



GRACE ABOUNDS

Growing in the grace of Jesus Christ



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Forward

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I truly hope that through Jesus Christ it will help you on your walk with Him. I must preface this book though. This will challenge your walk and your beliefs. I've provided Scripture for you because I do not want you to take my word on anything. I want you to study to show yourself approved and go through Scripture and pray about what's in this writing. You should do that with anything that anyone tells you. If you feel it doesn't line up, then throw it out. But if you feel it does, ask God how you may apply these principles to your everyday life. I pray that the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in Him be upon you as you read this and you may you grow into the measure and the stature of our Lord and Salvation, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,
Daniel Orona

Chapter 1: Redemption and Revelation

In the beginning was the word. The word was with God and the word was God.¹ This Scripture from Matthew tells us so much about the grace of God and what was going to transpire through His Son, Jesus Christ. This Scripture show us, but that from the beginning of time the answer to everything was and is Jesus Christ. I understand how broad that is. How can Jesus be the answer to all my problems? How will Jesus give me a new job or put food on the table? How can Jesus provide anything for me? What you will find is that Jesus can and does do all these things. He will meet your needs according to his riches and glory, but it all starts with the beginning and the word.

We know from Scripture that the word of God is Jesus Christ. This is the written word (the Bible) and the revealed word (revelation knowledge). We must understand that Scripture is not just a book to live by or an instruction manual of life. If the Scripture itself, says that the Word of God is Jesus Christ, then the written Word of God is Jesus Christ. I've heard numerous people say that the Scripture can only mean what it meant when it was originally written. I'm sorry to bust the bubble, but that is wrong. The Bible is a living, breathing look at our Lord Jesus Christ who operates outside of time. Think about a Scripture that you've read a hundred times. You can read it when you are 15 and apply it to your life at the time, but when you are 40 the Scripture takes on new meaning. This is because as we grow in God, our understanding of Scripture grows and Christ grows with us, so his word grows with us.

What does any of this have to do with understanding the grace of God? The answer is that is has everything to do with grace. When we read Scripture, whether it be the Old Testament or the New Testament, we should see Jesus walking through the pages. Everything from Genesis to Malachi points to Jesus Christ. The gospels are clearly about this life on this earth and from the Acts to Revelation are about life in Him.

Paul prayed in the book of Ephesians that the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the knowledge of Him would be upon the people.² Why is this? This is so that in the written Word we could see Jesus. Paul knew that everything that had been written, was a type and a shadow of Jesus Christ³. The Ark that Noah built is a picture of Jesus as our shelter in the storm⁴. David is a picture of the King of Kings that Jesus is and will be when He sets up his earthly kingdom. Jonah is a picture of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. All of these stories point to one person and that is Jesus.

In this we see that from the very beginning the work of grace that Jesus Christ did was the answer. This should tell you the importance that Jesus' death and resurrection had for the Father. This was his ultimate plan of redemption to reconcile a lost and dying creation back to Him, but also a way to give his Son preeminence among all. To illustrate this let's take a deeper look into the creation story.

We all know the story of creation. It begins simply. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."⁵ Great, but did you know that this is a picture of the redemption of mankind? In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth is a picture of the blank

¹ John 1:1

² Ephesian 1:17

³ Colossians 2:13-17

⁴ Genesis 6

⁵ Genesis 1:1

canvas that God had to begin to work with. This is us before we come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. The second verse shows us how we were. We were void or empty and without form meaning without purpose until the Spirit of the Lord moved upon the face of our waters, or should I say our Spirit.⁶

Remember when you first came to salvation? Wherever you were, remember sitting there with the butterflies in your stomach feeling the tugging of the Holy Spirit on you to usher you into the knowledge of Jesus Christ? That's the way the earth was. It was dark without form and void with the Spirit of the Lord moving upon it just waiting to be shaped into something more. Then suddenly God said, "Let there be light."⁷ Suddenly, you see yourself for who you are and that you need a savior. The light of God has pieced through your darkness. Here you accepted Jesus as your personal savior and a wondrous light shined into your life. What does he do then? He separated the light from the darkness⁸. He sanctifies you in His Son, separating the light in you from the sin that used to rule you.

