



“COME UNTO ME”

By

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Dear Saints in Christ Jesus,

These notes were taken from our Old Testament and New Testament Bible surveys at Koinonia on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. The intention was to give an overview of the entire Bible and see how the two testaments “connect.” Within the notes, practical truths were brought out because we know that the study of Scripture without application is like a vehicle without gas...going nowhere.

If the Holy Spirit can use these simply truths to draw you closer to Jesus Christ and develop a more mature love of God the Father, then this booklet will have accomplished its task.

May the blessing of God be shed upon you as you receive, with meekness, His engrafted Word.

Selah,

Pastor Ray

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DAY 1

RETURN UNTO THY REST

Psalm 116:7 is a very comforting passage from God's Word. The writer, full of thanks due to God's graciousness to answer prayer, is reminding himself in the midst of the Lord's blessings to return unto his rest. Jesus wants His sheep to experience rest – rest from works,¹ rest from anxiety.²

Our tendency is to get worked up, bent out of shape, etc. To labor in the Lord is one thing, and we are exhorted to do so.³ But to labor in the flesh – i.e., attempting to “work things out” in human wisdom and strength – is definitely not God's will.⁴ The flesh (man's unregenerate nature) profits nothing!⁵

We can readily see that to “return unto thy rest” means to turn your situation, your fear, your need over to Jesus – really trusting in Him to work things out. There is rest and peace that passes understanding when we truly take things to our Lord in prayer.⁶ He asked Jeremiah, “Is there anything too hard for Me?”⁷ I ask you today, holy brethren, those committed to Jesus Christ: Is Christ able to answer that prayer or meet that need you have? Of course He is.⁸

Psalm 37:7 tells us to first of all “rest in the Lord”. Get alone with Jesus; pour out your heart to Him.⁹ He loves you and invites you to come to Him.¹⁰ Secondly, David writes, “wait patiently for Him”. In other words, do all that you know you are responsible to do, but when you've done it all, get out of the way and let Jesus have His perfect way in your situation. He's perfecting something in your life;¹¹ He's changing you from glory to glory;¹² He's maturing His agape love in your life.¹³ Jesus wants us to find rest in Him.¹⁴ Realize that He chastens and teaches us that we may find rest from the days of adversity.¹⁵

Are you weary of the battle? Are you overwhelmed with circumstances? Are you on the verge of taking matters into your own hands? Are you tired of waiting on the Lord? STOP! He who cried, “It is finished”¹⁶ didn't quit on you then; neither will He now.¹⁷

1-Heb 4:10,11; 2-Psalm 23:1-3a; 3-1 Cor 15:58, Matt 9:37,38;
4-Jer 17:5; 5-John 6:63; 6-Phil 4:6,7; 7-Jer 32:27; 8-Phil 4:19;
9-Psalm 62:8; 10-Heb 4:16; 11-Psalm 138:8a; 12-2 Cor 3:18;
13-Rom 5:3-5; 14-Matt 11:28,29; 15-Psalm 94:12,13; 16-John 19:30;
17-2 Cor 1:3-6, Heb 13:8.

DAY 2

OVERCOMING

Okay, life is tough. There are struggles and hardships for sure. Do we really need a revelation from God to point that out to us? Doesn't the nature of life itself lead us down various paths of difficulties? Of course it does. My concern this week is toward you, the Christian.

In this life's journey, our Lord Jesus is the believer's rest.¹ There is a tendency when things are going wrong to focus on the storm, like Peter did after Jesus bid him to come.² However, it's during the storms that we need, more than ever, to magnify the Lord³ and praise His Name.⁴

In Christ we are overcomers.⁵ God is for us,⁶ and nothing can separate us from Christ's love.⁷ In fact, in all stages and phases of life, "we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."⁸ Praise His Name forever!⁹ The Christian life is a life of victory through our risen Savior. We are victorious over death,¹⁰ and victorious over the world.¹¹ We must remember that our victory is in Him, by Him, and through Him.¹² As we keep our lives fixed in God's Word,¹³ giving us a firm grip on the Sword of the Spirit¹⁴ and using it to fight our battles,¹⁵ God will grant us great victories.¹⁶

May the Spirit of Christ¹⁷ quicken you today in a fresh way.¹⁸ Remember, "greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world",¹⁹ and Jesus Himself has assured us: "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."²⁰

1-Matt 11:28,29; 2-Matt 14:29,30; 3-Psalm 34:3; 4-Psalm 69:30
5-Phil 4:13; 6-Rom 8:31; 7-Rom 8:35,38,39; 8-Rom 8:37;
9-Psalm 86:12; 10-1 Cor 15:54-57; 11-1 John 5:4; 12-Psalm 98:1;
13-John 8:31,32; 14-Eph 6:17, Heb 4:12; 15-Matt 4:4,7,10;
16-2 Sam 23:10,12; 17-Rom 8:9; 18-Rom 8:11; 19-1 John 4:4;
20-John 16:33.

DAY 3

GET EXCITED!

I was reading Colossians 3:2 and, as is so often the case when I study the Scriptures, I ran across an interesting translation of this verse. The 1611 King James Version reads, “Set your affection on things above.” However, the Greek meaning in a literal sense is to interest yourself in things above, implying a moral purity, as the subsequent verses in Colossians declare. What is true in this verse is also true in the Christian’s life. If we plan to glorify Jesus and enjoy our life in the Spirit, we must get excited about the things of God.

I feel strongly about this at Koinonia, that we need to get back to the roots of our faith¹ and get excited. Our adversary² has probably destroyed (i.e., rendered inoperative) as many saints with boredom as he has with compromise. Have you ever asked God to give you a thrill with regard to godly things? Satan has been very successful in painting the Christian life as boring. Many Christians, after the initial encounter with Jesus, either remain in the status quo or take a few steps backward. Is that why God has saved us? Do you really think that we, as the Israel of God,³ glorify Him when we look back at our former friends and old way of living and sigh, “Gee, my life used to be fun, but now...”?

Paul wrote to Titus that Jesus “gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”⁴ If thinking about your redemption doesn’t excite you, consider this: it’s the servants of the Lord who see the miracles.⁵ Any true servant of Jesus will testify that obeying the Lord is often exciting, but if we stray or rebel the Lord says to us: “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”⁶ When we’re excited about following Jesus, we can both bless others by our zeal,⁷ and influence them to also serve Him.⁸

Mark it well – when we lose our zeal for prayer, worship, and witnessing, or we’re no longer thrilled by Bible study, giving, helping others, etc., spiritual decay lies ahead, and we’ll replace the things of God with any number of other things. Are you spiritually bored today? What really excites you? Whatever comes to your mind is what is in your heart in abundance.⁹

Jesus said, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.”¹⁰ Today’s English version translates that verse, “My devotion to Your house, God, burns in me like a fire.” Shouldn’t that be our testimony as well? Let’s get excited!

1-Col 2:6,7; 2-1 Peter 5:8; 3-Gal 6:16; 4-Titus 2:14; 5-John 2:1-11;
6-Rev 3:19; 7-Col 4:12,13; 8-2 Cor 9:2; 9-Prov 23:7a; 10-John 2:17.

DAY 4

RESPONDING TO GOD – NOT REACTING TO CURRENT EVENTS

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old times by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”¹

We Christians certainly live in very exciting times. The daily newspaper and evening news consistently communicate news that is of interest to us for sure. I’m more concerned, however, about my reaction to the Word of God rather than to current events. Let me explain.

The passage quoted above from the Bible is absolutely true. However, you need only to take a Bible Commentary from each century and you will draw the obvious conclusion that our “seeing through a glass darkly”² explanation of Biblical passages can be, and often is, of private interpretation.

We shouldn’t need to see the revived Roman Empire developing in Europe, or the occurrences in the Middle East before we get our act together. We shouldn’t need to witness senseless acts of violence and terrorism in our own nation before we’re motivated to get intimate with Jesus. We should get our act together and be intimate with Jesus because God says so in His Word.³

Indeed, we’re to do this “knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”⁴ Having said that, Paul then declared: “let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light . . . put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof.”⁵

In other words, the second coming of Christ is an incentive to live holy,⁶ no matter what generation you live in. Jesus told of the rich man in hell who made the appeal to send someone to warn his five brothers “lest they also come to this place of torment.”⁷ Jesus said that they have the Scriptures; let them hear them.⁸

Good advice, Lord. Let us hear your word,⁹ do it,¹⁰ and bring forth fruit that shows that we have been with you.¹¹

1-2 Peter 1:20,21; 2-1 Cor 13:12; 3-2 Cor 7:1, James 4:8; 4-Rom 13:11;
5-Rom 13:12-14; 6-1 John 3:2,3; 7-Luke 16:27,28; 8-Luke 16:31;
9-Rom 10:17; 10-James 1:22; 11-Acts 4:13.

DAY 5

THE PROPER FOCUS

With so many evangelical voices today, it can become quite confusing in determining how God intends me to respond. We have (and deeply need) ministries that zero in on families, prayer, singles, prisons, the unsaved, discipleship, and so forth. Each one is indeed both Biblical and necessary. However, I wonder if all of this is sometimes an unintended distraction within the Body of Christ.

I find in my own life that it's so easy to hop on the current evangelical bandwagon, or dive into a particular area of Scripture such as prophecy, holiness, etc., and just stay fixed on that area for a while. Though not a bad wind, Christians can be distracted by too many winds of doctrine or eschatology. With so many applications today, one often finds it difficult to find out where he or she should start.

