid. God does make promises, keeps those promises and times them according to His glory. We must decide to believe, have faith, and practice obedience. God wants us to succeed according to His will. It is clear to understand. When you pray next, think it is godly. Do you have expectations based on scripture? The power of prayer is strong and God's promises even stronger.

GOD CREATED US

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To us, Human creation is complex. The complexity brings questions regarding Who? What? Why? When? Where? and How? God created all things on earth, in the sky, and sea before human creation. It is simple to God. Human creation's main purpose is we get to accept God, know Him, have a relationship with Him, please Him, and glorify God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. We were created by Him and for Him. We belong completely to Him. So, let's show the verses which address the questions above:

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, -according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and

over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." - Genesis 1:26 NASB1995

-God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. - Genesis 1:27 NASB1995

God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. - Genesis 1:31 NASB1995

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." - Genesis 2:18 NASB1995

The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. - Genesis 2:20 NASB1995

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. - Genesis 2:21 NASB1995

The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. - Genesis 2:22 NASB1995

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." - Genesis 2:23 NASB1995

He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created. - Genesis 5:2 NASB1995

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. -

Romans 11:36 NASB1995

Each of these verses address each type of question above. Verses about human creation continue throughout the Bible. Our creation is to have a valuable, loving, intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ to glorify the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How do we do that? We love Him, obey Him, believe in Jesus Christ, trust in Jesus Christ, and receive the gift of eternal life Jesus Christ offers us which is free. We simply must accept Jesus Christ's offering on the cross. Only upon acceptance of Jesus Christ's saving blood will we give glory to God for our creation, and only then will we be able to enjoy Him forever, for all eternity.

Having an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ requires:

- Spending time with Him
- Listening to Him
- Talking to Him
- Being truthful with Him
- Hearing Him
- Understanding Him
- Loving Him
- Surrendering to Him

Barriers to an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ are:

- Willful, known Sin
- Determination to control things
- Self-centeredness
- Fearfulness
- Unbelief
- Business

Our goal is an intimate relationship with God resulting in a strong desire to know Him, obey Him, and accept His love. God has created us. He spends time with us daily, continually reminding us of His presence, assuring us and opening Himself to us. We simply need to call on Him and be transparent with Him. God is not only in heaven, but He also dwells in us through the Holy Spirit. God gives us His Spirit to enable us to do all things with Him and through Him. We must worship Him to build an intimate relationship to know Him so we may also know the Father. He wants to reveal Himself in us, so we know His ways and motivations. God's promises are the same yesterday, today and forever. He is a sovereign, omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent God. Our creation is to enable our relationship with Him to glorify Him and live with Him for eternity.

WHO GOD IS

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Often as believer's we are asked 'who do we think God is' or 'what makes us believe He is God'. Many times, we simply stall or stutter some form of an answer. Then after they walk away, we ask ourselves 'why did I not have a solid answer for them?'. This is the Holy Spirit helping us realize we need to deepen our intimacy with Him.

Today people want and expect information faster and faster, and their patience for an answer is less and less, to the point of sometimes taking anything for an answer and believing it is true. This is dangerous. The person who asked the question is still without an answer and possibly still at a loss for the information they so desperately needed. Or they mock us as believers for not knowing about God enough to be

quick with a believable answer as ambassadors of God.-

Thinking correctly about God is of utmost importance because a false idea about God is idolatry. God created the world (**Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 42:5**). He actively sustains the world (**Colossians 1:17**). He is executing His eternal plan (**Ephesians 1:11**) which involves the redemption of man from the curse of sin and death (**Galatians 3:13-14**). He draws people to Jesus Christ (**John 6:44**). He disciplines His children (**Hebrews 12:6**). He will judge the world (**Revelation 20:11-15**).

God is the Trinity. **Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'** - **Mark 12:29-30**
NASB1995

God is infinite. **Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. - 1 Timothy 1:17 NASB1995**

God is truthful. **He who has received His testimony has set his seal to this, that God is true - John 3:33 NASB1995**

God is faithful. **God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. - 1 Corinthians 1:9 NASB1995**

God is immutable, unchanging. **"For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed. - Malachi 4:6 NASB1995**

God is omnipotent, all powerful. **Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; - Psalms 147:5**

NASB1995

God is omniscient, all knowing from the beginning to the end of time. **Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God."**

- John 16:30 NASB1995

God is omnipresent, always present. ***There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. - Ephesians 4:4-6***

NASB1995

God is incomparable. **For this reason You are great, O Lord GOD; for there is none like You, and there is no God besides You, according to all that**

**we have heard with our ears. - 2 Samuel 7:22
NASB1995**

God is intangible. **God is spirit, and those who
worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." -
John 4:24 NASB1995**

God is just. **The LORD supports the afflicted; He
brings down the wicked to the ground. - Psalms
147:6 NASB1995**

God is healer. **He heals the brokenhearted And
binds up their wounds. - Psalms 147:3 NASB1995**

God is provider. **In that day you will not question
Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you
ask the Father for anything in My name, He will
give it to you. Until now you have asked for
nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so**

that your joy may be made full. - John 16:23-24
NASB1995

God is praiseworthy. **Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant and praise is becoming.** - Psalms 147:1
NASB1995

God is helper. **But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.** - John 14:26
NASB1995

God is comforter. **Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.** - John 14:27 NASB1995

God is creator. **For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb. - Psalms
139:13 NASB1995**

God is I AM. **God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM";
and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of
Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' " - Exodus 3:14
NASB1995**

The Lord is our Savior. **After being baptized, Jesus
came up immediately from the water; and behold,
the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit
of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him,
and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, 'This
is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.' -
Matthew 3:16-17 NASB1995**

**For there is one God, and one mediator also
between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,
who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the**

**testimony given at the proper time. - 1 Timothy
2:5-6 NASB1995**

With the last statement above, these are also some of what God is: Lord, uncreated, Holy, worshiped, righteous, redeemer, pure, foundation, truth, security, wrath, and forgiveness.

As believers, we should never be at a loss for words if someone asks us who God is. We should know Him intimately. We not only know these things of Him, but we should also have experienced these with Him. This helps people understand they too can have this level of intimate relationship with God. That He is their God too.

A DISCERNING SPIRIT

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A Biblical discerning spirit requires godly thinking. We hear truth and lies daily. We have conversations with other people. We do not have all the information for what we are about to do. We ask others what they might do. Somewhere along the way we were not taught a discerning spirit. In fact, the nation has moved from wise discernment. There are consequences. The times we live in are full of counterfeits and camouflage. We must stop and ask ourselves, "what is the Biblical truth?".

**You have dealt well with Your servant, O LORD,
according to Your word. Teach me good**

discernment and knowledge, For I believe in Your commandments. - Psalms 119:65-66 NASB1995

The Essentials

It is the will of God all His children have a discerning spirit. Evaluating. Investigating. Looking Deeper.

Why? It is:

- essential to knowing God's will. Do we understand things, and do we trust what we hear?
- essential to distinguish truth from error. Errors have heavy costs. For example, what are our children taught in schools so we may teach them correctly, so they follow God's will and avoid mixing truth with error to avoid confusion.
- essential to avoid being deceived by sin. Deceit is only pleasurable for a moment and not for eternity.

What follows an action?

- essential to distinguishing between good and best, just not wrong. God wants the best for us. We must ask what is best and not make rash judgements instead of being wide open to defeat. Some things are

crystal clear, right, and wrong. Things in the grey area require a discerning spirit.

- essential to distinguishing between liberty versus legalism (the pressure of personal preferences we impose upon people as moral mandates from God).

We simply need to honor God's will.

- essential to recognizing God's voice. Are we hearing Him? He created us for a purpose. We need to be able to hear Him correctly. It is one of our greatest protections.

Real Spiritual Discernment

- Spiritual discernment is a gift from God through the Holy Spirit living within us as a helper; just as Jesus promised when we trust Him as our Savior.

- We have the Word of God as the light. The Ten Commandments are the foundation. **For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even**

so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. - 1 Corinthians 2:10-15 NASB1995

- The spirit and the Word of God will provide the correct discerning spirit within us. When we watch and listen to the world, we are overpowered by the world's viewpoint. The world's viewpoint is not the Lord's. Instead, a biblical discerning spirit of the Lord is our greatest protection. **For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL**

**INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ. -
1 Corinthians 2:16 NASB1995**

The core of Christian decision-making is being saved to receive the Holy Spirit, read the bible to discern right from wrong regarding our situation, pray, and take time to finally decide once we have heard from the Holy Spirit regarding our situation.

WORDS ABOUT FAITH

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Faith is a gift of God to each of us. We wonder why the Holy Spirit tugs at us in moments so powerful. We are clearly told to have faith and belief. We listen or we do not. We believe it or we do not. This is our level of faith. We justify our choices with science, facts, statements, or clever lingo. Science always has a further explanation of the unknown; yet there are more unknown which faith highlights. Facts are shown to be false or true; yet we believe them or not through faith or a lack there of. Questions are reasonable as we learn. Faith is not legalism, law, or standards. So, let's learn more about faith.

Faith is a gift from God, bestowed in each of us, so we then live in that faith, which then justifies us through our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God we

believe. Faith permeates every aspect of our daily living as our daily living is the Lord's. This includes our prayer life. So, faith is huge in our walk - Christian; or not.