God then separates the firmament in heaven and divides the waters in heaven from the waters in the earth⁹. After the light comes to you, there is separation between who you were (earth) and who you are now (heavens). Ultimately God has created a new creature in you. Old things have passed away and all things have become new¹⁰. But a separation is needed from between who you were and who you are now in God. Just as light and darkness cannot dwell together, so does God create a separation in our soul spirit. The word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword piercing eve to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.¹¹ In this instance the word, which is Jesus Christ has separated our spirit to a heavenly destination, while our soul continues to develop in Christ.

The next step in the creation story, God divides the waters and allows the firmament of land to be created. In essence, the land is pulled up from below the water in an epic birth. So, have we, been pulled up out of the water of baptism into an epic birth of new life in Jesus Christ. Our sins are forever sealed in the water as the picture of the death and resurrection in Christ. During this day God also brings forth grass and herbs and tree yielding fruit¹². After some time in walking with Jesus, we will begin to bear fruit as the Spirit gives us. It is by this fruit that we are known and by this fruit that others may come and be refreshed.¹³ Remember when Jesus came to the fig tree and was hungry?¹⁴ The fig tree didn't have any fruit to refresh Jesus and Jesus cursed it. Regardless of what season it was, Jesus expected fruit. That's how we are to be. Instant in season and out of season to refresh those that God sends to us. As trees, God causes us to grow and bring increase until ultimately, we are able to bring forth fruit for others to eat of through our ministry.

On the fourth day God allows there to be lights in the firmament of the heaven.¹⁵ The Scripture specifically says that these are for signs and seasons and days and years. He made two great lights, the greater to rule the day and the lesser to rule the night. Here the redeemed person begins to understand what it is to be led and guided by His spirit. We have the light of the Word that is a light unto our pathway and a lamp unto our feet¹⁶. Then

⁶ Genesis 1:2

⁷ Genesis 1:3

⁸ Genesis 1:4

⁹ Genesis 1:6-7

¹⁰ 2 Corinthians 5:17

¹¹ Hebrews 4:12

¹² Genesis 1:11

¹³ Matthew 7:20

¹⁴ Matthew 21:18-22

¹⁵ Genesis 1:14-19

¹⁶ Psalms 119:105

we have the revealed word that gives us guidance and signs in times of darkness. Even as the night is around us, God gives us the light to walk and ultimately follow Him.

The fifth day brings an abundance of life in the water and in the air¹⁷. As God creates these animals in the water, so too does the redeemed person begin to witness about Jesus Christ to others. In the water (the death) and in the air (the life) they begin to teach others and bring others to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Why is it in the death and in the life? When a person doesn't know Jesus Christ, they are walking in death. Not the first death, but the second death. When they are pulled from this as fish, they are resurrected into life through the cross. Remember that Jesus told Peter that if he took up his cross and followed him¹⁸ that He would make Peter a fisher of men¹⁹. We are to minister to people and pull them out of the fire and then also responsible for growing them up, which is ministering to them in the life.

The sixth day is an intriguing day in the creation story. First God allows the land to bring forth the living creature after its kind, whether it be cattle or the creeping thing²⁰. Here our redeemed person has reached the level to be able to disciple and lead others. The creatures are on the land. They have been redeemed and are ready to grow. Ultimately the redeemed man begins disciple cycles. Also, on the sixth day, God creates man in his image²¹. Here is the culmination of the work of grace and of Jesus Christ. God breathes into man his own breath. A part of the Spirit of God becomes part of man and they become one. Here is a picture of the redeemed man being made one with God through the reconciliation of Jesus Christ. Being one with God by being in Christ, is the culmination and ultimate purpose of the work of Jesus Christ²². It is only after this, that on the seventh day, God rested.

God labored that he may enter into His own rest. What he did was set in motion the plan of salvation and reconciliation before Adam was even created. Resting from His work, He let his plan work, knowing and understanding the end from the beginning²³.

Seeing here in the creation story the work of the grace of God in us as believers. The first words in the written word are a picture of the life and development of the believer in Jesus Christ. This is how important the work of the cross that Jesus did is to the Father. That even in the creation and formation of the world as we know it, he shows us our redemption through Jesus Christ. God is so amazing!

This is just one example. I mentioned numerous others in the beginning of this chapter. Study to show yourself approved and determine when reading the stories of David, Samuel, Daniel, Ruth, and Esther if you see the work of Jesus Christ. It shows that Jesus is in the written word. He walks up and down it, showing his grace throughout Scripture.