May I suggest to you today a solution? Focus on Jesus. Read in the gospels how our Lord lived. These are first-hand documents, preserved by the Holy Spirit give us clear, visible instruction. After all, Jesus said to both "learn of Me"¹ and "follow Me."² I believe that is the key.

Perhaps we've focused on "departments of Christianity" too much. Perhaps we've focused on ministry and not character. Matthew 5:1-12 gives us the character of Christ. 1 Cor 13:1-8a describes the love of Christ. May we focus on Christ-like character. As we focus on Jesus, the fruit and ministry that He desires are sure to follow.

Meditate on the following:

Luke 9:23: "Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'"

Hebrews 12:1-3: "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls."

Matthew 11:28-30: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

1-Matt 11:29; 2-Matt 9:9.

DAY 6

THE FAITH TO STAND ALONE

Jesus Christ has set before us two invitations in Scripture. The first is the call to salvation, “Come to Me”.¹ The objective of God the Holy Ghost is to make you and me disciples of Jesus Christ. We are to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ,”² imitate Him,³ think like Him.⁴ If we say that we abide in Him, we ought “also to walk even as He walked.”⁵ Although Scripture teaches us to gather together⁶ for fellowship⁷ and spiritual growth,⁸ there comes a time when we also need to be individually “weaned” by God.⁹

Paul experienced a time when he was abandoned by everyone, including fellow laborers.¹⁰ However, the Lord, blessed be His Name, did not abandon Paul.¹¹ And do you know what? He won’t abandon you either.¹² What was it that kept Paul afloat when others went adrift and left him in prison? His fellowship with Jesus; that is, his not only coming to Him, but also abiding in Him.¹³ It’s one thing to come to Christ, but we also need to respond to our Lord’s second invitation and abide in Him. As we learn of Him¹⁴ and humbly resign ourselves to Biblical responses to both His providential and revealed will, we too are strengthened by Christ.¹⁵

Although we need each other and should endeavor to help each other, we cannot afford to become “spiritual hitch-hikers”. Every man must bear his own load and prove the depth of his or her faith.¹⁶ God faithfully tests us¹⁷ for our benefit. The divine paradox of discipleship is our calling not to be independent, while all the time not being dependent on anyone but Jesus. Our expectation must always come from Him.¹⁸ My prayer is that your faith would grow exceedingly,¹⁹ producing that fruit that shows that you and I have been truly abiding in the living God!²⁰

1-John 7:37, Rev 22:17; 2-Rom 13:14; 3-Eph 5:1; 4-Phil 2:5;
5-1 John 2:6; 6-Heb 10:25; 7-Acts 20:7; 8-Acts 2:41,42; 9-1 Peter 2:2,
Heb 5:12-14; 10-2 Tim 4:16; 11-2 Tim 4:17a; 12-Heb 13:5b,
Matt 28:20b; 13-John 15:4; 14-Matt 11:29; 15-Phil 4:13; 16-Gal 6:4,5;
17-Deut 8:1-5; 18-Psalm 62:5-7; 19-2 Thess 1:3; 20-2 Peter 1:5-8.

DAY 7

THINK ON THESE THINGS

What do you spend the majority of your time thinking about? Are your thoughts primarily negative, critical, angry? Or are they positive, constructive, peaceful? Did you know that the mind is the scene of every spiritual conflict? Therefore, it's important that we, as Christians, take heed to the Word of God and "be transformed by the renewing of (our) mind(s)."¹

How do we do that? By reading God's Word² and meditating on it.³ God's Word is the source of comfort⁴ and truth.⁵ Scripture cannot be broken!⁶ Every other philosophy of life will shatter, but God's truth is forever⁷ and His kingdom is unshakable.⁸ Christ, our Rock,⁹ is the surety of the New Covenant¹⁰ and each and every promise that covenant contains!¹¹ Jesus, the Great Physician,¹² has a prescription for mental health. It's found in Phil 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things."

Admit it, most people (Christians included) do not tend to think of things "on the brighter side". Can part of the problem be that we are not feeding our minds the proper food? Why do you suppose (and I don't claim to have the absolute answer to this) that more people are moved with fear when they hear the word "cancer" than are moved with faith when they read verses like Matt 6:33, Phil 4:19, 2 Tim 1:7, or the 23rd Psalm? May God the Holy Ghost plant fresh in our minds 2 Cor 10:4,5: "For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of "Christ".

Do you bring every thought into captivity to Scripture? In other words, do you line up those ugly thoughts with Scripture and discipline yourself to side in with truth and not error?

Pray that our wonderful Lord Jesus will help each one of us gain more victories in our thought life. If we set our minds on the right things,¹³ the right thought will follow.¹⁴

1-Rom 12:2; 2-Matt 4:4; 3-Psalm 1:1-3, Joshua 1:8; 4-Rom 15:4;
5-John 17:17; 6-John 10:35; 7-Psalm 119:160; 8-Heb 12:28;
9-1 Cor 10:4; 10-Heb 7:22; 11-2 Cor 1:20; 12-Psalm 103:2,3,
Matt 19:1,2; 13-Col 3:1,2; 14-Prov 23:7a, Rom 8:5,6.

DAY 8

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS!

The first chapter of the Book of Joshua contains some valuable counsel for a victorious Christian life. We must realize initially that our victory lies in Jesus Christ.¹ As we consider Him² and keep our eyes upon Him,³ our strength to fight the good fight of faith increases. Joshua was about to fill some big shoes – those of Moses, the servant of the Lord,⁴ the meekest man among them.⁵ What Joshua needed to hear, we too need to hear as we bear the torch of evangelism in our generation.

First of all, God told Joshua that He would never leave him nor forsake him.⁶ Do those words sound familiar? What did our blessed Savior tell His disciples at the end of Matthew's gospel? What did the Holy Ghost speak to the persecuted, fainting Hebrew Christians in Hebrews 13:5b? What does Jesus promise His sheep in John 10:28? He will never leave us and we will never perish!

We can effectively do battle in this life because the war and enmity between God and man is over! We are accepted in the Beloved,⁷ sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,⁸ a child of God by faith in Jesus Christ.⁹ When the soul truly receives the grace of God, there is enabling grace to obtain victory.¹⁰

Many people believe in vain¹¹ and refuse to use God's bestowed grace in their lives. You must mix the promises of God with faith¹² if you expect to be more than a conqueror in Christ.¹³ As long as we look to our own merit or performance for strength, we will always come up short. However, when we look to Jesus with a true heart and full assurance of faith,¹⁴ we have His precious promise of power, love and a sound mind.¹⁵ Christ strengthens us¹⁶ because He knows that by human strength no man can prevail.¹⁷

Our Savior was forsaken¹⁸ that we might never be forsaken! Know today whom you have believed¹⁹ and allow His holy calling and grace²⁰ to lift you unto victory.²¹ "Love never fails",²² and our God, who is love,²³ will not fail you. So be strong and courageous!²⁴

1-1 John 5:5; 2-Heb 12:3; 3-Luke 4:20b; 4-Joshua 1:1; 5-Num 12:3;
6-Joshua 1:5; 7-Eph 1:6; 8-Eph 1:13; 9-Gal 3:26; 10-1 Cor 15:10;
11-1 Cor 15:2; 12-Heb 4:2; 13-Rom 8:37; 14-Heb 10:22; 15-2 Tim 1:7;
16-Phil 4:13; 17-1 Sam 2:9b; 18-Matt 27:46; 19-2 Tim 1:12;
20-2 Tim 1:9; 21-Psalm 121:1,2; 22-1 Cor 13:8a; 23-1 John 4:16b;
24-Joshua 1:6,7,9,18.

DAY 9

EXCUSES

I'm convinced more than ever that Satan's fuel in the believer's life is excuses. Now that might seem a bit harsh at first but think this through with me. Proverbs 26:13 talks about making excuses. The individual here mentions the presence of a lion in the street which hinders him from performing some duty. No doubt the verse implies that the person's own slothful attitude, coupled with a lack of vision and satanic lies about invincible circumstances, caused him or her to do nothing.

Can I tell you a candid truth today? For believers in Jesus Christ there will always be hindrances to serving Him. The devil wants you to "feel right" before you serve. What is the "lion" in your life that hinders your walk? Here are some I've run across in counseling: "I'm too tired to go to church at 8 a.m."; "I'm fighting off a cold"; "I don't feel like going to church" (or Bible study, or prayer meeting, etc.); "I'm too busy". The list is endless.

If you and I do not determine to have a personal prayer/devotion time, attend church and Bible studies, invite people over for fellowship, go to prayer meetings and the like, I can guarantee that Satan will capitalize on your lion-like excuses. Not only that, but we often miss opportunities to minister to others because of excuses such as, "I'd witness more, but I'm afraid"; "I might not know enough Scriptures"; "God certainly can't use me because I'm too old" (or young, or fat, poor, ugly, stupid, etc.). Excuses, excuses, excuses! And every one of them is a lie from Satan!

The Bible tells us that we should be prepared to do the things of God "in season and out of season"¹ and to be ready always.² We often go through our lives excusing our way out of blessing and fellowship. I'm amazed at the time Christians have for TV, exercise, newspapers, magazines, sleep, home repairs, vacation and leisure, but they don't have any time for a mid-week study, family Bible reading and prayer, and so on.