We feel it is important to highlight many of the faith Biblical references below:

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. - Hebrews 11:1 NASB1995

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. - Hebrews 11:6 NASB1995

Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith.**" - Matthew 9:29 NASB1995**

And Jesus answered and said to them, **"Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen.** - Matthew 21:21
NASB1995

And Jesus & answered saying to them, **"Have faith in God.** - Mark 11:22 NASB1995

Seeing their faith, He said, **"Friend, your sins are forgiven you."** - Luke 5:20 NASB1995

And He said to the woman, **Your faith has saved you; go in peace."** - Luke 7:50 NASB1995

And He said to her, **"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."** - Luke 8:48
NASB1995

And He said to him, "**Stand up and go; your faith has made you well.**" - Luke 17:19 NASB1995

and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. - Acts 15:9
NASB1995

So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily. - Acts 16:5 NASB1995

For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "**BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.**" - Romans 1:17 NASB1995

For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. - Romans 3:28
NASB1995

So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. - Romans 10:17 NASB1995

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; - Ephesians 2:8 NASB1995

for we walk by faith, not by sight— - 2 Corinthians 5:7 NASB1995

one Lord, one faith, one baptism, - Ephesians 4:5 NASB1995

in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. - Ephesians 6:16 NASB1995

nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so

that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified. But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be! For if I rebuild what I have once destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God. 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. - Galatians 2:16-21 NASB1995

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. - James 1:6 NASB1995

Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. - James 2:17 NASB1995

The list of biblical references is endless. If asked what grounds us in Faith(?) it is: God's Deity (Father, the Son of God Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit), God's Word, God's characteristics, God's will, and God's faith, hope and love. We trust all these aspects of God. He is Holy and I Am. I Am being all omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. We live and believe in Him by faith; everything else follows.

THE POWER OF OUR FATHER GOD

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When we hear the word power, it is a strong word and can mean many things. Just say it to yourself slowly and hear it. Power. Power means to have the ability to do something or act in a particular way. Even further, power is the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behaviors of others or direct the course of events or history. Then differently, power is the supply of something or traveling at a great speed or force. We have even shortened power to pow expressing sudden strength or energy. We hear power and immediately expect there is someone or something with a strong result... good or bad.

When power is in the personal sense, it helps to narrow the influence, persuasion, acting or directing taking place. We look to these individuals with great joy, trust, loyalty, and respect or great anger, disdain, recklessness, and dishonor. There is a vision the person is trying to communicate and set their mission to for defining goals and executing steps towards them.

Now let us put all these things in consideration of deity. God is all-powerful possessing ultimate, complete, and unlimited power and ability. Omnipotence. The almighty. Our Father. Nothing or no one can challenge this. During Satan's angelic authority, Satan tried to challenge this and wage war with God and become Him. God banished Satan from angelic authority. - **Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14**

NASB1995

God is the greatest source of power we have. We must simply obey the Lord. Our obedience

requirements are simple. Both the Old and New Testaments express the importance of our obedience to God.

God created the heavens and earth, light and darkness, waters and dry land, plants and seed, animals and sea creatures, and men and women. - Genesis 1 NASB1995

"You shall therefore love the LORD your God, and always keep His charge, His statutes, His ordinances, and His commandments. - Deuteronomy 11:1 NASB1995

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. - John 14:15 NASB1995

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. - Romans 5:19 NASB1995

Think about the power all the above requires. We look to different people in differing roles and power to help us, when in fact, we should be looking solely to the Father. Everything we face is possible in the great power of the Father. No other person can do these things for us and still care so much for us. Care at such an intimate level as the Father cares. God is faithful. If we feel lack of evidence, we must have faith. Our difficulties and inabilities are seen by God. Do we seek Him... His grace makes changes in our favor. Be thankful in today. Past principalities have been rebuked. We are liberated. Past roots of brokenness are cut off. We will see what God promised. He holds the power.

HE WILL COME AGAIN

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The most important event in human history will be Christ's return. Believing the Bible as the infallible Word of God, it is clear this will happen. Sometimes we hear His return referred to as the second coming (also called the Second Advent or the Parousia). The event is specifically predicted throughout the Bible's Old and New Testaments. It is predicted in each of the four gospels, in the book of Acts, and in the epistles of Paul, James, Peter, and John. Jesus' return is the focal point of the entire book of Revelation.

In this devotional, we aim to highlight some of the related Bible verses. Our goal is everyone sees exact Bible verses equipping them with knowledge and allowing them to research further in their Bible reading

time and prayer life. This all said, let us review the verses.

Daniel had a vision in the Old Testament: **"I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. - Daniel 7:13 NASB1995**

Jesus said in the New Testament: **For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. - Matthew 24:27 NASB1995**

Jesus said in the New Testament: **"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. - Matthew 24:36-39
NASB1995

Jesus said in the New Testament: **For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will. - Matthew 24:44 NASB1995**

Jesus said in the New Testament: **Jesus *said to him, "You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN." - Matthew 26:64 NASB1995**

Jesus said in the New Testament: **"There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring**

of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see **THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD** with power and great glory. But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." - **Luke 21:25-28 NASB1995**

Jesus said in the New Testament: "**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. And you know the way where I am going.**" - **John 14:1-3 NASB1995**

Jesus said in the New Testament: **"I am the Alpha and the Omega,"** says the Lord God, **"who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."** - Revelation 1:8 NASB1995

Jesus said in the New Testament: **"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."** - Revelation 22:12-13 NASB1995

A New Testament foretelling: **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."** - Acts 1:10-11 NASB1995

A New Testament foretelling: Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God. - 1 Corinthians 4:5 NASB1995

A New Testament foretelling: 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 Thessalonians 1:10 NASB1995

A New Testament foretelling: I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: - 2 Timothy 4:1 NASB1995

A New Testament foretelling: And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this

comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. - Hebrews 9:27-28 NASB1995

A New Testament foretelling: 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 1:7 NASB1995

A New Testament foretelling: Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. - Revelation 12:10 NASB1995

A New Testament foretelling: These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful." - Revelation 17:14

NASB1995

These verses give us assurance in our Lord. They also help solidify our depth of faith. As we live our walk of faith with the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, we should be assured we are liberated. Believers of Jesus Christ must believe in His return. It is the future return of Christ in glory, when it is understood He will set up His kingdom, judge His enemies, and reward the faithful, living, and dead. Living includes all who will be alive when He returns. The dead includes everyone else, all who have lived and died physically. Jesus said that everyone who has died will be raised from the dead and be judged.

Jesus said in the New Testament: **Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.** - John 5:25-29 NASB1995

We must be knowledgeable of the signs of Christ's return. We must be alert and guarded in the Bible's truth. We must be prepared to help others understand what is before them; a life redeemed and free upon their choosing to be saved in Christ. Paramount, our focus is our eternity. To the believer, Christ's return is an eternal celebration with God. To the unbeliever,

Christ's return is an eternal distress without God. He is a sovereign God who is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. His will be done in His time for His ultimate glory. Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess He is Lord. We must be prepared to see Jesus Christ.

GODLY DECISION MAKING

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We all have the right to make decisions and have choices about how we live our lives. Each person has different ideas about what is important and what makes them feel best. Making your own choices about things you do is very important, because it gives your life direction, meaning, and identity. God blessed us with this freedom at a humanitarian level. There are many books on Directive Thinking, Making Choice Steps, Critical Decision Making, The Steps of Decisions etc. Godly decision making is key.

In this devotional, we are focusing on Godly decision making. We have the Bible with numerous verses throughout to outline how Godly choices are made.

Reading the Bible arms us with Godly wisdom and knowledge. It allows us to discern with Holy Spirit direction. This direction protects, guards, enables, liberates, and blesses us. So much more in our lives than we realize within the full picture God has.

So, to help simplify with Biblical references, we bring Godly Decision-Making in an outline format, so it is easy to think through each time we make decisions. No one person is perfect except God. So, understand Godly decision making is practiced with every decision we make in life — every decision. Try using it, and watch Godly results fall into place.

First, there are Godly Choices

1. We can courageously, faithfully pray & obey the Holy Spirit, then wait & watch God work
2. We can quit & walk away
3. We can do it our way manipulating the circumstances causing spiritual debt

Requirements for Waiting on God

1. Courage - **Psalms 27:14 NASB1995**
2. Praying - **Luke 5:16 NASB1995**
3. Obeying, sometimes, doing nothing - **Acts 5:9 NASB1995**
4. Trusting - **Psalms 91:2 NASB1995**
5. With Humility - **Proverbs 22:4 NASB1995**
6. Patience. His will be done in His time for His glory - **Ecclesiastes 7:8 NASB1995**
7. Faithfully holding fast to God - **Deuteronomy 4:4 NASB1995**
 - Resist temptation to follow our own schedule - **1 Samuel 13:8-14 NASB1995**
 - Resist temptation of others' pressures - **Psalms 27:2 NASB1995**
 - Resist temptation to be afraid. Maintain courage - **Psalms 27:3 NASB1995**

Consequences for not Waiting on God

1. We step out of God's will - **Colossians 3:6**

NASB1995

2. We delay God's blessing - **Numbers 32:10**

NASB1995

3. We bring upon ourselves pain & suffering

- **Numbers 32:11 NASB1995**

4. We cause heartache & suffering for others

- **Numbers 32:13 NASB1995**

5. It causes confusion - **Numbers 32:14 NASB1995**

6. There will be discipline & actions required

- **Numbers 32:15 NASB1995**

7. We experience extremes from one to the other

- **Revelation NASB1995**

Rewards of Waiting for God

1. God will express his goodness towards us

- **Lamentations 3:25-26 NASB1995**

2. He will answer our prayers - **Psalms 40:1-5**

NASB1995

3. We will see the fulfillment of our faith - **Isaiah 49:23 NASB1995**

4. He will enable us to win over the struggles of life - **Psalms 37:9 & 37:34 NASB1995**

5. He will give us peace - **Philippians 4:4-7 NASB1995**

Godly decision making permeates every decision in our life. Here, you scripturally see how critical it is to our life, protection, prosperity, health and overall wellbeing. We can have an even more blessed life. Our decisions in God have a generational ripple impact unknown to us but known to our Father. We must trust Him.