But this is only one way that we can see Jesus. The written word has been given to all, but so has the revealed word. Scripture says that the Holy Spirit would tell us of things to come²⁴. It tells us that prophecy is the testimony of Jesus Christ²⁵. We find that his revelations show us all wisdom and understanding. Just as the written word is a picture of

¹⁷ Genesis 1:20-23

¹⁸ Matthew 16:24-28

¹⁹ Matthew 4:18-20

²⁰ Genesis 1:24-25

²¹ Genesis 1:26-28

²² John 17:18-24

²³ Isaiah 46:9-10

²⁴ John 16:12-14

²⁵ Revelation 19:10

Jesus Christ as he walks up and down the pages of the Bible, the revealed word shows us how to walk next to him in that grace.

I love the scripture that the word of God is a light unto my pathway and a lamp unto my feet²⁶. This is a picture of the written word of God and the revealed word of God. The written word gives us the pathway. It tells us how to be saved, the basis of the baptisms and what we have in the Spirit and in Jesus Christ. The revealed word tells us how to walk and where to walk. It lights our feet so that the footsteps of a good man are ordered by the Lord²⁷.

So, what exactly does the “revealed” word mean? This is simply the word that God gives us in our everyday walk. This may be surprising for some, but God wants to talk to you every day. I’m not just talking about through Scripture, but he wants to interact in your life as your best friend and Father. Think of it this way. You are a father and have a child. Would you only interact with that child through a book that you wrote years before? No, you wouldn’t. You would want to listen to your child, comfort them when they are hurting, give them advice and direction when they need it and even correction when they stray from the path. If you as an earthly father know how to give good things to your children, how much more does our Heavenly Father²⁸.

I know that some of you are saying, but I’ve never heard God speak to me. God has never said a word to me or led me in my life. But I would argue that it’s not that God hasn’t tried, but it’s that you haven’t had the knowledge to recognize it. God does not hit us in the back of the head to get our attention. Remember he spoke to Elijah in the still small voice in the cleft of the rock²⁹. He speaks similarly to us now. He will give us a leading in our spirit or he will give us a dream or a vision, or even speak directly to us in a voice that we know and understand to be his.

What does it mean to have a leading in your spirit? This is the most common and easiest way for God to speak to us. Have you ever just felt like you should do something? You get this feeling in your belly that won’t leave until you accomplish whatever it is you feel you need to do. This is God giving you a leading in your spirit. When I was pastor in a church, I went to dinner with a few members of the congregation. I had just preached a message about how God will give us a leading to pray for people in our everyday lives. Well, if you preach it, you better walk it. I was sitting there eating my sandwich and I start getting this feeling that I should pray for our waitress. At first, I shrug it off thinking that it was just me. But as I go through dinner, the feeling gets stronger and stronger until I can’t take it anymore. At this point my only options were to either pray for our waitress or openly deny what God wanted me to do. So, I asked her if I could pray for her. I do and the members of our congregation pray with me. The Lord’s leading was timely. Our waitress was struggling with what direction to go with her life and ultimately what she should do going forward. Tears started coming down her face and she was almost slain in the spirit in the middle of the restaurant. It was a tremendous experience.

So how do you know that the leading you have is from God? It’s very simple. Don’t act on your initial feeling. Wait. I know that sounds counter to what I’m saying, but it’s more important to make sure it’s God and know it’s God than to act without trying the spirits as the

²⁶ Psalms 119:105

²⁷ Psalms 37:23

²⁸ Matthew 7:9-11

²⁹ 1 Kings 19:11-13

Scripture says. If the feeling goes away after a short time, then it wasn't God, but rather it was your own inclination. But if the feeling grows stronger and continues, then it's God telling you to move in a certain way. It's at this time that you know you need to act. God will lead you to what to do and you will just know how to pray through the word of knowledge in the spirit. This is the first step to learning how to be led by the spirit³⁰. In my family we call these unctons. God want us to move, so we move.

Another way that God will talk to us is through dreams and visions. The book of Job says that God seals up the instruction of man in dreams³¹. One of the hardest things for a Christian to do is to quiet their mind enough to truly hear the voice of God. In these times, God will speak to us in dreams and visions. Look all through the Bible and God gave dreams to Jews, Gentiles, Kings and common people. Don't forget that the reason that Peter knew the Gospel was good for the Gentiles as through the vision he had where God told him to eat the unclean things³².