Now we all have family responsibilities and work commitments, and these are God-given duties as well. But would I be wrong in saying that some Christians are content just "getting by" spiritually? Oh yes, those "lions in the street" will get us sidetracked if they can have their way. The real issue is will you let the roaring lion nullify your spiritual walk with lies and excuses,³ or will you choose the Lion of the tribe of Judah⁴ to be the source of your strength?⁵

There are two lions, two choices.⁶ It's your decision.⁷

1-2 Tim 4:2; 2-1 Peter 3:15; 3-1 Peter 5:8; 4-Rev 5:5; 5-Psalm 27:1b, Phil 4:13, 1 Tim 1:12; 6-Joshua 24:14-23; 7-Joshua 24:24, Job 13:15a.

DAY 10

THE FOLLY OF FIGURING GOD OUT

“Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”¹ A literal rendering of this verse would be, “How unexplorable are His judgments, and His ways untraceable.”

None of us can figure God out. We do know, however, that our God is a loving Lord.² We also know, through His Word and by experience, that He is a faithful God.³ Of course, His supreme expression of both His love and faithfulness is found in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.⁴

However, God’s ways of doing things and our ways are quite different.⁵ For example, if you and I were God, how would we set sinners free from their penalty for sin? Would we give up our eldest, precious child for all the inmates in the prisons? No, more than likely we’d just as soon forget about them. Not Abba!⁶

The Word declares that our heavenly Father does things that are great, yet unsearchable.⁷ Job declares that, in reality, we know so little about our God and His power.⁸ Isaiah declares that it is foolish for us to strive against His work in our lives.⁹ Jesus Christ is the Master Potter,¹⁰ working in our lives “both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”¹¹

One problem that we all wrestle with is trying to figure out what God is doing in our lives right now; that is, wondering how He is going to answer this prayer or meet this need. Although the Lord is faithful, He certainly is unpredictable, often using strange methods to accomplish His purposes. The Psalmist declares, “Thy footsteps were not known.”¹² There is a depth to God’s wisdom that we will never understand.¹³ His timing is beautiful, though beyond our finite understanding.¹⁴

Perhaps it boils down to a matter of trust. I have a wonderful wife who is able to be trusted. You also can probably think of someone who is “true blue”, as they say. When we give that person a task or express a need, and they say “I’ll take care of it, don’t worry”, the pressure is off, the load has been lifted.

Child of God, Abba says to you today to give that concern over to Him and let Him handle that burden.¹⁵ It only gets tough when we insist that God use our methods, and we kick against the goads of Providence.¹⁶

1-Rom 11:33; 2-1 John 4:8b-10; 3-1 Cor 1:9; 4-Col 2:9; 5-Isaiah 55:8,9;
6-John 3:16,17; 7-Job 5:8,9; 8-Job 26:14; 9-Isaiah 45:9; 10-Jer 18:1-6;
11-Phil 2:13; 12-Psalm 77:19; 13-Psalm 92:5; 14-Eccl 3:11;
15-1 Peter 5:7; 16-Acts 9:5.

DAY 11

SEEING THINGS GOD'S WAY

Our God “gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did”.¹ This is the true and living God who saw the nation of Israel regathered into their homeland even before their exile and before their return in 1948.² God saw His nation Israel come back to its land from the north (i.e., the former Soviet Union)³ before the event took place across the timeline on earth. You see, our God lives eternally in the present.⁴ To Him, the past, present, and future are all now. Therefore, He and He alone sees the “big picture” in our lives. He ordained our birth⁵ and has appointed a time for us to die.⁶ Likewise, He has a plan and purpose for each one of His children.⁷

As you and I journey through life, things at times seem unclear, uncertain. We need to remember that Jesus is our Lord in bad times as well as in good times. His love for us is unchanging,⁸ but it's only by a daily diet of “manna”⁹ that we can maintain that perspective in life. God's Word indeed helps us to see things God's way. Of course, many details of our lives may not be addressed specifically in Scripture but, as we said before, the big picture is certainly held before us, so to speak, to urge us on.

Child of God, today, at this moment, no matter who you are or what you are going through, take a deep breath and remember that God declares: “all things work together for good to those who love God”.¹⁰ Amazingly, even those things that are downright evil, unfair, and unkind will your God turn for good.¹¹ Of course there is no guarantee in the Word that this life is when God will pull us through, but have you and I forgotten about heaven? Have we lost sight of our eternal home? Yes, we are to live our lives moment by moment. However, those moments should be lived in the presence of God¹² and with the full assurance of where we are headed.¹³

Just as the Lord has taken His chosen people Israel through their turbulent history, so too will that same God work in your life. In fact, He's doing it right now even as you read this devotional. Slowly read Habakkuk 3:17-19 and let God's Word minister to you right now. Just trust in Him, and be blessed.¹⁴

1-Rom 4:17; 2-Ezek 36,37; 3-Isaiah 43:6, Jer 16:14,15; 4-Ex 3:14; 5-Psalm 139:13-16; 6-Heb 9:27; 7-Jer 29:11; 8-Mal 3:6, Heb 13:8; 9-Matt 4:4, John 1:14, 6:48-51; 10-Rom 8:28; 11-Gen 50:20; 12-Acts 17:28a; 13-Phil 3:20; 14-Psalm 1:1-3.

DAY 12

THE PRACTICAL SIDE OF PROPHECY

It is vitally important that we be able to see through the maze of visions, dreams, and other prophetic details. Yes, study of prophecy is necessary!¹ However, if the only “fruit” that comes from it is a Bible that looks more like a road map and a stack of charts showing us “God’s timetable”, I’m afraid we’re missing the point. Knowledge (in itself) puffs up.² The apostle Peter tells us that anticipating the coming of the Lord should encourage us to “holy conversation and behavior”.³ Likewise, the apostle John says that “everyone that has this hope in Him purifies himself, even as He is pure.”⁴ The Lord Jesus tells us to “Occupy till I come.”⁵

Because we do not know the hour our Lord comes, we are exhorted to “Watch”.⁶ Watch what? The stock market? Television? No. Watch what’s happening in our world – compare it to Matt 24:37,38; 1 Tim 4:1-3; 1 Tim 4:3,4 – and realize that the return of Jesus is very soon. Does that mean that we quit our jobs and find a cave to hide in? No.⁷ It’s harvest time!⁸

Do you have your heart right?⁹ Is Jesus “set apart” in your heart and are you a ready vessel?¹⁰ Or should you be teaching others, but instead are drinking milk?¹¹ Is your home a place where Christ would feel comfortable? Is Christ the very center of your career?¹²

What does this have to do with prophecy? The Scriptures state that believers will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.¹³ How will we fare? May the prophetic line of Scripture renew your faith today and rekindle the flame of devotion to Jesus. Be an example of the believer;¹⁴ keep yourself in the love of God.¹⁵ Stay in fellowship.¹⁶ Be faithful.¹⁷ Stay fruitful.¹⁸

“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”¹⁹

1-Rev 1:3; 2-1 Cor 8:1; 3-2 Peter 3:11; 4-1 John 3:3; 5-Luke 19:13;
6-Matt 24:42; 7-2 Thess 3:6-12; 8-Luke 10:2; 9-1 Peter 1:22;
10-1 Peter 3:15; 11-Heb 5:12-14; 12-Col 3:17,23,24; 13-Rom 14:10,
2 Cor 5:10; 14-1 Tim 4:12; 15-Jude 21; 16-Heb 10:25; 17-Rev 2:10c;
18-2 Peter 1:5-8, Gal 5:22,23; 19-2 Peter 1:10,11.

DAY 13

THE TWO ADAMS

To keep a healthy balance in our walk, it is vitally important that we understand our connection with the Adam that fell through sin and the last Adam, Jesus Christ, who rose in victory.¹ All mankind by natural birth is related to the first Adam.² However, to become a part of God's family³ we must receive Jesus Christ as Savior.⁴ This is what constitutes rebirth.⁵ We need to remember that rebirth translates us from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Christ,⁶ but it doesn't remove the principle of sin from our lives. In Christ we are new creatures,⁷ and a "new man".⁸ But we still need, through the Spirit, to mortify that old man.⁹

I feel, however, that many of us have a tendency to relate more to the old Adam than to the last Adam. As I reflect on this "old man", I see myself for what I really am – hopelessly lost, morally bankrupt,¹⁰ and living under a curse.¹¹ However, when that old man was quickened by the Lord,¹² I received, by the grace of God¹³ and to the glory of my Savior Jesus,¹⁴ a change of standing before God,¹⁵ a change of nature from God,¹⁶ a change of mind about God,¹⁷ a change of life for God,¹⁸ a change of family in God,¹⁹ a change of service to God,²⁰ and a change of place with God.²¹

May we all endeavor to walk "in Christ" as opposed to walking "in Adam". Jesus has set us free to serve Him with a pure heart and a good conscience, in love²² and with full assurance of faith.²³

1-1 Cor 15:21,22; 2-Eph 2:1-3; 3-Eph 3:14,15; 4-John 1:12;
5-John 3:3,5-7; 6-Col 1:13; 7-2 Cor 5:17; 8-Col 3:10; 9-Rom 8:13,
Col 3:5; 10-Jer 17:9; 11-Jer 17:5; 12-Eph 2:1,5, Col 2:13; 13-Eph 2:8;
14-1 Cor 1:30,31; 15-Col 2:10; 16-Titus 3:5; 17-Rom 8:15;
18-Phil 1:21; 19-Eph 1:5; 20-Col 3:17; 21-Col 3:1; 22-1 Tim 1:5;
23-Heb 10:22.