WHEN SATAN IS NEAR

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When we feel the presence of evil or Satan is near, we must immediately call on Jesus Christ to protect us. Satan is powerful and active. Jesus is stronger. Jesus will use His strength to rescue us if we call on His name. Jesus can rebuke or bind Satan. We must pray to Jesus.

**The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" - Zechariah 3:2
NASB1995**

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*."

Turning to the disciples, He said privately, "**Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see *them*, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear *them*.**" - Luke 10:17-24 NASB1995

Jude spoke of the archangel Michael as an example of how cautious and humble we should be when engaging in spiritual warfare.

But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" - Jude 1:9 NASB1995

We do not know what this dispute looked like. Was it an argument of words, or a full-on spiritual battle

for possession of Moses' body after he died? What we need to realize is what Jude was documenting about the danger of arrogance in dealing with Satan. Jude tells us the archangel Michael, one of God's most powerful angels, was very cautious in what he said to the devil when he contended with him directly. In spite of all the authority given him, Michael did not say, "I rebuke you." Instead, he says only, "The Lord Rebuke you." If the archangel Michael was unwilling to even say, "I rebuke you", we can say he would not have said "I bind you" either. This should be a clear warning to us not to attempt what a supernaturally powerful angel would not do.

Regarding archangel Michael's position: **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came**

to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. - Daniel 10:13 NASB1995

"Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. - Daniel 12:1 NASB1995

There is nowhere in the Bible we are encouraged to speak to the devil or Satan and rebuke him. God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit control the devil and Satan. Jesus Christ is our Savior. This means Jesus Christ is our Protector also. The Word of God is our standard for what is wise and best regarding the devil or Satan. We have more than a conqueror, we must call on Jesus' name in prayer.

RESCUED

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Everyone in life has a time where they are struggling. Some have many more than others. In the Bible, we are told we will face many struggles and troubles. The point is these times bring us closer to God or farther from God. It is a choice we make. One person feels like they are drowning in what they are going through, or others lash out in anger, while others lift their hands in prayer. Maybe the same people are doing all the above or experiencing even more. One of the powerful teachings in the Bible is others have gone through what we are going through. We can replace their names with ours. The Bible then reads and speaks to us personally in our circumstances. Our God is a personal God, and He walks with us as we go through whatever we struggle. He is omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient.

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*. - Ephesians 6:12 NASB1995

God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. - Psalms 46:1 NASB1995

Although this sounds harsh and struggles are painful, we must keep understanding struggles have purpose. They make us: stronger (or weaker), able to learn (or defiant), listen to God (or not), run to God (or not), choose best next steps (or not), build wisdom and faith (or not), and refine us through their fire. There is a choice made by us. God provides an outlet when we surrender to Him. We have an Intercessor on our behalf during struggles and times of trouble and His name is Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "**So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.** - Matthew 6:34 NASB1995

For man is born for trouble, As sparks fly upward.
"But as for me, I would seek God, And I would place my cause before God; Who does great and unsearchable things, Wonders without number. - Job 5:7-9 NASB1995

If a man dies, will he live *again*? All the days of my struggle I will wait Until my change comes. - Job 14:14 NASB1995

The verses above are quite powerful. We face trouble and struggles as soon as we are born until death. We must place them before God, through our Intercessor Jesus Christ and listen to the Holy Spirit for our best next steps. During this all, we should not worry about yesterday or tomorrow but in today. Also, we should be glad in this day, thankful for God who is on our

side. He knows what we need and will provide it (or not) when His time is satisfied.

Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.' - Isaiah 41:10 NASB1995

The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will extol Him. - Exodus 15:2 NASB1995

The Psalms below reinforce our great strength with the Lord.

The Lord also will be a stronghold for the oppressed, A stronghold in times of *trouble*; - Psalms 9:9 NASB1995

Look upon my affliction and my *trouble*, And forgive all my sins. - Psalms 25:18 NASB1995

The righteous cry, and the Lord hears And delivers them out of all their troubles. - Psalms 34:17 NASB1995

But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength - in time of *trouble*. - Psalms 37:39 NASB1995

Call upon Me in the day of *trouble*; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me." - Psalms 50:15 NASB1995

For He has delivered me from all *trouble*, And my eye has looked with satisfaction upon my enemies. - Psalms 54:7 NASB1995

Then they cried out to the Lord in their *trouble*; He delivered them out of their distresses. - Psalms 107:6, 13, 19, 28 NASB1995

***Trouble* and *anguish* have come upon me, Yet Your commandments are my delight. - Psalms 119:143 NASB1995**

For the sake of Your name, O Lord, revive me. In Your righteousness bring my soul out of *trouble*. - Psalms 143:11 NASB1995

God's Word is loaded with promises teaching us about our faith in God during hard times. He tells us to not worry, to pray, and He will give us peace unimaginable. He tells us He is there with us, high and low. And even after the struggle, He will strengthen and calm us by our side. **All** for His honor and ultimate glory. What a wonderful, powerful God, Savior, and Holy Spirit we have.

IN TIME OF AFFLICTION

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When ships go out to sea, they lead a methodical path and navigation to make their next port of entry. If they happen to lose their navigation, they must rely on their communication to reach someone for the path they should take. If the ship can no longer understand its path because their communication has failed, they must rely on other things such as compasses, the stars, the winds, lights, depths, and many other factors. Should they encounter a massive storm they are beaten over and over until the storm stops. After the storm, they may have suffered irreversible damage, yet they are still on a path without communication until the next storm batters them to sufferable damage. Encountering the next storm, the

ship is merely trying to survive with what is left before they can even think of the next steps for a navigable path. Sometimes, if they are lost, this happens repeatedly until it sinks, lost into the sea's dark abyss. This same scenario happens to so many people's lives. A person takes so much collateral damage it breaks their will, pierces their spirit, destroys their future, or takes (or nearly takes) everything. It seems there is no path to take, and no one cares enough to know what you are going through, to ask much less. I know. I have been there. There are millions, if not billions of people in the world in affliction, lost.

He delivers the afflicted in their affliction, And opens their ear in time of oppression. - Job 36:15 NASB1995

For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from him; But when he cried to Him for help, He heard. - Psalms 22:24 NASB1995

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. - Psalms 23:4 NASB1995

My eye has wasted away because of affliction; I have called upon You every day, O Lord; I have spread out my hands to You. - Psalms 88:9 NASB1995

In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the angel of His presence saved them; In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old. - Isaiah 63:9 NASB1995

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way

of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. - 1 Corinthians 10:13 NASB1995

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison - 2 Corinthians 4:17 NASB1995

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. - 2 Peter 3:9 NASB1995

Our God cares. He will lift us from our ashes to gleaming spirits and wills of gold. He will set our paths straight and lift our burdens from our shoulders, making us smile in the mirror at ourselves and everyone around us. People will notice something different in us. A joy they wish they had. We will learn to talk with Him not just daily, but rather all day. He will bring us peace. He will take what seems rubble and build a fortress. We will see the things our day

brings around us: the people, the birds, the flowers, and so on. With empathy, we will see people for who they are and where they are in their lives and bring the same good news to them leaving some in tears. We will see life as a blessing; being thankful for it, in it. We will feel new again.

**I will rejoice and be glad in Your lovingkindness,
Because You have seen my affliction; You have
known the troubles of my soul, - Psalms 31:7
NASB1995**

**Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the
LORD delivers him out of them all. - Psalms 34:19
NASB1995**

**But He sets the needy securely on high away from
affliction, And makes his families like a flock. -
Psalms 107:41 NASB1995**

**Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. - John 14:27
NASB1995**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NASB1995

For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you. - 2 Corinthians 2:4 NASB1995

Great is my confidence in you; great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort; I

**am overflowing with joy in all our affliction. - 2
Corinthians 7:4 NASB1995**

**Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for
once he has been approved, he will receive the
crown of life which the Lord has promised to
those who love Him. - James 1:12 NASB1995**

During affliction, we should draw near with confidence to Jesus Christ, so we may receive His mercy and find His grace to help in its time. We must ask Him first. He will make way and take us from there if we listen.

**The Lord is good to all, And His mercies are over
all His works. - Psalms 145:9 NASB1995**

**"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive
mercy. - Matthew 5:7 NASB1995**

May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you. - Jude 1:2 NASB1995

Affliction is a call to persevere. Patience in affliction and adversity means to persist firmly, endure, and never forsaking what we know to be true. Standing firm with hope in the Lord's timing, plan, and will. We will gain understanding if we anchor our hope in God's promises, maintain joy and patience, and remain faithfully connected to God through prayer. Do not reject the Lord's offer to deliver you from all afflictions through salvation in Jesus Christ. Press on, head held high and finding joy and thankfulness in each day we may tell the Lord about in prayer.