It's important to realize that not every dream is from God. There are such things as pizza dreams too. So how do we discern between the two. Dreams from God are lasting. That means they stay with you and you will need to know that meaning or what's happening in them. Typically, these dreams will not glorify the individual, meaning they will be focused on areas of weakness in us as Christians if they are personal. If they are not personal, they may be dreams of things to come that God wants us aware of. If you are ever unsure if it is a dream from God find a trusted Christian friend who has experience in being led by the Spirit and tell them the dream and let them discern.

Understanding if the dream is from God or not is only one part of fully understanding what God wants to tell you. There is the interpretation that is just as important. Sometimes when you wake up you will know automatically what the dream meant, but other times God will hide it from you. He does this so that we must rely on one another to grow. Find that trusted friend in Christ to pray and interpret the dream. Any true Christian will listen to the spirit and make sure that the direction being given is of God. But it's important that the interpretation bear witness with your spirit. When you hear the interpretation, if it's right, you will know in your spirit because it will sound right, and you will feel a peace about it. If the interpretation is false, you will question it immediately and be unsure of what God wants from you. If this is the case find another to seek the Spirit about the interpretation. Remember God is not the author of confusion³³.

After some time with God, you will begin to hear His voice. The Scripture is very clear that his sheep know his voice³⁴. It's important here that we see the word sheep. Lambs cannot hear the voice of God because they have not grown to that the level of relationship. Often those young in the Lord struggle due to their carnality and their limited interactions and experiences with God. But those that are grown will be able to hear the voice of the Lord. The first step to hearing his voice is quieting your mind and focusing on who he is. I often do this after prayer. It's not a fun conversation if only one person is talking. When first trying to hear the voice of the Lord, after prayer take a page out of Samuel's book and say, "Speak Lord for you servant hears."³⁵ Then put out all thoughts of other things and listen. You will hear a still small voice begin to talk to you. You may not hear it the first time, the

³⁰ Romans 8:14

³¹ Job 33:13-17

³² Acts 10:9-16

³³ 1 Corinthians 14:33

³⁴ John 10:25-30

³⁵ 1 Samuel 3:9-11

second time, or the third time, but continue the practice and you will hear the voice of the Lord.

There is an important note here that must be made. There are other spirits that have voices too. Demons have voices and so does your own spirit. So how do you know what voice the Lord's is versus what is the devil's versus your own voice. John addresses this in his first book. He tells us to try the spirits to see that they are of God³⁶. So, what does it mean to try to the spirits? Any voice that is of God will profess Jesus is the Son of God and that he died on the cross for us. Any voice that is of God will line up with the written word. Any voice that is of God will bear witness with your spirit and bring peace to the thought. Any other voice will have something that is off. Often Satan's voice sounds good at first, but something about it just doesn't feel right. It won't line up with Scripture or it won't give you peace. The voice of our self will often be self-glorifying. If any man will glory, let him glory in the Lord. In the beginning it is important to have an experienced Christian to discern what you are hearing. As you continue in this way, you will know the voice of the Lord as his sheep know his voice.

All of these are examples of the revealed word of God. There are others as well including the spoken gifts and the revelatory gifts. The first of the spoken gifts is prophecy³⁷. Prophecy is an important part of the revealed word of God. With prophecy it is God speaking through another person directly to you. Often the minister will begin speaking and the voice will change, and God will refer to you as his child. Sometimes it begins with, "Thus saith the Lord." Either way, understand that it is God directly talking to you through another individual. People often confuse prophecy with the word of knowledge where a minister may know something, but God does not speak directly to an individual through them. When it comes to personal prophecy, it is very rare that God will tell you something through a minister that He has not already been discussing with you. We should never hear a prophecy spoken and take it as the Word of God without trying the Spirit. It must line up with Scripture. It must profess Jesus Christ and it should bear witness with your spirit. Prophecy can provide a valuable second witness to what God has been telling you. But keep in mind that every word shall be established out of the mouths of two or more witnesses³⁸.

The second and third of the spoken gifts is the gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues³⁹. Again, this is one of those gifts that is widely misunderstood. If you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, you should have the evidence of speaking in tongues⁴⁰. This is not tongues and interpretation of tongues. This is your individual prayer language between you and God. It is to be used in prayer when you don't know how to pray, the spirit will pray through you. There is no edification for the church in the individual prayer language and is why Paul equates it to instruments sounding when used in front of the people.