DAY 14

FOR THOSE WHO DOUBT

I would certainly think that a man so anointed of God that Jesus could say that he was more than a prophet¹ would never have any lapses in his faith. I'm referring to John the Baptist, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness".² Whenever I read about these Biblical "super-heroes", I must always remind myself that they too have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.³ They too had struggles in their venture of faith.

I've often wondered about John. He takes a stand for righteousness against Herod because of his adulterous situation⁴ and ends up in jail! Nice reward, huh? Well, John is "more than a prophet" and this won't shake him. I mean, he's not only more than a prophet, he's Jesus' cousin! But read Matthew 11:2,3: "And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'" Essentially John was asking Jesus if He is the Messiah. Forget the multitudes he faced and testified to;⁵ he's now in prison and he's having some doubts.

Let's face it, we all encounter those times in our lives when we too feel imprisoned by circumstances and question, "Are You really the Lord?" "Why am I still in this prison?" Oh, how soon we forget those past miracles of answered prayer and God's gracious dealings in our lives. The words that Jesus spoke to sinking Peter are good for his "sinking" saints today: "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"⁶ Selah.

Even up to the moment of His ascension, some amongst the eleven disciples doubted.⁷ Jesus, God Almighty,⁸ "passed the torch" of His gospel to this band of doubters (Peter still had rough edges about 15 years later⁹) and declared that the gates of hell shall not prevail against them!¹⁰ Jesus didn't get down on John the Baptist either because of his lapse of faith. Read in Matthew 11:7-15 His evaluation of John.

I truly believe that we look better in God's eyes than we do in our own. (For example, Revelation 1:6 states we are "kings and priests"! He would not be God if He weren't merciful, and we wouldn't need His mercy if we were perfect! Jesus tenderly whispers to us in His word, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."¹¹

Are you imprisoned in a bad marriage? By ill health? With financial constraints? Are you doubting? Get alone with the Lord. Be still,¹² be patient.¹³ If you find yourself still troubled by your situation, your faith is not in God's ability or promise to deliver, but in yours. To doubt is human, but to remain a doubter is living like an infidel.

Whether He grants you today the power to burst out of your prison or the grace to glorify Him in it, never doubt for one second that Jesus loves you!¹⁴

1-Matt 11:9; 2-Matt 3:3; 3-Rom 3:23; 4-Matt 14:3,4; 5-Mark 1:3-8;
6-Matt 14:31; 7-Matt 28:17; 8-John 1:1,14, Col 2:9; 9-Gal 2:11-14;
10-Matt 16:18; 11-John 14:27; 12-Psalm 46:10; 13-Psalm 27:14;
14-1 John 4:9,10.

DAY 15

FORM, BUT NO POWER

“Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof; from such turn away.”¹ This passage very clearly points out to us the propensity that the human race has to be very religious, very ecclesiastical, and yet lack God’s power. Also note in verses 1-4 of 2 Timothy 3 that these people are not atheistic nor agnostic; rather, they are rebellious, church-going people who love pleasure more than they love God. These words, inspired by God the Holy Ghost,² are a prophecy of the last days.

Does this verse imply that a believer must reach perfection in this life? No.³ It does mean that an individual or a church can become so mechanical and program-oriented that they actually leave their first love,⁴ and their faith or church becomes more like a business than a living relationship.

How close is the Church today to being like the one in Ephesus nearly 2000 years ago? Are we beginning to lose that deep devotion to Christ? If so, God’s message to you and me is simple – repent.⁵ You see, Christ measures power in terms of devotion, not in vast numbers or fancy buildings. To deny the power of God means that we are essentially denying Jesus Himself because Jesus is “the power of God”.⁶ In fact, He is “the head of all principality and power.”⁷ When we receive Christ as Lord, we receive the power to become the children of God.⁸ That power is being manifested in our day-to-day lives.

I find that another evidence of last days will be a “cross-less” gospel. We see so many gimmicks and emotional methods used to get a “decision for Jesus”, but Scripture declares that the cross is the power of God unto salvation.⁹ Our Lord Jesus humbled Himself on that cross.¹⁰ He made peace through the blood of His cross.¹¹ The handwriting of ordinances against mankind was nailed to that cross.¹² That way, and no other way, is the basis of a person’s salvation.¹³ Jesus took no short-cuts to obtain our salvation and we should take no shortcuts in leading a person to salvation. Without the cross our faith is impersonal and merely a form, although we may indeed be recognized by man. Seeking souls will still be saved by our loving Father, but I wonder just how devoted God’s people are today.

You see, to accept Christ’s cross is to receive yours. His crucifixion preceded His powerful resurrection. That is why we, like Paul, glory in Christ’s cross¹⁴ because we realize that, although to the unsaved we seem weak and insignificant, in God’s eyes we now live by the power of God.¹⁵

Child of God, don't settle for a form of religion, a form of prayer, a form of tithing, a form of witnessing. Rather "...be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."¹⁶ "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."¹⁷

1-2 Tim 3:5; 2-2 Peter 1:20,21; 3-Phil 3:12-14; 4-Rev 2:4; 5-Rev 2:5;
6-1 Cor 1:24; 7-Col 2:10; 8-John 1:12, Rom 10:9,10; 9-1 Cor 1:18;
10-Phil 2:8; 11-Col 1:20; 12-Col 2:14; 13-Matt 26:42; 14-Gal 6:14;
15-2 Cor 13:4; 16-Eph 6:10; 17-2 Tim 1:7.

DAY 16

COMPLACENCY

Complacency is a feeling of contentment and satisfaction. While God has given to us “exceedingly great and precious promises”,¹ we must bear in mind that Jesus is the rewarder of those who diligently (not complacently) seek Him.² I don’t want to belabor you this week with a lot of spiritual “mumbo-jumbo”, but I want you to honestly ask yourself if you are spiritually satisfied. To put it another way, are you more concerned about your spiritual condition than your transitory life and goals?

We see in Scripture the principle of conquest. For example, God told Israel that they would be given every inch of land where their feet trod.³ What a promise! But how sad is the fact that they didn’t inherit all the land. Rather than drive out all of the inhabitants, they chose to peacefully coexist with them. Thus instead of receiving their full inheritance (akin to the abundant life in the Spirit promised by Jesus: “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.”⁴), they experienced great difficulties in their walk. (See why in Num 33:55,56.)

Why are we so content living in conditions of spiritual stagnation and erosion? How can we ever believe that we’ve “pressed ”enough?⁵ What do you think is the difference between the victorious Christian life and the nominal Christian life? I believe it’s that Caleb-like attitude of wholly following the Lord.⁶ I’m not talking about being perfect or without fault. Rather, I am talking about the driving desire of your life. Is it to know Jesus more? That’s the key to victory, walking in fellowship with Jesus.⁷ I can never give enough to Jesus. He’s been so wonderful to me!

Have you reached your spiritual plateau? Have you “settled in” spiritually? Have you said, in essence, “Lord, I choose to go no further”? Have you settled into a “once-a-week diet” at your local church? Are you content with 10 minutes of devotions, Bible study, prayer? Or does your soul pant after your Lord?⁸ The enemy can never take away your salvation, but if he can wear you down to the point where you become complacent, he’s achieved his goal.

Be like Joshua today and ask Jesus, “What saith my Lord unto His servant?”⁹ Follow Paul’s example and ask, “Lord, what do You want me to do?”¹⁰ The church of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom would be much more effective if we were more in danger of burning out than resting out.

1-2 Peter 1:4, 2 Cor 1:20; 2-Heb 11:6; 3-Joshua 1:3; 4-John 10:10b;
5-Phil 3:14; 6-Joshua 14:6-14; 7-1 Cor 1:9, Rev 3:20; 8-Psalm 42:1;
9-Joshua 5:14; 10-Acts 9:6.

DAY 17

TIME TO WISE UP

The Bible tells us that David was a man after God's own heart.¹ In chapter 18 of 1 Samuel we see one attribute of a man (or woman) after God's own heart. Four times in chapter 18 (in verses 5,14,15,30) the Word tells us that David behaved himself wisely. The Hebrew word for wise means "to be circumspect, intelligent". To be circumspect means to be mindful of consequences, to look around, take heed.

Make no mistake in trying to prove how "perfect" David was, for Scripture records in the book of 2 Samuel his adultery with Bathsheba,² his poor control over his household,³ and his foolish numbering of Israel.⁴ Yes, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God",⁵ even the man after God's own heart. You see, David wasn't a sinner because he sinned, but he sinned because he was born (as you & I were) a sinner; that is, with a fallen, flawed nature. But did he (or do we) have to yield to temptations? No.⁶ If David had consistently walked wisely he would not have given in to such blatant sins.

Brethren, there is a real need to walk wisely today. Paul said that we should walk "circumspectly" (There's that word again.), "not as fools" (by God's definition in Psalm 14:1) "but as wise".⁷ In other words, weigh the consequences of breaking fellowship with Jesus or turning your back on His clear teachings. Is anything really worth compromising for?

We are to redeem the time; yes, redeem that time of temptation and get the victory through Jesus.⁸ Redeem the time in His Word. Redeem that time with your spouse and children. Redeem that time at church. Why? Because "the days are evil."⁹ Don't compromise! Don't make a pact with the enemy! Or, as someone has said, "Don't stroke the serpent; kill him!"