UNBEARABLE BURDENS

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When our burdens seem unbearable, we should remember what Jesus said to everyone who was extremely burdened:

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." - Matthew 28-30 NASB1995

Jesus provided an invitation to us. He is all powerful, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. The invitation was to all people, saved and unsaved, Jew

and gentile to find peace in and through Him. Asking forgiveness of our sins if we have not already, becoming saved and receiving baptism. He always honors a humble spirit, yet He commands us to take on His yoke which is light and easy. Surrendering to Him, so He may guide and teach us by His righteousness through our obedience to Him.

We do not have to carry the same burdens forever. We have the assurance for eternity. We do not have to give up, become disillusioned or seek temporary fixes which often have frail, dire consequences. The Lord chooses His timing, and it is in His will our burdens are sealed. God makes no mistakes.

1. Ask yourself genuinely if Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior. You must have taken this first critical step. Then, accept His saving blood on the cross. Thank Him for His saving grace and mercy and pray to Him the Lord's Prayer (**Matthew 6:9-14 NASB1995**).

2. Give your burdens to the Lord

3. Share your burdens with someone. In Galatians, we are to bare one another's burdens:

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each *one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. -

Galatians 6:1-3 NASB1995

4. Even Christ shared His burdens to the Lord

5. Trust the Lord

6. Move your focus of your burdens to the burden Bearer, our Lord

We know Jesus Christ lives. We know He guides and directs us every day, all day. If we have faith in our Savior, He will make our burdens light, and we will be able to endure. He lives and knows and loves each one of us. He so much wants to help us if we will

come to Him and surrender ourselves humbly before him.

A FEARLESS DEATH

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The subject of death, especially our own, is one many people do not consider to the depth discussed here. There are many who think about death only when it regards someone else's life such as old age or illness. When someone we know passes away suddenly, we focus on the suddenness of their passing. We may plan for our passing. However, our passing is expected years from now, so, we focus on our family's preservation. The point is, we focus on others. We assume there are many years ahead of us. We move to and from all day, taking for granted our busy days planned to the last minute.

We seldom focus on our own finality. As our life has one physical birth, it has one physical death. Our spirit too has one birth when we are saved: hence, born

again. If we are not saved, our spirit is lost and will have its own death.

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference to sin*, to those who eagerly await Him. - Hebrews 27-28 NASB1995

Then *death* and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second *death*, the lake of fire. - Revelation 20:14 NASB1995

We are presented a path in our current life to Jesus Christ's salvation. Death is not to be feared. The sting has been removed.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His

blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while 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. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. - Romans 5:8-11 NASB1995

Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 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. 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. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. - 1 Corinthians 15:50-57 NASB1995

Our death will present our soul before Jesus Christ for our eternity with Him or without Him for the purpose of glorifying, worshipping, and praising God.

For the mind set on the flesh is *death*, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace - Romans 8:6 NASB1995

**I have sworn by Myself,
The word has gone forth from My mouth in
righteousness
And will not turn back,
That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will
swear *allegiance*. - Isaiah 45:23 NASB1995**

For it is written,

**"AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE
SHALL BOW TO ME,
AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO
GOD." - Romans 14:11 NASB1995**

**and that every tongue will confess that Jesus
Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. -
Philippians 2:11 NASB1995**

We have assurance for our eternity. His will is we are saved as we are sealed His. God makes no mistakes. However, in love He leaves it our choice.

**Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you
were sealed for the day of redemption. -
Ephesians 4:30 NASB1995**

**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, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. - Ephesians 1:13-14 NASB1995

According to Jesus Christ's own words prior His Ascension: **He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; 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."** - Acts 1:7-8 NASB1995

It is not for us to know how soon or under what times this life will end — God knows. The Holy Spirit comes upon us once we are submersed baptized after being saved. Thereafter, our greatest calling while in this life is being His witness to everyone, everywhere.

Ask yourself genuinely if Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior. Accept His saving blood on the cross and become submersed baptized. Thank Him for His saving grace and mercy and pray to Him.

God's grace and mercy are being extended to you now. Do not treat lightly Jesus Christ's death on the cross for you. You are now knowledgeable of God's promise. Embrace the joy God has for you, both now and in eternity. Open your heart to Jesus Christ today. You will never regret it. You will no longer fear death. You will know you have eternity with Him.

OUR ANGER

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How many of us, when confronted with hardship, adversity, injustice, misfortune, and/or affliction develop anger? How does this create a spiritual dynamic, bleeding over our situation making it far worse? Have you ever questioned, blamed, or even lashed out against God? Anger is a human characteristic. We may blame God.

**The foolishness of man ruins his way,
And his heart rages against the LORD. - Proverbs
19:3 NASB1995**

When hardships seem overwhelming, God is often the scapegoat. Job was in unrelenting pain, and his wife's reaction was: **Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and**

die!" But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. - Job 2:9-10 NASB1995

When God shows mercy, it may cause anger in others.

God showed mercy to Nineveh, **But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. - Jonah 4:1 NASB1995**

When God blesses someone, some may have anger erupting into evil doing and the consequences thereof. Consider the story of Cane and Able.

We should focus our lives in removing anger from it. This is hard to hear. It is a choice. Although hard during our circumstance, we do decide how we are

going to react. Are we in God's will or not. We know the details leading to our anger, but we must know our God is larger than our circumstances. Our circumstances help us learn and grow. They mold us and are for a season. What does God repeatedly tell and warn us about anger? There are too many verses to list.

Cease from *anger* and forsake *wrath*; Do not *fret*; it leads only to evildoing. - Psalms 37:8

NASB1995

He who is slow to *anger* has great understanding, But he who is quick-tempered exalts folly. -

Proverbs 14:29 NASB1995

A gentle answer turns away *wrath*, But a harsh word stirs up *anger*. - Proverbs 15:1 NASB1995

**A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, But the slow
to *anger* calms a dispute. - Proverbs 15:18
NASB1995**

**He who is slow to *anger* is better than the mighty,
And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures
a city. - Proverbs 16:32 NASB1995**

**A man's discretion makes him slow to *anger*, And
it is his glory to overlook a transgression. -
Proverbs 19:11 NASB1995**

**A fool always loses his temper, But a wise man
holds it back. - Proverbs 29:11 NASB1995**

**Do not be eager in your heart to be angry,
For *anger* resides in the bosom of fools. -
Ecclesiastes 7:9 NASB1995**

For *anger* slays the foolish man, And jealousy kills the simple. - Job 5:2 NASB1995

Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your *anger*, - Ephesians 4:26 NASB1995

Let all bitterness and *wrath* and *anger* and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. - Ephesians 4:31 NASB1995

But now you also, put them all aside: *anger*, *wrath*, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. - Colossians 3:8 NASB1995

for the *anger* of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. - James 1:20 NASB1995

What we can know is we have an all-knowing, all-powerful, always present, sovereign God who

handles our circumstances on our behalf; if by choice we ask and follow His will and timeline. What the Holy Word tells us is anger is His, not ours, to harbor or act.

Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the *wrath* of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. - Romans 12:19 NASB1995

So the *anger* of the Lord burned against them and He departed. - Numbers 12:9 NASB1995

They made Him jealous with strange gods; With abominations they provoked Him to *anger*. - Deuteronomy 32:16 NASB1995

"God will not turn back His anger; Beneath Him crouch the helpers of Rahab. - Job 9:13 NASB1995

He has also kindled His *anger* against me And considered me as His enemy. - Job 19:11

NASB1995

Something for us to consider: God may be opening a time when He is breaking barriers to focus our attention and speak to us if we would forsake our natural inclinations. Self-will stands behind our anger. Underneath, it is motivated by an intrinsic belief we, not God, must have the last say on whatever happens. Anger may rise when God is blamed for a tragedy or event. It is often the automatic negative response when we hold God as ultimately responsible during our anguish. When God's character, sovereignty, or love is called into question, anger towards Him can take center stage. Our faith narrative is threatened, and anger can be the favored response. Remember, anger is a choice we are strongly guided by God to not be. Anger leads away

from faith in Him. More importantly, it is a means whereby sins further escalate. God provides the opportunity for choice to grow and mature us. Do not be angry. Know God is on our side.

BOLD FEARLESSNESS

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It is September 28th, 2022 and hurricane Ian is approaching Florida within the next 24 hours. Hurricane shutters are installed on the houses. Gas stations are running out of fuel. The grocery stores have been visited and are closing. Banks too. Additional to-do tasks have been completed. People coming to and from. Evacuations orders for 2.5 million people have been made. Emergency shelters are open. A person can see the concern in everyone. However, most people remain friendly, a few people, tempers start rising. After all the preparations, there is now watching updates on TV. The governor reports Florida and Georgia are under state of emergency. News reports change impact projections. The effects may be devastating or life threatening as a category 3-4 hurricane. In Key West and Miami, there are

already reports of flooding creating a very serious emergency. There are tornadic conditions. Power is already being interrupted to some 20,000 people. There are 30,000 utility workers ready to respond. Emergency services may be unavailable. Currently, there are 21 million people under tropical alert.

We should pause and remind ourselves this hurricane, or any other, is minuscule compared to God's power. In the middle of all this storm, we see God's provision. People are loving their neighbor, offering help to one another freely. Emergency shelters are serving people impacted. People are employed to respond. The hurricane unites us. Food is obtained. Money is at hand. It is amazing to witness something so serious brings reassurance of God's provision. He can calm the waters or divide them with simply a flick of His finger.