With tongues and interpretation of tongues there is edification for the church or for the individual if there is someone to interpret or if God gives you the interpretation. There have been times where the gift of tongues has been used, but the interpretation was only for one person between them and God. But it is a spoken gift where God is speaking directly to the church or to the individual. Just like with prophecy, this word will typically confirm what God has been dealing with you on. It can act as the second witness.

³⁶ 1 John 4:1-3

³⁷ 1 Corinthians 12:10

³⁸ Matthew 18:16

³⁹ 1 Corinthians 12:10

⁴⁰ Romans 8:25-27

The next way that God can reveal things to us is through the Word of Knowledge⁴¹. When someone gets a word of knowledge, they will just know something. For instance, my mom was being ministered to by someone and he said you have a house with a yellow duck in the backyard. He had never been to my parent's house but knew what was there through the word of knowledge. God will give people these so that they know what to pray or what is happening in certain situations to be able to know what God wants from them. Typically, the minister will start by saying God is telling me this or I feel like you have that. This is very helpful when God is asking you to minister to someone. You will know exactly what to pray for and how to move forward.

The second revelation gift is the word of wisdom⁴². In this God will tell you how to do something. When I was a kid my grandpa was struggling to install a ceiling fan. He wasn't a trained electrician, but he was handy. He only had a third-grade education. He could not figure out why this ceiling fan wasn't working. He told us all, I'll be right back I have to go pray. So, grandpa went to his truck and prayed. After about 15 minutes he walked right back into that house and fixed the ceiling fan and it worked perfectly from that point forward. This was a word of wisdom for my grandpa. It told him how to complete it. A word of wisdom can tell us how to perform the task at hand that God wants us to complete.

The last of the revelation gifts is the discernment of spirits⁴³. This allows the believer to identify the types of spirits on and in people and what manner of spirits are influencing a person. This becomes very important when interacting with people. It can show you their motivations and what they are looking for with you. This is also very important for those in deliverance ministries. They are able to call out the evil spirit by name and cast it out. But it's also important in everyday life. As something goes wrong, you will be able to see the spirit behind it, what is causing the attack, and the word of wisdom will you tell you the next steps to getting it out of your life.

God certainly is not limited in how He wants to interact with us. He has multiple ways to speak to us and give us guidance through his revealed word. I gave you a Scripture earlier that the footsteps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. How can our footsteps be ordered if God did not talk to us through His revealed word? Our Father wants to interact with us, and he wants to show us His love through his word. For as many are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God⁴⁴.

Remember that the word of God is a light unto our pathway and a lamp unto our feet. The written word is perfect and good, but it is not enough. Paul was clear that the letter kills, but it's the spirit that gives life⁴⁵. Both the written word of God and the revealed word of God are needed if we are to walk in the light of our pathway and the lamp on our feet. Or to put it a different way, the written word shows us Jesus walking in life, but the revealed word shows us how to walk with him in life.

When I was a kid, my dad worked second shift. There were some nights where I would beg my mom to let me stay up to see Dad. All I wanted to do was hug him and climb on him. When he came home, I ran up to him and hugged him with everything I had. My dad picked me up, spun me around, and kissed me. He was just as happy to see me as I was to see him. It wasn't enough for me to hug my dad. He wasn't satisfied until he loved on me

⁴¹ 1 Corinthians 12:8

⁴² 1 Corinthians 12:8

⁴³ 1 Corinthians 12:10

⁴⁴ Romans 8:14

⁴⁵ 2 Corinthians 3:6

back. How much does our Heavenly Father want to love on us on a regular basis? We just have to let Him do that. He will show us his love through His word on a daily basis if we let Him. Why? Because His word is Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ is grace and truth⁴⁶.

⁴⁶ John 1:17

Chapter 2: We are crucified with Christ.

Again, in the beginning was the Word⁴⁷. The Word of God is the beginning of grace and the beginning of all things. But there is a difference, a transition if you will for the Word in Jesus Christ. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us ⁴⁸full of grace and truth⁴⁹. We've established that the Word of God is Jesus Christ but think of Jesus as being filled with grace and truth. When a cup is empty, it's just a cup. But when a cup is filled with water, it is a cup of water. The water gives the cup the characteristic needed. If it is a cup of poison you know not to drink of it, but if it's a cup of water you know it to be good. We are all cups to be filled and ultimately to overflow⁵⁰. But what are we to be filled with? We are to be filled with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the truth which is the Lord Jesus Christ.