Don't merely profess yourself to be wise;¹⁰ be wise.¹¹ A wise son pleases the father.¹² A wise son hears and heeds God's Word.¹³ A wise son is a soul winner,¹⁴ and seeks good fellowship.¹⁵

Now is the time to wise up before we rise up!¹⁶

1-1 Sam 13:14; 2-2 Sam 11; 3-2 Sam 13; 4-2 Sam 24; 5-Rom 3:23;
6-1 Cor 10:13; 7-Eph 5:15; 8-2 Cor 2:14; 9-Eph 5:16; 10-Rom 1:22;
11-Matt 25:1-10; 12-Prov 10:1; 13-Prov 13:1, 2 Tim 3:16,17; 14-Prov
11:30b, James 5:20; 15-Prov 13:20; 16-John 5:28,29, 1 Thess 4:15-18,
1 John 2:28.

DAY 18

YOU ARE MINE

The Lord God declared to Israel that He had formed them and redeemed them.¹ We too, as born-again² followers of Jesus Christ, have been both fearfully and wonderfully created³ and recreated in Christ Jesus.⁴

Our Lord calls us by name,⁵ just like when Jesus spoke “Mary” near the garden tomb.⁶ He is so deeply interested in our lives and so protective of us. In fact, He possessively declared, “You are Mine.”⁷ The prophet Malachi speaks about those who feared the Lord and thought upon His Name. “‘They shall be Mine,’ says the Lord”.⁸

What a precious truth to tuck away in the depths of our hearts! We, you and I, belong to Jesus Christ. We are His precious bride,⁹ and He is our Bridegroom.¹⁰ The Lord indeed knows personally, intimately and with detail those that are His.¹¹ He knows your needs, your limitations, your grief. He also knows your iniquity that robs you of joy and peace, and that’s why the second half of 2 Timothy 2:19 states that we should depart from the iniquity.

No book of the Bible more beautifully sets forth this loving relationship between the bridegroom and his bride than the Song of Solomon (or Song of Songs). Ironically, this book follows Ecclesiastes, where the phrase “vanity of vanities”¹² refers to life under the sun in contrast to the Song of Solomon’s depiction of life in the Son. The Song is a wonderful melody of an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, expressing the ups and downs, trials and joys. Despite the challenges in the relationship, the love that exists is never in doubt. “I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine.”¹³

Does Jesus Christ have the love of your heart, soul, mind, and strength?¹⁴ Be secure in God’s love or you will never be secure in anyone or anything else. His love never fails.¹⁵ Let those words of Jesus, “You are Mine” minister to you today. It’s the only theology you need to know when the floods and fires of life come.¹⁶

1-Isaiah 43:1; 2-John 3:3-8, 1 Peter 1:23; 3-Psalm 139:13-16;
4-2 Cor 5:17; 5-Isaiah 43:1, John 10:3; 6-John 20:16; 7-Isaiah 43:1;
8-Mal 3:16,17; 9-Eph 5:22-32; 10-John 3:29; 11-2 Tim 2:19a,
Psalm 139:1-6; 12-Eccl 1:2; 13-Song 6:3; 14-Luke 10:27;
15-1 Cor 13:8a; 16-Isaiah 43:2.

DAY 19

THE GLOW FACTOR

This title sounds more like a science-fiction movie than a Biblical theme, doesn't it? However, we find the Scriptures mentioning light, illumination or "glowing" quite a bit. Of course, the source of all light (except that which is meant to deceive, of course¹) is the Lord Jesus Christ.² The Godhead will shine so brightly in glory that there will be no need for any created or artificial light.³

In the New Testament, believers are likened to lights on a hill;⁴ lights in the midst of this twisted world system.⁵ To be effective lights I believe the "glow factor" in Moses' life is the key element. In Exodus we read that Moses fellowshiped with Jehovah for forty days and nights. Supernaturally sustained by God, he neither ate food nor drank water during this "retreat", but one visible result was that "the skin of his face shone".⁶ Why did Moses glow? Because he spent time with the Lord, alone. Private time, intimate time, no distractions.

Think about this. Moses we know was married with children,⁷ in addition to having a "small" congregation of around three million! Do you think he could have explained away the need to get alone with God, being "too busy" perhaps? I'm sure he could (and maybe with some Bible-versed support, like we might do). But do you know what? I'm sure that neither he nor you and I could be of any significant usefulness apart from (let's call it) "glow time". Too often we go to work, school, and even church with the wrong glow – the glow of anger or unrest, perhaps. How much we miss out on by ignoring that time with our Shepherd.⁸ Don't you agree? This, sitting at Jesus' feet with an open Bible and worshipful heart, is the one necessary thing⁹ if we are to glow for Him.

Your flesh won't "inspire" you to go to the mercy seat of God;¹⁰ your job won't, and in some cases your family won't either. Nevertheless, we must spend time with the Lord if we intend to be used mightily by the Lord. Worshiping,¹¹ confessing our sins,¹² meditating upon Him and His Kingdom¹³ are spiritual logs that kindle the glow of God's Spirit within our hearts and lives.

The Jewish leaders noticed Stephen's glow.¹⁴ Your family, school-mates, or co-workers will notice your glow. May the Lord's shine upon you increase and abound more and more.¹⁵

1-2 Cor 11:3,4, 13-15; 2-John 1:1-9, 8:12; 3-Rev 21:1,23, 22:5;
4-Matt 5:16; 5-Phil 2:15; 6-Exodus 34:28-30; 7-Exodus 4:20;
8-John 10:14; 9-Luke 10:39,42; 10-Exodus 25:22, Heb 4:16;
11-John 4:23,24; 12-1 John 1:9; 13-Psalm 1:1-3; 14-Acts 6:15;
15-Num 6:23-25.

DAY 20

FOLLOW ME

One evening I was watching a Gayle Erwin video on the nature of Jesus. In that particular section he was pointing out things that our modern church has that the early church didn't have. Likewise, he listed things that we both have in common. Think that through in your own mind and list the things that we have and do not have in common with our early church family.

Well after watching that video, on my way to the office a few days later, I began to think about what Gayle had said, but in terms relative to the family and our different societies in general. What do we possess today that families back then didn't have? Once again, what do we have that they also had? Are you beginning to see a pattern developing? If your list is like mine, I'm seeing us as having more "things" or gadgets. Certainly, particularly in the areas of medicine and technology, we have some decided advantages. However, has the quality of living improved? I'm not convinced that we've come all that far.

Could it be, as Gayle was pointing out, that we've become more dependent upon the transitory "changeables" and have politely shucked the Kingdom "unchangeables" to the rear? Simplicity is a word that somehow got lost in the recycling bin. Is it really true that only one thing is needful?¹ Can it be possible to have only one desire?² Was Paul pulling my leg when he wrote that he only did one thing?³

Has the church put God's word on trial? Are we consuming ourselves with unnecessary things?⁴ Is Luke 12:15 really true, that "one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses"? Are we majoring in the tangibles while ignoring the intangibles? God's way is so much better!⁵ Wisdom excels over money.⁶ Little with the fear of God is more valuable than Lotto.⁷

Love is the greatest seasoning.⁸ Righteous living is God's "gold standard".⁹ "Toning" our anger would produce more peace in our homes than the "30-minute work-out".¹⁰ We need to cut the cord of the world¹¹ and embrace the things of the Kingdom of God.¹² Quality living¹³ can only be found in Jesus' own words, "...come, follow Me."¹⁴

1-Luke 10:41,42; 2-Psalm 27:4; 3-Phil 3:13,14; 4-Matt 6:19-21, 24-34;
5-Isaiah 55:8,9; 6-Prov 3:13, 15; 7-Prov 15:16; 8-Prov 15:17;
9-Prov 16:8; 10-Prov 16:32; 11-1 John 2:15-17; 12-Rom 14:17;
13-John 10:10; 14-Luke 18:22.

DAY 21

KNEE-OLGY

Prayer is the most vital ingredient in the life of the church. It's that fellowship with the Lord that each of us so desperately needs. Jesus spent time in prayer, sometimes all night, before making important decisions.¹ At other times we find our Savior rising up a great while before daybreak to pray.² We find Him both spontaneously addressing the Father with great joy³ and, before going to Calvary, deliberately spending time in Gethsemane in agonizing prayer.⁴ Jesus in each of these instances gives us an example of the need for prayer.

Is someone spitefully using you or persecuting you today? Pray for them.⁵ It's important that we do not "showcase" our prayer life,⁶ or get into repetitive, heartless, vain repetitions.⁷ Never forget the One you are talking to.⁸

Pentecost dawned on a prayer meeting,⁹ and this became part of the "normal Christian life".¹⁰ If there is someone or some situation that could use a good shaking, try prayer.¹¹ As a pastor, prayer is half of my two-fold priority.¹²

The Holy Spirit is a great help in our prayer life,¹³ and like Jesus, steadfastness in prayer is vital to us.¹⁴ We each need that prayer support, both Divine¹⁵ and human.¹⁶ Prayer, which in its simplest form is communing with God, need never take a commercial break.¹⁷

Nothing is too little or too great to take to the Lord in prayer¹⁸ because He doesn't just want to be a part of your life; He wants to BE your life.¹⁹ Our prayers are heard²⁰ and received; indeed, they are heaven's incense.²¹ In fact, the last Biblical reference to prayer is found in Rev. 8:4, ascending up to God.