He caused the storm to be still, So that the waves of the sea were hushed. - Psalms 107:29

NASB1995

And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep. And they came to *Him* and woke Him, saying,

“Save *us*, Lord; we are perishing!” He *said to them, “Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?**” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. -**

Matthew 8:24-26 NASB1995

Jesus was asleep during the great storm! This is a direct example related to a physical storm. However, internal storms we experience, if we have bold fearlessness in faith, our Lord can answer. He has the power to rebuke our storms of whatever type through life if we pray. So let us see.

**For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of *power* and love and discipline. - 2 Timothy 1:7
NASB1995**

My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart. - Psalms 7:10 NASB1995

**Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. -
Philippians 4:6 NASB1995**

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. - 1 John 4:18 NASB1995

**I sought the Lord, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears. - Psalms 34:4
NASB1995**

**When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. -
Psalms 56:3 NASB1995**

**Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously
look about you, for I am your God. I will
strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will
uphold you with My righteous right hand.’ - Isaiah
41:10 NASB1995**

**Have I not commanded you? Be strong and
courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for
the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” -
Joshua 1:9 NASB1995**

Most profound is 1.) why are we afraid and 2.) fear
involves punishment. When we are fearful and
anxious, we should remember we are not being
punished. We should remember our Lord has our
best interest. Remembering this makes our prayers
more focused and dynamic. We will be able to face

our day the Lord has made confidently. Our words and prayers will be bold. Fear will be extinguished. When we are saved through Jesus Christ, we are empowered in countless ways. Everyone worries. Most people have a problem with anxiety. Despite knowing our Lord is against our fear, worry, and anxiety, we do not ever seem to completely overcome its harsh grip. Fear, worry, and anxiety affect our physical health, but they also reflect our spiritual health. Our thinking and actions reflect the spiritual condition of our hearts. Fear is an invitation to trust our Lord as the creator and provider. With this, let us close with the following from Jesus Christ:

“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the

air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a *single* hour to his life? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

“So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. - Mathew 6:25-34

Amen. Do not be fearful, rather, be bold in our Lord in everything.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

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Let us jump right into the topic of powerful prayer with a core verse.

In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full. - John 16:23-24 NASB1995

What does it mean in our prayers when we say in the name of Jesus Christ?

We are coming to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ humbly. Our Lord is omnipresent, omniscient, and

omnipotent. We are coming to Him with boldness and faith where we may not have in the past. The boldness coming from the trust, belief, and faith of our Lord is in fact who we place first in our life and prayer. Coming to Him in an understanding He is the High Priest and intercessor on our behalf with the Father. His interest comes first in our prayers. We will receive according to His will and timing. Importantly, we will celebrate and be happy, joyful.

We need to keep His Commandments and live accordingly.

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. - 1 John 3:21-22 NASB1995

Next, do we pray as it is written in the Holy Word?

When praying, do we say, “It is written...” followed by scripture? Doing so we are asking according to the word of God. Applying His Holy Word. Jesus Christ said this as he was tempted by Satan. As it is written, it is true. We must believe the Lord listens to every word we pray and know He will answer us.

Sometimes the answer is silence, which is often for our protection. We are directed to remain still in our prayer and be at peace and comforted. Other times there may be direct answers and confirmation all around you. The point is, we must have faith in Him and believe in His Holy Word.

When praying are we expectant?

We should. It is written so. Let us see.

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. -

Matthew 7:7-8 NASB1995

And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” - Matthew 21:22 NASB1995

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. 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. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.” - Mark 11:24-25 NASB1995

Are we asking with confidence?

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. - 1 John 5:14-15 NASB1995

When praying are we doing it in private?

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. - Matthew 6:6 NASB1995

When praying are they simple prayers?

“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. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. - Matthew 6:7-8 NASB1995

When praying are we praying as Jesus told us to?

“Pray, then, in this way:

'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. Amen.' - **Matthew:9-13 NASB1995**

And two of the most important, self-explanatory
verses needing to be considered are the following:
**For if you forgive others for their transgressions,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if
you do not forgive others, then your Father will
not forgive your transgressions. - Matthew 6:14-
15 NASB1995**

He will answer our prayers.

‘Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’ - Jeremiah 33:3 NASB1995

He is abundant.

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. - Ephesians 3:20-21 NASB1995

Prayers do the following:

- They calm our anxious spirit
- Our gratitude and thankfulness increases
- Our focus shifts to others
- We come closer to God
- We hear the Holy Spirit
- We are relieved from temptations of sin

- We see miracles happen

Prayer is our communication with the Lord. It is not an awkward conversation or legalistic way we must pray. Simply have honest, simple prayers each day, morning and throughout the day to closing evening prayer. We have 24 hours in a day. We surely can have prayer with our Lord who is our friend. He wishes the best for us. If we pray a simple, scripture backed prayer in Jesus' name, we open ourselves to a very close relationship with our Lord. He hears us. We can hear Him.

The Bible tells us: **Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. - Philippians 4:6 NASB1995**

It is a 2-way street. Any relationship needs communication, or prayer in this case, to foster closeness.

Take time now. Pray. Simply talk about what is on your mind, talk to Him about Him, recall scripture and be still. He will answer in His time for His will. The Holy Spirit will touch you.

A JOYFUL LIFE

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Life is beautifully and wonderfully made with some level of complexity. There is pain and suffering, but there is also hope and joy. The Bible tells us joy is a fruit of the Spirit, so it's something evident in the life of a believer. Joy is based on our relationship with God. When we know Him and walk in His ways, we can have joy regardless of what is happening to or around us.

**Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
NASB1995**

Even more simply put, **Rejoice always; - 1
Thessalonians 5:16 NASB1995**

This is what Jesus said about the hidden treasure of joy:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. - Matthew 13:44 NASB1995

These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. - John 15:11 NASB1995

Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full. - John 16:24 NASB1995

Joy is not rooted in the circumstances of life. Joy is the delightful confidence of a great God who works for our good regardless of our immediate understanding. We simply need to obey Him. We need reminders to live with joy. We need them often in a day during trials

we face. Being joyful in each day knowing we have a God who we reign with.

Joyful living includes:

1. Being Saved
2. Being Submersed Baptized
3. Singing and Praying to God
4. Living in God's Will
5. Leaning on God
6. Rejoicing in God's Faithfulness
7. Practicing the Sabbath
8. Witnessing to Others
9. Practicing Empathetic Servantry
10. Giving Freely

The official definition of joy according to Miriam Webster is "A feeling of great pleasure or happiness." Joy is not the momentary waves of happiness we are talking about. Rather a mindset and intentional acts as a foundation in our life. True joy does not rely on circumstance, and while this does not mean we are

always happy, it does mean we understand the hard seasons do not last forever. Real and genuine joy can withstand the test of time and is the state of mind and being we return to when all is said and done. True joy does not mean a perfect life but rather one that is appreciated and experienced fully. It has nothing to prove to others, rather, is a personal choice each of us make every day of our lives in the will of God. It is contagious. When we live a life of joy with our Father, people are inevitably drawn because our presence is not draining. It lifts. It is joyful. It feels invigorating. Others long for the same foundation of joyousness.

Here are some Psalms of a joyous life journey:

You have put gladness in my heart, More than when their grain and new wine abound. - Psalms 4:7 NASB1995

We will sing for joy over your victory, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners. May

**the Lord fulfill all your petitions. - Psalms 20:5
NASB1995**

**Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous
ones; And shout for *joy*, all you who are upright in
heart. - Psalms 32:11 NASB1995**

**Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones;
Praise is becoming to the upright. - Psalms 33:1
NASB1995**

**Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a
shout of joy. - Psalms 33:3 NASB1995**

**Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my
exceeding *joy*; And upon the lyre I shall praise
You, O God, my God. - Psalms 43:4 NASB1995**

**You have loved righteousness and hated
wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has**

anointed You With the oil of *joy* above Your fellows. - Psalms 45:7 NASB1995

O clap your hands, all peoples; Shout to God with the voice of *joy*. - Psalms 47:1 NASB1995

Make me to hear *joy* and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. - Psalms 51:8 NASB1995

For You have been my help, And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for *joy*. - Psalms 63:7 NASB1995

Let the nations be glad and sing for *joy*; For You will judge the peoples with uprightness And guide the nations on the earth. Selah. - Psalms 67:4 NASB1995

My lips will shout for *joy* when I sing praises to You; And my soul, which You have redeemed. - Psalms 71:23 NASB1995

Sing for *joy* to God our strength; Shout joyfully to the God of Jacob. - Psalms 81:1 NASB1995

**When my anxious thoughts multiply within me,
Your consolations delight my soul. - Psalms 94:19
NASB1995**

**O come, let us sing for *joy* to the Lord, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. -
Psalms 95:1 NASB1995**

Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises. - Psalms 98:4 NASB1995

**And He brought forth His people with *joy*, His chosen ones with a joyful shout. - Psalms 105:43
NASB1995**

This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it. - Psalms 118:24

NASB1995

I have inherited Your testimonies forever, For they are the *joy* of my heart. - Psalms 119:111

NASB1995

Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting. - Psalms 126:5 NASB1995

Let the godly ones exult in glory; Let them sing for joy on their beds. - Psalms 149:5 NASB1995

Pointedly, our joy comes from worshiping our God, seeing His ways then rejoicing in His magnificence we experience. God certainly is joy, produces it and bestows joy onto us. We simply receive it as a gift from our Father. We do not earn it or produce it. We experience it through His majesty and blessings onto us. This is our Lord we are speaking of. His

omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence are above all, and we must adore Him and all His ways. To Him is the power, the kingdom, and the glory forever. Our relationship with our Father should be made beyond reproach. Our true joy comes along the way in our relationship with Him. If we freely choose otherwise, our joy becomes shakable, because we are not honoring our Father.