Oh, the gift of prayer! Take advantage of it. Expect things to happen as the result of prayer. As we prayerfully put the Lord in the "equation" of life – its problems, pains, decisions, or joys – we will find things much easier.²²

1-Luke 6:12,13; 2-Mark 1:35; 3-Luke 10:21; 4-Matt 26:36-39;
5-Matt 5:44; 6-Matt 6:5; 7-Matt 6:7; 8-Matt 6:8b,9; 9-Acts 1:14, 2:1-4;
10-Acts 2:42; 11-Acts 4:31; 12-Acts 6:4; 13-Rom 8:26; 14-Rom 12:12;
15-Rom 8:27; 16-Rom 15:30; 17-1 Thess 5:17; 18-1 Peter 5:7;
19-Col. 3:3,4 20-Psalms 34:15,17; 21-Rev 5:8; 22-Matt 11:30.

DAY 22

“I AM THE GREATEST!”

When I was younger there was a famous heavyweight boxer who proclaimed, “I am the greatest!” Typically, that’s the spirit of the world we live in. Looking out for self, indulging self, promoting self, etc. How contrary to the message of Jesus! Jesus tells us that for someone to lay claim to greatness in the Biblical sense means that he is the servant of all.¹ A servant? Great? In the world’s view, no; but in God’s eye, precious.

Leonard Bernstein is known to have said that the hardest spaces to fill in an orchestra are second horn or violin. Why? Because everyone wants the lead roll, the spotlight, the accolades, the applause. The Flesh!

The refusal to play “second fiddle” can creep into the church. 3 John 9 tells us how Diotrephes loved to have preeminence. Let’s never forget Who is the Preeminent One.² The greatest in God’s Kingdom are those who serve.³ Jesus, our supreme example, is known as The Servant.⁴ He demonstrated it at the Passover meal by serving the meal⁵ and washing the apostles’ feet.⁶ Ultimately, taking that servant form⁷ led to His greatest sacrifice – His death on the cross⁸ for the sin of the world.⁹ So the One who could truly say, “I AM¹⁰ – the Greatest”, demonstrated that greatness by serving.

The destiny of the child of God is to serve Him throughout eternity.¹¹ The choice to serve God is up to you.¹² Taking into account the uncertainty of our life-span¹³ and its certain brevity,¹⁴ it is of eternal value to choose to follow the Greatest. You cannot be governed by two masters,¹⁵ nor can you choose your “clientele”.¹⁶ Certainly, you cannot be looking for the applause of men.¹⁷

How the Lord is pleased when His love flows through us towards one another¹⁸ in service. Read how Anna served God in such a selfless way,¹⁹ and how Phoebe demonstrated a truly “liberated woman”.²⁰ Paul told Timothy how the servant of the Lord should conduct himself or herself.²¹ The Psalmist tells us ingredients vital to serving God.²² Do you know what attributed to Daniel’s promotions, revelation, and “lions’ den ministry”? He served God continually.²³ Along this path of serving Jesus, you will be rejected, mocked, accused, applauded, encouraged, discouraged, etc. But never forget the price that was paid²⁴ to make you a servant of the King.

Bring the Carpenter’s awl, please.²⁵

1-Matt 23:11; 2-Col 1:18; 3-Mark 10:43,44; 4-Isaiah 42:1; 5-Luke 22:27;
6-John 13:3-15; 7-Phil 2:7; 8-Phil 2:8; 9-John 1:29; 10-John 8:58;
11-Rev 7:15, 22:3; 12-Joshua 24:15; 13-Psalm 119:84; 14-James 4:14;
15-Matt 6:24; 16-1 Cor 9:19; 17-Gal 1:10; 18-Gal 5:13; 19-Luke 2:36,37;
20-Rom 16:1,2; 21-2 Tim 24,25; 22-Psalm 2:11, 100:2; 23-Dan 6:16,20;
24-1 Cor 6:20; 25-Exodus 21:6.

DAY 23

OUT OF CONTROL

The Bible teaches us that in the last days mankind will be full of distress and perplexity.¹ The word “perplexity” comes from a Greek word meaning “no way out”. In other words, things will be out of control. Things get out of control when they operate in opposition to Scripture. Being a child of God does not license us to forsake God’s principles about various issues of life. If there were ever a time when we needed to stick to the Book, it is now!

The nation of Israel is given as an example of suffering because of following their own lustful ways instead of conforming to the will of God.² Just because the mass of humanity lives a certain way doesn’t mean that it’s right.³ In fact, the exact opposite is more likely to be true.⁴ May we each seriously receive the wisdom⁵ that we need to keep in step with God’s Word.⁶

“Pleasure-mania” is out of control. Violence is out of control. Immorality is out of control. I’m amazed at how many Christians are impressed with the apparent “morality” of unsaved friends who, at the same time, reject God’s standards of moral absolutes. Face it, the good old U.S.A. is not a Christian nation any more than Iraq is! It is a nation with Christians in it, but it’s not a “theocratic” nation except “on paper” — our money, which proclaims “IN GOD WE TRUST”.

It’s high time we got off the bus of immorality⁷ and materialism.⁸ It’s time that we got back to “apostolic living”.⁹ Time is short.¹⁰ “The Lord is at hand.”¹¹

May we realize our true homeland¹² is where our real treasures are.¹³ Setting our affections on the right Person¹⁴ and right things¹⁵ is the only sure way to peace in a world that is out of control.

1-Luke 21:25; 2-1 Cor 10:1-11; 3-Exodus 23:2; 4-Matt 7:13,14;
5-James 3:17; 6-Psalm 119:1-3; 7-2 Peter 1:4; 8-Luke 12:15;
9-Acts 2:42-47; 10-1 Cor 7:29; 11-Phil 4:5; 12-John 14:2,3;
13-Luke 12:33; 14-Heb 12:2; 15-Col 3:1,2.

DAY 24

FAITH PRODUCES FRUIT

In Luke's 13th chapter we find the Lord speaking in parabolic form about how a certain man planted a fig tree in his vineyard and came to it looking for fruit.¹ This parable closely follows our Lord's teaching about repentance.

Genuine repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ² produces fruit. God is working in our lives³ so that we may, by His grace, bring forth fruit, the evidence of our repentance.⁴ As we plant the seed of God's Word into our lives⁵ we will, as in Genesis, produce fruit "after its kind".⁶ However, many people, like Cain, try to obtain a right relationship with God by bringing the fruit of their own efforts,⁷ but this fruit is unacceptable to God.⁸

God only receives us when we receive His Son Jesus as our Savior. Then we can begin the process of fruit-bearing. To bear fruit we need to abide in the Vine, who is Jesus.⁹ In John 15 we see, as in the Lord's parable in Luke, that the Father is glorified when we bear fruit. We see in Psalm 1:1-3 the conditions necessary to produce fruit. Even in old age we can continue to be fruitful for the Lord!¹⁰

How sad to neglect the things of the Lord and eat the fruit of our own way.¹¹ The fruit that God gives us through Christ is beyond dollar value.¹² Scripturally it's likened to "a tree of life".¹³ Once again, this fruit can only come from the Root¹⁴ within us.¹⁵ Then we find that even our mouth is affected by this "holy Root".¹⁶

A sure way to be fruitless, however, is to ignore obedience to God's Word.¹⁷ Because Israel's heart was divided they were considered to be an empty, fruitless vine.¹⁸ "From Me", says the Lord, "is your fruit found."¹⁹

What does this fruit look like? Galatians 5:22,23 paints this picture of it: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." This is what Jesus is looking for in our lives. May this fruit be increasingly evident in all that we do, individually and collectively.

1-Luke 13:6-9; 2-Acts 20:21; 3-Phil 2:13; 4-Luke 3:8a; 5-Luke 8:11, 1 Peter 1:23; 6-Gen 1:11; 7-Gen 4:3; 8-Gen 4:5a; 9-John 15:1-8; 10-Psalm 92:12-14; 11-Prov 1:29-31; 12-Prov 8:19a; 13-Prov 11:30a; 14-Isaiah 11:10; 15-Prov 12:12b; 16-Prov 12:14a, 13:2a, 18:20; 17-Hosea 9:16,17; 18-Hosea 10:1,2; 19-Hosea 14:8.

DAY 25

CONSIDER

In Ecclesiastes 7:14 we are told, “In the day of adversity consider”. You can look up the word “adversity” for yourself in a Strong’s Concordance under #7451 (in the Hebrew) and you’ll quickly see that it is not referring to a picnic in the park.

We’ve all felt, to some extent, the crunch of our economy. In addition to that, the morals of our society just seem to be spiraling downward at an accelerated pace. Indeed, Luke 21:26, which prophecies of “men’s hearts failing them from fear and expectation of those things which are coming on the earth”, is being fulfilled even now. Is there no hope for the child of God? Must we, like the world, suffer from failing hearts and troubled minds? No. Our Lord wants us to trust Him and not be afraid.¹

When adversity strikes, what do you consider? Jesus tells us to do some bird watching.² He also tells us to check out the lilies.³ I find in Hebrews 3:1 and 12:3 that Jesus is to be given our utmost consideration. I realize that looking at myself can only make matters worse, and worrying will not give me a “growth spurt”.⁴ Instead, I’d do well to follow Paul’s advice in Philippians 4:6-8: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.”

When God addressed Israel through the prophet Haggai, He twice told them to consider their ways.⁵ I find that in tough times it’s easier to consider the impossibilities of my situation; however, it’s more profitable to consider Jesus.

“Consider the work of God”.⁶ He is unchanging⁷ in His care for you.⁸ Fill your heart with God’s Word.⁹ Meditate on His eternal Word.¹⁰ Make Joshua 1:8,9 your consideration in tough times. The key to peace is to “fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.”¹¹

1-John 14:1; 2-Luke 12:24; 3-Luke 12:27; 4-Luke 12:25; 5-Hag 1:5,7;
6-Eccl 7:13; 7-Mal 3:6; 8-1 Peter 5:7; 9-Col 3:16; 10-Psalm 1:1-3,
119:15,16; 11-1 Sam 12:24.

DAY 26

JUST THINK ABOUT IT

Wouldn't it be great if there were Bible verses that sounded like, "Think about prayer", or "Think about giving". I mean, with a Bible like that I could be almost perfect! Now, however, I could probably author a book entitled, "The Book of Good Intentions". The frightening thing is, I wonder how many people can be lulled into a state of false peace just because they forever intend to do something.

I'm not necessarily knocking those good intentions or ideas you get, but I am challenging you to take them one step further and put legs on them. After all, isn't that what being followers of Jesus is all about, being "imitators of God"?¹ If we would only learn that doing what the Lord says is discipleship.² In fact, it's half of the Great Commission.³ This "revelation" has come to me very clearly these past few weeks, but in a way that I never would have expected. God used a dictionary! If that seems too far-fetched to some of you, or not spiritual enough, consider talking to a donkey⁴ or praying out of the belly of a great fish.⁵

Anyway, I "discovered" in my dictionary that the word "faith" is a noun; it defines what I believe. However, the word "believe" is a verb. Get the catch? Believing takes action. Faith can define prayer whereas believing prays. Faith can define giving whereas believing gives. John states this so beautifully: "He who believes on Him is not condemned; but he who believes not is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."⁶

True faith is active. That's what Paul and James so beautifully tell us in their inspired writings.⁷ Paul was arguing for the priority of faith⁸ whereas James was arguing for the proof of faith.⁹ No man will ever be moved to action without faith, and no man's faith is genuine unless it moves him to action. Praise God!

We are saved judicially by God,¹⁰ meritoriously by Christ,¹¹ mediately by faith,¹² and evidentially by works.¹³ Just think about it: "The people who know their God shall be strong and do great exploits."¹⁴ They will not be mere "sermon sippers".¹⁵

1-Eph 5:1, Matt 5:48; 2-James 1:22; 3-Matt 28:19,20; 4-Num 22:27-31; 5-Jonah 2; 6-John 3:18; 7-2 Tim 3:16,17; 8-Rom 1:17; 9-James 2:17; 10-Rom 8:33; 11-Isaiah 53:11; 12-Rom 5:1; 13-James 2:14-26; 14-Dan 11:32b; 15-Ezek 33:30-32.

DAY 27

HOLINESS IN ACTION

In both the Old and New Testaments we read about a heavenly scene where God is being worshipped with the words, “Holy, Holy, Holy.”¹ God is Holy; in fact, that is His very Name.² He alone is “reverend” (or “awesome”).³ Rather than being a part of creation, God is the Creator⁴ and is totally set apart from His creation. He indeed is “blessed forever”⁵ and “a faithful Creator.”⁶ There is no comparison between the infinite God and finite man.

What are some of the reactions of individuals in Scripture when they had a “close encounter of the best kind”? Moses responded to God’s call by saying, “Who am I?”⁷ Upright Job was “itching” to talk to God,⁸ but when he finally stood before the Lord he declared, “I am vile.”⁹ David, like Moses, responded to God’s blessings with a deep sense of awe.¹⁰ Thomas, when face to face with the risen Master, simply stated, “My Lord and my God.”¹¹ John the revealer fell at His feet as dead.¹²

Take note that each one of these individuals was God’s chosen vessel, and yet when in His presence each of them came to the same conclusion that Paul did: “O wretched man that I am!”¹³ Because God is supremely holy and we are mortal, His presence would generate the same initial response in us to our unholy condition.

You see, we are saved sinners. The principle of sin is still active in our flesh and to deny this is to deceive ourselves.¹⁴ Praise the Lord that the sin penalty has been paid by Jesus Christ!¹⁵ The Just died for the unjust that He might bring us to God.¹⁶ Sin no longer has dominion in the believer’s life,¹⁷ but sometimes we are overtaken¹⁸ and concur with our Savior that this flesh is weak.¹⁹ The recognition that God is holy and we are unholy should result in praise and adoration at God’s plan of salvation for us.²⁰

The fruit of this revelation is humility. A proud person does not know God, nor can he or she be used by Him other than in an incidental way. The first beatitude declares a recognition of our spiritually bankrupt condition.²¹

True conversion will usher in this humility, and God’s grace will work a compassion in our hearts that cries at the world’s pain and reaches out to them, “for the love of Christ compels us.”²²

A holy God²³ using holy people²⁴ – evangelism at its finest.

1-Isaiah 6:3, Rev 4:8; 2-Isaiah 57:15; 3-Psa 111:9; 4-Isaiah 40:28; 5-Rom 1:25; 6-1 Peter 4:19; 7-Ex 3:11; 8-Job 23:3,4; 9-Job 40:4; 10-1 Chron 29:14; 11-John 20:28; 12-Rev 1:17; 13-Rom 7:24; 14-1 John 1:8; 15-John 1:29; 16-1 Peter 3:18; 17-Rom 6:1-14; 18-Gal 6:1; 19-Matt 26:41; 20-Rom 5:6,8,10; 21-Matt 5:3; 22-2 Cor 5:14; 23-1 Peter 1:15,16; 24-1 Peter 2:9.

DAY 28

JESUS IS COMING!

That blessed hope¹ has encouraged saints in all generations, and the anticipation of the second coming of Christ is to have an effect on my conduct before others: “Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand.”² The fact that Jesus could come for His Church³ at any moment is a truth that inspires me to live a pure, holy life.

The apostle John wrote: “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”⁴ John also exhorts us to abide in Him so that we will “not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”⁵ In other words, anticipating the coming of Jesus should prompt us to prepare.⁶

Jesus Himself has told us to be ready.⁷ What preparations are you making for His return? Are you getting weary of fighting? Listen to the Word of God in 1 Timothy 6:12: “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” Are you denying ungodliness and worldly lusts? Titus 2:12 says that, “denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age”. And 1 John 2:15,16 exhorts: “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world.”

Are you maintaining a close relationship with Jesus? Are you keeping in fellowship with other believers regularly?⁸ Is your personal prayer life edifying,⁹ effective,¹⁰ mindful of others?¹¹ How is your personal construction coming along?¹² Are you applying yourself to the checklist found in 2 Peter 1:5-7? Although His coming will be a surprise to many, an abiding saint need not be surprised. The King is coming! Does this thought excite you? Are you looking?

It’s time to throw out the trash,¹³ pull out those thorns,¹⁴ and stop the excuses.¹⁵ May His grace revive you this week and give you the strength to deny yourself,¹⁶ run with endurance,¹⁷ wrestle against evil,¹⁸ and resist the devil.¹⁹ Remember the promise of Jesus: “I am coming quickly!”²⁰

1-Titus 2:13; 2-Phil 4:5; 3-1 Thess 4:15-18; 4-1 John 3:2,3;
5-1 John 2:28; 6-Rev 19:7; 7-Matt 24:44; 8-Heb 10:24,25; 9-Jude 20;
10-James 5:16; 11-1 Tim 2:1,2; 12-1 Cor 3:10-15; 13-Luke 21:34;
14-Luke 8:14; 15-Luke 9:59-62; 16-Luke 9:23,24; 17-Heb 12:1,2;
18-Eph 6:11,12; 19-James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8,9; 20-Rev 22:7,12,20.

DAY 29

A GOOD FOUNDATION

As any home builder will tell you, the foundation of the house is most important. If there is a good foundation, the house will be able to withstand nearly every kind of weather. However, if the foundation is weak, the house is endangered by just about any kind of unnatural weather. The same holds true in the kingdom of God. How we need a good, solid foundation.

The prophet Isaiah declared, “Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation; he that believes shall not make haste.’”¹ This prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the foundation laid for the salvation of mankind.² It is supremely important for us to continue in this important truth, the truth that our salvation is entirely secure in the foundation of Jesus Christ. We are complete in the Foundation,³ which is an everlasting foundation.⁴ He, and He alone, is the Rock (not Peter) upon which the church is built.⁵ Jesus is the Rock that we need to look to.⁶ Never allow the winds of adversity to shake you from Him. His Word is the Rock upon which we stand.⁷

Due to the importance of the foundation of Jesus and the Scriptures, rest assured that the devil will make every attempt to destroy those foundations.⁸ Satan has two objectives: to keep us away from the truth about Jesus, and to keep us out of the Word of God. Remember, Scripture tells us to consider Jesus,⁹ to be rooted and built up in Him,¹⁰ and to have our hearts established with grace.¹¹ Man’s salvation is entirely out of his own hands or performance. The Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world,¹² has come!¹³

What is your foundation today? Who is your foundation today? If you and I look at ourselves, we will certainly get frustrated, feel guilty, and ultimately give up hope. Brethren, your good works for a foundation are no hope at all. Man’s hope is Christ Himself.¹⁴ You can come to Him just as you are,¹⁵ because He came to save you.¹⁶

1-Isaiah 28:16; 2-1 Cor 3:11, Acts 4:12; 3-Col 2:10; 4-Prov 10:25b;
5-Matt 16:15-18, 1 Cor 10:4; 6-Psalm 61:2; 7-Luke 6:47-49;
8-Psalm 11:3; 9-Heb 3:1, 12:1-3; 10-Col 2:7; 11-Heb 13:9, 2 Tim 2:1;
12-Rev 13:8, 1 Peter 1:20; 13-John 1:29; 14-1 Tim 1:1;
15-Rom 5:6,8,10; 16-1 Tim 1:15.