Other Bible verses regarding joy:

**Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, -
Jeremiah 15.16 NASB1995**

**Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and joy are in His place. - 1 Chronicles 16:27
NASB1995**

Then he said to them, "Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has

nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." - Nehemiah 8:10 NASBB1995

and on that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them great *joy*, even the women and children rejoiced, so that the *joy* of Jerusalem was heard from afar. - Nehemiah 12:43 NASB1995

Behold, this is the joy of His way; And out of the dust others will spring. - Job 8:19 NASB1995

Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But counselors of peace have *joy*. - Proverbs 12:20 NASB1995

The heart knows its own bitterness, And a stranger does not share its *joy*. - Proverbs 14:10 NASB1995

**A man has *joy* in an apt answer, And how
delightful is a timely word! - Proverbs 15:23
NASB1995**

**A joyful heart is good medicine, But a broken
spirit dries up the bones. - Proverbs 17:22
NASB1995**

**Therefore you will joyously draw water From the
springs of salvation.- Isaiah 12.3 NASB1995**

**They raise their voices, they shout for *joy*; They
cry out from the west concerning the majesty of
the Lord. - Isaiah 24:14 NASB1995**

**And the ransomed of the Lord will return And
come with joyful shouting to Zion, With
everlasting *joy* upon their heads. They will find
gladness and *joy*, And sorrow and sighing will
flee away. - Isaiah 35:10 NASB1995**

For you will go out with *joy* And be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of *joy* before you, And all the trees of the field will clap their hands. - Isaiah 55:12 NASB1995

"Whereas you have been forsaken and hated With no one passing through, I will make you an everlasting pride, A *joy* from generation to generation. - Isaiah 60:15 NASB1995

Instead of your shame you will have a double portion, And instead of humiliation they will shout for *joy* over their portion. Therefore they will possess a double portion in their land, Everlasting *joy* will be theirs. - Isaiah 61:7 NASB1995

The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be

quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy. - Zephaniah 3:17 NASB1995

And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great *joy* and ran to report it to His disciples. - Matthew 28:8 NASB1995

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." - Luke 10:17 NASB1995

And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great *joy*, - Luke 24:52 NASB1995

These things we write, so that our *joy* may be made complete. - John 1:4 NASB1995

When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. - Acts 13:48 NASB1995

**And the disciples were continually filled
with *joy* and with the Holy Spirit. - Acts 13:52
NASB1995**

**rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation,
devoted to prayer, - Romans 12:12 NASB1995**

**Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and
peace in believing, so that you will abound in
hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans
15:13 NASB1995**

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, -
Galatians 5:22 NASB1995**

**always offering prayer with *joy* in my every prayer
for you all, - Philippians 1:4 NASB1995**

***Rejoice* in the Lord *always*; again I will say, *rejoice!* - Philippians 4:4 NASB1995**

For you are our glory and *joy*. - 1 Thessalonians 2:20 NASB1995

Consider it all *joy*, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, - James 1:2 NASB1995

and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with *joy* inexpressible and full of glory, - 1 Peter 1:8 NASB1995

I have no greater *joy* than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth. - 3 John 1:4 NASB1995

But what is it joy offers? What are the benefits of choosing to be intentional about chasing it through God?

Effects of joyful living include:

1. We live a more Christian life
2. We focus on our relationship with Jesus Christ
3. We chase joy through God as He is joy
4. We emote joy verbally, in our eyes and through our actions
5. We accept the things we cannot control and focus on what we can with God
6. We actively seek joy in the day we are given
7. We are healthier and happier
8. We create moments every day to look forward to
9. We naturally give to others what they themselves need

If we want to live a life filled with joy, no circumstance stands a chance. To be a joyful person, we must own it meaning we then own our relationship with our Father. Joy is openly waiting on us. He is waiting to be found. If you want to live in a way truly impactful to people and the world around you through a positive way, it is joy. Circumstances, while sometimes difficult

or depressing, are part of the package. God wishes us to remain still, relaxed in our circumstances. He has our backs. He is the true Joy. He can change circumstances in his timing at any degree and outward impact. Trust in Him. Pray. Reread the scriptures above as often as needed. We all need to. If you are actively praying, reading the bible, and seeking God's face, your joy will surface guaranteed!

WHO I AM TO OUR LORD

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Have you ever wondered, "who am I to our Lord?" You are everything to Him. The Lord our God knows and adores you. He gave his only begotten Son for you (John 3:16).

According to scripture, you should be thinking to yourself:

- I am faithful (Ephesians 1:1).
- I am God's child (John 1:12).
- I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalms 139:14).
- I have been justified (Romans 5:1).
- I am Christ's friend (John 15:15).
- I belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:20).

- I am a member of Christ's Body (1 Corinthians 12:27).
- I am assured all things work together for good (Romans 8:28).
- I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).
- I am confident God will perfect the work He has begun in me (Philippians 1:6).
- I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20).
- I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).
- I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7).
- I am born of God and the evil one fails (1 John 5:18).
- I am blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3).
- I am chosen before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4-11).
- I am holy and blameless (Ephesians 1:4).
- I am adopted as his child (Ephesians 1:5).
- I am given God's glorious grace without restriction (Ephesians 1:5-8).

- I am in Him (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:30).
- I have redemption (Ephesians 1:8).
- I am forgiven (Ephesians 1:8; Colossians 1:14).
- I have a purpose (Ephesians 1:9, 3:11).
- I have hope (Ephesians 1:12).
- I am included (Ephesians 1:13).
- I am sealed with the promised Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).
- I am a saint (Ephesians 1:18).
- I am the salt and light of the earth (Matthew 5:13-14).
- I have been chosen and God desires me to bear fruit (John 15:1-5).
- I am a personal witness of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8).
- I am His co-worker (2 Corinthians 6:1).
- I am a minister of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).
- I am alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:5).
- I am raised up with Christ (Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 2:12).

- I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:6).
- I have been shown the incomparable riches of God's grace (Ephesians 2:7).
- I am protected with God's peace (Philippians 4:7).
- I experience God's kindness (Ephesians 2:7).
- I am a vessel of God's power and works (Ephesians 3:7).
- I am God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10).
- I have been brought near to God through Christ's blood (Ephesians 2:13).
- I have peace (Ephesians 2:14).
- I have access to the Father (Ephesians 2:18).
- I am a member of God's household (Ephesians 2:19).
- I am secure (Ephesians 2:20).
- I am a holy temple (Ephesians 2:21; 1 Corinthians 6:19).
- I am a dwelling for the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:22).
- I share in the promise of Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:6).

- I can approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:12).
- I know there is a purpose for my suffering (Ephesians 3:13).
- I can grasp how wide, long, high, and deep Christ's love is (Ephesians 3:18).
- I am completed by God (Ephesians 3:19).
- I can bring glory to God (Ephesians 3:21).
- I have been called (Ephesians 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:9).
- I can be humble, gentle, patient and lovingly tolerant of others (Ephesians 4:2).
- I can mature spiritually (Ephesians 4:15).
- I can be certain of God's truths and the lifestyle He has called me to (Ephesians 4:17).
- I can have a new attitude and lifestyle (Ephesians 4:21-32).
- I can be kind and compassionate to others (Ephesians 4:32).
- I can forgive others (Ephesians 4:32).
- I am a light to others and can exhibit goodness, righteousness, and truth (Ephesians 5:8-9).

- I can understand what God's will is (Ephesians 5:17).
- I can give thanks for everything (Ephesians 5:20).
- I don't have to always have my own agenda (Ephesians 5:21).
- I can honor God through marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33).
- I can parent my children with composure (Ephesians 6:4).
- I can be strong (Ephesians 6:10).
- I have God's power (Ephesians 6:10).
- I can stand firm in the day of evil (Ephesians 6:13).
- I am dead to sin (Romans 1:12).
- I am not alone (Hebrews 13:5).
- I am growing (Colossians 2:7).
- I am His disciple (John 13:15).
- I am prayed for by Jesus Christ (John 17:20-23).
- I am united with other believers (John 17:20-23).
- I am not in want (Philippians 4:19).
- I possess the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16).
- I am promised eternal life (John 6:47).

- I am promised a full life (John 10:10).
- I am victorious (1 John 5:4).
- I am chosen and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12).
- I am blameless (1 Corinthians 1:8).
- I am set free (Romans 8:2; John 8:32).
- I am crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20).
- I am a light in the world (Matthew 5:14).
- I am more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37).
- I am the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- I am safe (1 John 5:18).
- I am part of God's kingdom (Revelation 1:6).
- I am healed from sin (1 Peter 2:24).
- I am no longer condemned (Romans 8:1-2).
- I am not helpless (Philippians 4:13).
- I am overcoming (1 John 4:4).
- I am persevering (Philippians 3:14).
- I am protected (John 10:28).
- I am born again (1 Peter 1:23).
- I am a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- I am pure and innocent (Job 33:9).
- I am delivered (Colossians 1:13).

- I am redeemed from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13).
- I am qualified to share in His inheritance (Colossians 1:12).
- I am victorious (1 Corinthians 15:57).

The same love, care, grace, and mercy is given to each of us who accepts His saving blood on the cross.