DAY 30

PSALM 119 – THE HEART PSALM

“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord!”¹ Note carefully that God guarantees that those who do His word² will be blessed. Secondly, notice that it’s only those who seek Him whole-heartedly who experience this. No reservations, no “stop sign” areas waved before the Holy Spirit.

Six times in this wonderful psalm our whole-heartedness is required. It really is the only way to approach Jesus.³ He wants our undivided attention! Isn’t that amazing? Whether it be our need for understanding,⁴ or a plea for mercy,⁵ our only appropriate approach is a whole-hearted one. To be obedient to the word and will of God necessitates our total being.⁶ To “get God’s ear” demands our whole heart.⁷ According to Jesus, the heart and one’s treasure are connected.⁸

How quickly we find out the treasures in our heart when our circumstances crumble around us. Nothing less than a whole-hearted devotion to God⁹ will withstand the storms of life.¹⁰ Oh how each one of us could use a “bath” in the 119th psalm, a fresh cleansing¹¹ from the fountain of God’s word.¹²

What joy we bring to Abba when we worship Him from our hearts!¹³ What protection and strength we receive when we hide God’s word in our heart!¹⁴ When I read such verses as these, I too as the psalmist look to God to enlarge my heart.¹⁵ With so many “things” out in the world that can demand my time, my eye, my attention, how I must pray that my heart would follow His ways and not mine.¹⁶ Let us never forget that our hearts, apart from the Spirit of God, are “as fat as grease”,¹⁷ callused and unfeeling.

May the Lord Jesus give us sound, blameless hearts¹⁸ that rejoice in His statutes.¹⁹ Let us not forget that when we get up from our knees, we must then incline our hearts to walk according to His word.²⁰ The last part of Psalm 119:161 reads: “But my heart stands in awe of your words.” May that verse refer to both you and me today!

1-Psalm 119:1; 2-James 1:22; 3-Psalm 119:10; 4-Psalm 119:34;
5-Psalm 119:58; 6-Psalm 119:69b; 7-Psalm 119:145; 8-Matt 6:21;
9-Matt 22:37; 10-Matt 7:24-27; 11-Eph 5:26; 12-Psalm 36:9, John 6:68;
13-John 4:23, Psalm 119:7; 14-Psalm 119:11; 15-Psalm 119:32;
16-Psalm 119:36,37; 17-Psalm 119:70; 18-Psalm 119:80;
19-Psalm 119:111; 20-Psalm 119:112.

DAY 31

HEAR HIM

Job cried out, “O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleads with his neighbor!”¹ The Holy Bible reveals Jesus Christ as the answer to mankind’s cry for an advocate.² God affords to every man the opportunity to come to Him for forgiveness of sin, and fellowship.

We see this typified in our Lord’s cry to Jerusalem,³ but they rejected His offer and the result was desolation. The Word tells us that Jesus saves to the uttermost those who come to Him.⁴ What a mighty Redeemer we have! What a blessed truth that God is for us!⁵ Yes, the Lord is on our side!⁶

Mercy, truth, righteousness, and peace were brought to man on Calvary.⁷ There is no reason for anyone to hide from God anymore.⁸ The door of salvation⁹ and all of its benefits¹⁰ are offered to you. Only a lie from the devil can blind you.¹¹ Only a love for the darkness can disqualify you.¹²

This present world system promises you everything, but can deliver you nothing lasting or worthwhile. Anything that it offers will eventually pass away.¹³ When you do “strike it rich” you soon discover how empty you really are.¹⁴ Only in a loving relationship with the true and living God, through His Son Jesus Christ, can one find satisfaction and purpose in life.¹⁵ Sadly, many Christians, lacking root in God’s Word,¹⁶ begin to get more carnally minded than spiritually minded. The end result is crushing.¹⁷

We are told by Paul the apostle not to give place to the devil in our lives.¹⁸ Beware of allowing him those subtle inroads into your life. Satan’s only agenda is to devour you.¹⁹ He ceaselessly works on your thought life, particularly today in the areas of finances and relationships.

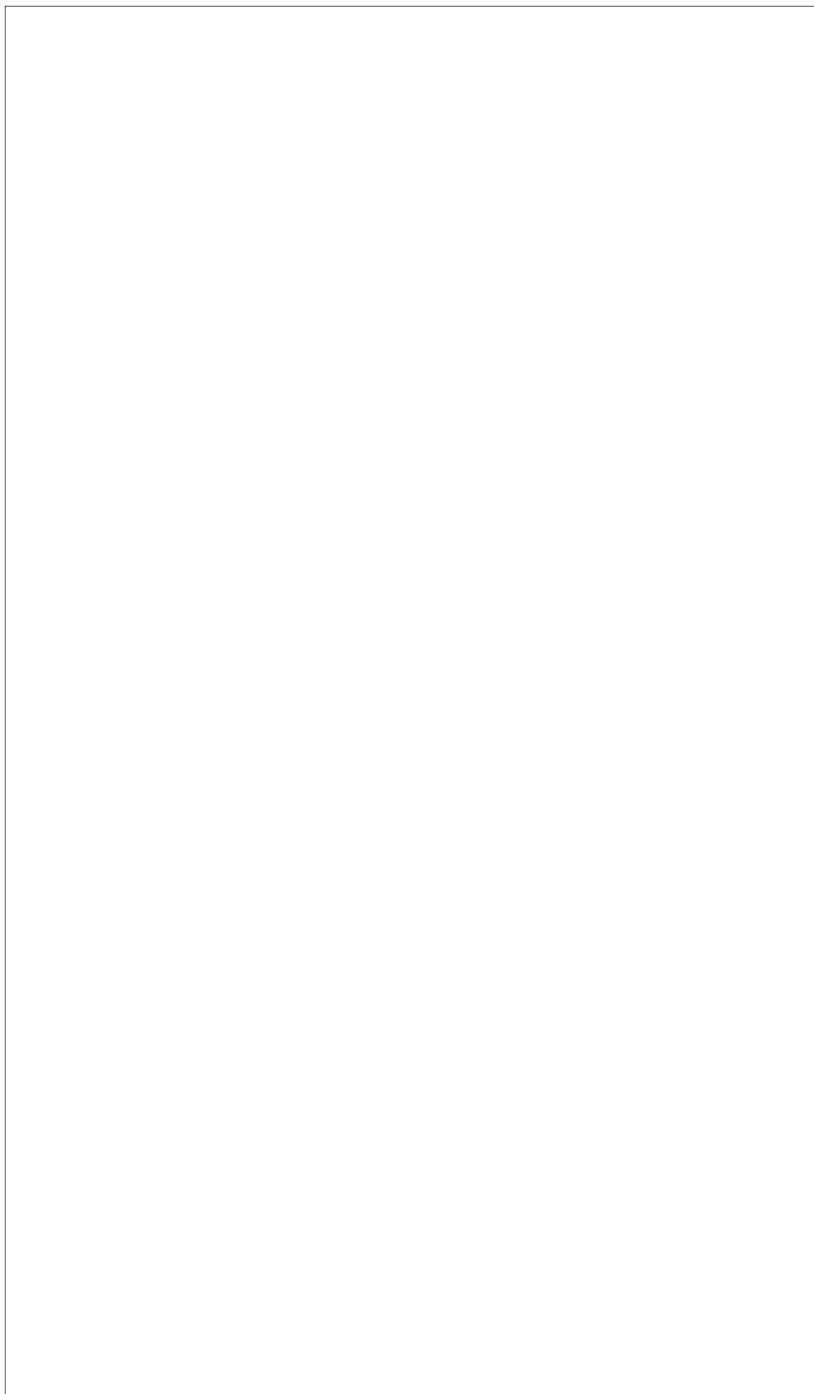
When it appears that God isn’t coming through for you, Satan will quietly nudge you to compromise. Remember what happened (in Genesis 16) when Abram tried to bring about an answer to prayer by sleeping with Hagar? He attempted to “fill the gap” with the flesh, as opposed to waiting upon God’s timing. The Middle East conflict is the “fruit” of the flesh! How much better to hear God’s Word,²⁰ and then do it²¹ by faith.²²

Whether saved or not, your need for God exists. Reader, is your whole being crying out for the living God today?²³ Jesus is there to receive you the minute you receive Him.²⁴ God's mercy is His response to misery. God's grace is His response to failure. Repent and accept His forgiveness,²⁵ and then forgive yourself.

Yes, sinner and saint alike have One they can turn to. Hear what God speaks, and purpose not to turn again to folly.²⁶

1-Job 16:21; 2-1 John 2:1b; 3-Matt 23:37; 4-Heb 7:25; 5-Rom 8:31b;
6-Psalm 118:6,7a; 7-Psalm 85:10; 8-Gen 3:10; 9-John 10:7;
10-Psalm 68:19,20; 11-2 Cor 4:4; 12-John 3:19; 13-1 John 2:16,17;
14-Eccl 5:10; 15-John 4:14; 16-Luke 8:13; 17-Rom 8:6; 18-Eph 4:27;
19-1 Peter 5:8; 20-Rom 10:17; 21-James 1:22-25; 22-2 Cor 5:7;
23-Psalm 84:2; 24-John 1:12; 25-1 John 1:9; 26-Psalm 85:8.

NOTES



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