OUR OMNIPOTENT GOD

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As Christians, at one point in our walk with Christ, we wonder at God's supreme power. Questions and wonder of God being so powerful as the Bible, His Word, says. The Word is the infallible truth of God. As believers we are to know and have unwavering faith and conviction accompanied by a love of God believing nothing is too hard for our God. People may ask how they can be sure our God is all-powerful. They will first want to know if we believe it and embody it. That we have faith in the truth that is His supreme power. God is omnipotent. God existed all powerful before creation and for eternity!

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. - Genesis 1:1 NASB1995

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. - Genesis 1:3 NASB1995

God simply spoke light into existence. Then God separated the light from darkness. The marvels of Genesis 1 continue. God's power is universal.

Omnipotence is a word meaning "all-powerful," omni in Latin meaning "all," and potens in Latin meaning "powerful." Many people talk about God's power by using the term omnipotence. Omnipotence means God is in total control of himself and his creation. "Almighty" appears in virtually every book of the Old Testament, often dozens of times. The NASB1995 Bible refers to God as "Almighty" 58 times, and the term is used exclusively of God, never of another person or thing.

God revealed Himself as almighty to Abraham (**Genesis 17:1**), Moses (**Exodus 6:3**), John (**Revelation 1:8; 19:6**), and all believers (**2 Corinthians 6:18**).

The Lord's omnipotence naturally extends over Satan and demons. Satan had to ask permission to harm Job (**Job 1:9-12**). Demons fear God (**James 2:19**).

Often, we infer from passages God “can do anything.” The full biblical teaching speaks of things which God cannot do. He cannot perform an immoral action.

**God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent;
Has He said, and will He not do it?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?
– Numbers 23:19 NASB1995**

He cannot lie.

in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, - Titus 1:2 NASB1995

Since God is perfectly holy and good, he cannot do anything evil. And, since he is perfect truth, he cannot do things that are logically contradictory. His truth is a perfect consistency of thought and action.

Examples of God's omnipotence is shown in many stories in the Bible which reveal the power of God: Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, Trinity, creation, the great flood, covenants with man, greatness of nations and leaders, doom of Sodom, Exodus, the Ten Commandments, Job, prophecies, the virgin birth, healings, miracles, atonement, the resurrection, the ascension, Armageddon victory, YOU, and so much more.

The incomparable Christ is shown to us in His word.

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. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. - Colossians 1:13-20
NASB1995

God, by His exerted power, reversed the process of death, overturned the processes of decay, caused a silent heart to beat again, made our Lord's closed eyes to open again, His lifeless corpse to walk and talk again. But there's so much more. Jesus didn't simply return to life. He was not merely resuscitated. He was resurrected with a glorified body, one incapable of aging, pain, sickness, or death. He was resurrected with an eternal body, which, according to **Philippians 3:20-21**, serves as a prototype for our own resurrected bodies. In raising Christ from the grave and transforming His body for eternity, God was and is exerting His strength and power. He displayed His omnipotence in the very center of humanity. Daily we live in Him, through Him, born of Him and our own death overcame by Him in His grace and mercy giving us choice to come to Him and be saved then baptized.

God exists all powerful after Armageddon. **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the**

beginning and the end." - Revelation 22:13

NASB1995

We can boldly witness God's power in our lives to others. We can tell of His sustaining and resurrection power, the transforming power of the Gospel in our lives.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." - Romans 1:16 NASB1995

Every Christian has a unique testimony of God's power. Every testimony is just as real and powerful as the other, and the spiritual change is as lasting by again our choice. We are His "witness" to an "always in session court" regarding the transforming power of the Gospel and the omnipotent grace of God for each

of us. Today, His omnipotence transforms lives, circumstances, and our eternity. His power is tangible and intangible. He is our strength.

OUR OMNISCIENT GOD

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As Christians, at one point in our walk with Christ, we wonder at God's supreme knowledge. Questions and wonder of God being so knowledgeable as the Bible, His Word, says. The Word is the infallible truth of God. As believers we are to know and have unwavering faith and conviction accompanied by a love of God believing God knows everything. People may ask how they can be sure our God is all-knowing. They will first want to know if we believe it and embody it. That we have faith in the truth that is His supreme knowledge. God is omniscient. God existed all-knowing before creation and for eternity.

Omniscient is a word meaning "all-knowing," omni in Latin meaning "all," and sciens in Latin meaning "knowing." Omniscience means He is the ultimate criterion of truth and falsity, so He is always true.

God's knowledge is an all-knowing power. Everything God does is intelligent with a definite goal of glorifying Him. In knowing His own intentions, God knows everything in Himself, in His creation, and throughout history. Scripture often refers to the universality of God's knowledge.

**Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite. - Psalms 147:5
NASB1995**

He *said to him the third time, **“Simon, son of John, do you love Me?”** Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, **“Do you love Me?”** And he said to Him, **“Lord, You know**

all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus *said to him, “Tend My sheep. - John 21:17 NASB1995

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. - Hebrews 4:12-13 NASB1995

in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. - 1 John 3:20 NASB1995

The Bible tells of how God knows detailed happenings on earth, even in the future.

When you go from me today, then you will find two men close to Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say to you, 'The donkeys which you went to look for have been found. Now behold, your father has ceased to be concerned about the donkeys and is anxious for you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?"' - 1 Samuel 10:2 NASB1995

Now behold, there came a man of God from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to burn incense. He cried against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar, thus says the LORD, 'Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.' " Then he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the LORD has spoken, 'Behold, the altar shall be split apart and

the ashes which are on it shall be poured out.’ ” Now when the king heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar in Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, “Seize him.” But his hand which he stretched out against him dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself. - 1 Kings 13:1-4 NASB1995

Hazael said, “Why does my lord weep?” Then he answered, “Because I know the evil that you will do to the sons of Israel: their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword, and their little ones you will dash in pieces, and their women with child you will rip up.” Then Hazael said, “But what is your servant, *who is but* a dog, that he should do this great thing?” And Elisha answered, “The LORD has shown me that you will be king over Aram.” - 2 Kings 8:12-13 NASB1995

**Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O LORD, You know it all. – Psalms 139:4
NASB1995**

**this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined
plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a
cross by the hands of godless men and
put *Him* to death. - Acts 2:23 NASB1995**

**For truly in this city there were gathered together
against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You
anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along
with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do
whatever Your hand and Your purpose
predestined to occur.- Acts 4:27-28 NASB1995**

God's omniscience is based on His authority, for He is the supreme judge of all things, and He is the ultimate standard of truth. He is the very nature of truth.

Jesus *said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. - John 14:6

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; - John 14:16 NASB1995

God’s knowledge is a precious blessing for God’s people. [Psalms 139](#) emphasizes how deeply God knows us wherever we are. Take a moment to read it. God’s knowledge of us pursues us wherever we are: heaven, the grave, on travels, in trouble -- in everything all the time for eternity. All of God’s knowledge is to lead us to Jesus for repentance and forgiveness of sin. If we call on Him, he will not turn back.

**Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth;
For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn
by Myself, The word has gone forth from My**

**mouth in righteousness And will not turn back,
That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will
swear *allegiance*. - Isaiah 45:22-23**

The Lord knows our heart. He knows humanity's hearts. He knew us all before creation. He knew us when He was forming us in our mother's womb. He knows us in our lifetime on earth. He knows how humanity will live. He knows humanity and each of us for eternity.

Would not *God* find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart. - Psalms 44:21 NASB1995

You *know* when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. - Psalms 139:2 NASB1995

His omniscience is truth for us to believe in.

OUR OMNIPRESENT GOD

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As Christians, at one point in our walk with Christ, we wonder at God's supreme presence. Questions and wonder of God being so present as the Bible, His Word, says. The Word is the infallible truth of God. As believers we are to know and have unwavering faith and conviction accompanied by a love of God believing God is present anywhere and everywhere. People may ask how they can be sure our God is present anywhere and everywhere. They will first want to know if we believe it and embody it. That we have faith in the truth that is His supreme presence.

God is omnipresent. God is present anywhere and everywhere before creation and for eternity.

Omnipresent is a word meaning "anywhere and everywhere", omni in Latin meaning "all," and present meaning "anywhere and everywhere."

God is transcendent meaning His nature and power is completely independent of the material universe and His creation. Yet, His immanence is fully present in the physical world and is therefore accessible to His creation in various ways.

God is not immersed in the substance of creation, even though He is able to interact with it as He chooses. He can make His [human-divine body](#) visible anytime and everywhere. He cannot be excluded from any location or creation. God's presence is continuous throughout all of creation, though it may not be revealed in the same way at the same time to people everywhere. At times, He may be actively present in a

situation, while he may not reveal His presence in another circumstance in some another area. God is omnipresent in a way that He can interact with His creation however He chooses and is the very essence of His creation.

The Bible states God can be both present to a person in a manifest manner (Psalms 46:1, Isaiah 57:15) as well as being present in every situation in all of creation at any given time (Psalms 33:13-14).

Specifically, the Bible shows God can be present in every aspect of human life:

- God is naturally present in every aspect of the natural order, in every level of causality, every fleeting moment, and meaningful event of natural history... (Psalm 8:3, Isaiah 40:12, Nahum 1:3)
- God is bodily present in the glory of His Son, Jesus Christ. (Gospel of John 1:14, Colossians 2:9)

- God is sacredly present and becomes known in special places where God chooses to meet us, places set apart by the faithful community (1 Corinthians 11:23-29) where it may say: **"Truly the Lord is in this place"**. (Genesis 28:16, Matthew 18:20)

Omnipresence means divine occupation of all space, divine distribution in overall space, and indwelling of every entity, and that God moves in spaces -- the universe. Nonetheless, it means God is fully present everywhere and God can do different things at different places at the same time.

Since God is eternal, spatial dimensions cannot restrict Him. God's time is infinite; therefore, God is also unrestricted with respect to space. King Solomon realized God greatly transcends containment by anything in all creation.

**“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!
- 1 Kings 8:27 NASB1995**

Magnificent as a man-made temple may be, King Solomon understood God cannot be confined to any part of space, no matter how vast.

Thus says the LORD,

**“Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? -
Isaiah 66:1 NASB1995**

The omnipresence of God signifies that He cannot be contained by the largest space possible. While God does not have spatial limitations, He is not a “bigger space” or a layer area surrounding the space of the universe as we comprehend it. He simply does not

exist in a kind of infinite, unending space. God is present to all space. This does not mean that “at least a little part of God” is cast throughout the infinite reaches of space. Instead, God in His whole being is present at every point of our space. All space is instantly present before Him.

While God is a being who exists without size and dimensions in space, He is not some shapeless “blob.” We are told man is made in the image and likeness of God -- words indicating a sense of shape.

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” - Genesis 1:26 NASB1995

God speaks of himself in human terms.

Then Moses said, “I pray You, show me Your glory!” And He said, “I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.” But He said, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!” Then the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand *there* on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen.” - Exodus 33:18-23

NASB1995

While we may not see the face of our Creator, the omnipresence of God confirms God continually looks upon mankind.

**They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. -
Genesis 3:8 NASB1995**

The prophet Jonah attempted to flee from the Lord.

In reverent awe, David realized:

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? – Psalms 139:7 NASB1995

In all creation, there is no hiding place from the Lord. Through His Spirit, God's reach extends to every corner of the universe as well as into the hearts of mankind.

The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. - Psalms 11:4 NASB1995

BEING THANKFUL

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Thankfulness is also interchangeably called gratitude. There are some differences, but the end works towards the same feeling of fulness. Thankfulness is being pleased about an occurrence, while gratefulness focuses on the feeling and the expression. Thankfulness is passive and gratefulness is active. Thankfulness is dependent, surface-level, and short-lived. Gratefulness is independent, holistic, deeper, long-term and a way of life - a belief system. Being thankful is a very important aspect of our lives, however, gratitude is the appreciation and awareness of the blessings existing in our lives we often overlook.

Thankfulness and gratitude are strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness.

Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions and appreciate experiences and deal with adversity empowered. They help build stronger relationships and embolden us to build those relationships.

Gratefulness often encourages us to be kind and empathetic towards others. We often feel relieved and satisfied as we are thankful. They reduce stress and improve our health. Our whole outlook towards life is more gratified and gratification is encouraging to others and grows exponentially. We become light to others.

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; - Hebrews 12:18 NASB1995

But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the LORD.” - Jonah 2:9 NASB1995

**To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king's matter.” - Daniel 2:23
NASB1995**

**Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples. - 1
Chronicles 16:8 NASB1995**

**O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting. - 1 Chronicles 16:34
NASB1995**

**They are to stand every morning to *thank* and to praise the Lord, and likewise at evening, - 1
Chronicles 23:30 NASB1995**

Now therefore, our God, we *thank* You, and praise Your glorious name. - 1 Chronicles 29:13

NASB1995

I *thank* my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, - Philemon 1:4 NASB1995

Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the nations, And I will sing praises to Your name. - 2 Samuel 22:50 NASB1995

in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. - 1 Thessalonians 5:18
NASB1995

We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, - Colossians 1:3 NASB1995

having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you

were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude. - Colossians 2:7 NASB1995

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving; - Colossians 4:2 NASB1995

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, - Philippians 1:3 NASB1995

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. - Philippians 4:6 NASB1995

Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with

psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. - Colossians 3:14-17 NASB1995

**I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart;
I will tell of all Your wonders. - Psalms 9:1
NASB1995**

**The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him. -
Psalms 8:7 NASB1995**

That *my* soul may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever. - Psalms 30:12 NASB1995

He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; And to him who orders *his* way *aright* I shall

**show the salvation of God.” - Psalms 50:23
NASB1995**

**I will give You thanks forever, because You have
done *it*, And I will wait on Your name, for *it*
is good, in the presence of Your godly ones. -
Psalms 52:9 NASB1995**

**I will praise the name of God with song And
magnify Him with thanksgiving. - Psalms 69:30
NASB1995**

**We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks,
For Your name is near; Men declare Your
wondrous works. - Psalms 75:1 NASB1995**

**Let us come before His presence with
thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with
psalms. - Psalms 95:2 NASB1995**

Enter His gates with thanksgiving *And* His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. - Psalms 100:4 NASB1995

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with all *my* heart, In the company of the upright and in the assembly. - Psalms 111:1 NASB1995

I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me, And You have become my salvation. - Psalms 118:21 NASB1995

At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You Because of Your righteous ordinances. - Psalms 119:62 NASB1995

I will give You thanks with all my heart; I will sing praises to You before the gods. - Psalms 138:1 NASB1995

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. - Psalms 139:14 NASB1995

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; Sing praises to our God on the lyre, - Psalms 147:7 NASB1995

He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. - Ephesians 1:5-6 NASB1995

always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; - Ephesians 5:20 NASB1995

I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, - 1 Corinthians 1:4 NASB1995

If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks? - 1 Corinthians 10:30 NASB1995

but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. - 1 Corinthians 15:57 NASB1995

you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many. - 2 Corinthians 1:11 NASB1995

you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. - 2 Corinthians 9:11-12 NASB1995

we acknowledge *this* in every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, with all thankfulness. - Acts 24:3 NASB1995

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, - 1 Timothy 1:12 NASB1995

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; - 1 Timothy 4:4 NASB1995

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world. - Romans 1:8 NASB1995

The Bible verse list could go on. Discontentment is a struggle for many people. Going back to the Israelites,

we see their struggles with discontentment and how they fail to see the big picture – God’s plan.

Sometimes, we can be so focused in the moment we fail to see God’s blessing and provision.

It is when we learn to thank God in everything, we will begin to grow more content. We may be asking how we can change our attitude from one of discontentment to one of contentment. Ultimately, thanksgiving breeds contentment. Consider what the Apostle Paul wrote to those in the church of Philippi:

Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. - Philippians 4:11-13 NASB1995

Paul knows the secret to being content in all circumstances. His secret has been trusting God. We can speak of Paul's thankfulness in the present as his presence is with the Lord for eternity. We can also. We have a Savior who loves us and wishes us to be saved under His grace and mercy.

When we give thanks regularly, God changes our hearts. The more we thank God, the more we will begin to see and laser focus on all the reasons to in-fact thank God. As we thank God simply for the good in thanking Him in all circumstances, we will feel more satisfied – genuinely happy. We will trust Him more than ever. We will see His hand in and on everything in our lives.

TO WHOM WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE

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We have an obligation to accept responsibility for our actions. It implies a willingness to be transparent, allowing others to observe and evaluate. But when we say this, who is observing and evaluating is who matters most -- our Lord. Accountability helps invoke confidence. Without checks, balances, and consequences for wrongdoing, how would God be a just God? Accountability creates a deep-rooted, internal sense we have a higher standard and measure to who we are and who we serve. Let us look at some verses which clearly define to whom we are accountable.

You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. - Deuteronomy 4:2 NASB1995

And you shall again obey the LORD, and observe all His commandments which I command you today. - Deuteronomy 30:8 NASB1995

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. - John 15:12 NASB1995

This I command you, that you love one another. - John 15:17 NASB1995

Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’ ” - Luke 4:8 NASB1995

When we veer from these verses, accountability becomes more scrutinized internally and externally by the Lord and others. Stress builds and regret sets in like a disease. We feel less and less connected with our Lord to the point, sometimes, of complete removal from the Lord.

It takes strength and courage to obey the Lord, to do the right thing. But the Lord has us covered. He provides us the peace, strength, grace and faith if we make ourselves accountable to only Him.

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. - John 15:18-19 NASB1995

Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’ - Isaiah 41:10 NASB1995

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. - Ephesians 6:11 NASB1995

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, - Romans 5:1 NASB1995

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. - Romans 5:17 NASB1995

For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. – Romans 5:19 NASB1995

When things do not turn out the way we want or expect, it is easy to deny our role in situations and seek external factors to blame, break promises and wait for life to happen rather than making it happen with the Lord. Circumstances and other people's actions can impact our accountability, refusing to accept our personal accountability with the Lord can prevent us from ever achieving our full potential as a child of God.

Everything happening in our life is a direct result of our actions. It is only when we take 100% responsibility for our choices will it lead to a more meaningful and fulfilling life. When we stop blaming external forces, we can redirect our energy to focus

on creating a better personal relationship with our Lord and being accountable to Him. Be accountable.

FINAL WORD

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Get a Bible. Read it. Get into a good church. Following Jesus Christ is an eternal life decision we will never regret. How many things can we say the same?

This book was written to help bring people to Jesus Christ. Meditate on various life occurrences. Being honest, as we read and seek our heart considering how Jesus Christ was the answer in every one of those occurrences. Call out His name. He will come to us. Pray to Him the Lord's prayer. Continue talking (praying) and walking with Him. He will be there as we sincerely listen to Him with a soft, humble heart of forgiveness seeking His truth. Jesus is the answer.

**IT IS NOT THE END.
IT IS THE BEGINNING.
ETERNITY**

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