To be filled with grace is no easy matter. There are several things that have to be addressed by the Spirit. The first is the realization that we are to be crucified with Christ⁵¹⁵². I know you've heard this preached a thousand times if you've heard it once but bear with me. The cross of Jesus Christ is not just something that we look at for salvation. Oh, it is much much more. The cross is the culmination of thousands of years of preparation for the grace of Jesus Christ. It is where our sins, generational curses, and our own wants, desires, and self-pride were hung to die so that we could live in Jesus.

The cross is the representation of all the Jesus is. There are four points to this cross and four key things that Jesus is because of the cross. The first thing that Jesus is, is the symbol of the love that Father has for us. We've all read and know John 3:16. It shows us the love that God has, but the First John 4:10 says that Jesus was made the propitiation of our sins, meaning that Jesus was the atoning sacrifice for us to be reconciled to our Father that is in heaven. He is the symbol of God's love. I want you to think about your children or the one person that you care about most deeply in the world. Now think about giving up that child or person to be sacrificed for a complete stranger on the other side of the world, or for someone who hasn't even been born yet. Your first inclination is no. It should be anger at the thought of giving up what you hold most dear. This is what God did and did so willingly. But not just that, Jesus also willingly gave up His life. He knew that He was the symbol of our Father's love for us and understanding that willingly went to the cross.

A picture of this is the sacrifice that Abraham almost made with his son Isaac⁵³. You know the story, but it was Abraham's faith in the love that God had for him that made him willing to sacrifice Isaac. He trusted God explicitly and believed that even if God had him sacrifice Isaac that same God would be able to raise him from the dead. So too is our faith, seeing that God willingly gave up His only begotten Son, that He may be sacrificed for good of the world. This was God's plan from the beginning that Jesus should be the love of the Father and as there is nothing greater in this world or the world to come or in heaven or in the earth. That symbol has been elevated to the right hand of the Father and given preeminence over everything⁵⁴. Oh, how great is the love of our God!

John 3:16 begins with God's love and sacrifice, but it comes to the next piece of Jesus Christ represented by the cross and that is Faith. That whosoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life. Preachers always say that you have to have

⁴⁷ John 1:1

⁴⁸ John 1:14

⁴⁹ John 1:17

⁵⁰ Psalms 23:5

⁵¹ Galatians 2:20

⁵² Galatians 5:24

⁵³ Genesis 22

⁵⁴ Colossians 1:18

faith, you have to believe that God will do this and that. But where we fall short is understanding how to have faith and what to believe in. We must understand our how our faith grows as our relationship grows.

The first part, it seems, is the easiest, but was the hardest for Christ to earn. The walk with Jesus begins with salvation. Romans tells us that we must believe with our heart and confess with our mouth⁵⁵. For with the heart the man believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation⁵⁶. Every man, woman, and child on this earth has been dealt a measure of faith to believe for salvation⁵⁷. Not everyone believes for salvation, but they have that same measure of faith. They just choose to put it into something else. Some put it into a different religion and God. Others put their faith in the belief that there is no God. Regardless, every person has a measure of faith to believe in something.

As we choose to put our faith in Jesus Christ, we believe in the love that God had for us from the beginning of time. We put our faith in His love for us through the cross of Jesus Christ. We believe that he died for our sins and that God hath raised Him from the dead. It is here at the beginning of our walk that we see that our faith can only work through love⁵⁸. Not our carnal and tainted love, but the love that the Father had for us through His Son Jesus Christ and through his death on the cross.

So how do we do as so many ministers have told us to do and have greater faith? It still comes through His love. The Scripture is clear that is impossible to please God without faith⁵⁹, but that we must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. What does that mean? Yeah, we can believe that He is and that He died on the cross, but how can I believe that He will help me? The answer here is experience. We talked earlier that God wants to interact with His children daily. Again, what father doesn't want to spend time with his kids? When you first believe for salvation, there is a high. You have this feeling that you and God are unstoppable, and He is going to answer every prayer you have. In the beginning, He answers quite a few, but then the honeymoon is over. It's time for our faith to be tested and tried, so it can grow⁶⁰.

I was a young Christian and inexperienced. I was sitting in church one day and I heard the Lord say plain as day, "Daniel, I want you give all the money in your wallet." All I had was a \$20 dollar bill. My gas light was on in my car and I was going to use that to fill up the tank. I asked Him if he was sure. I asked how I would get to work. It was literally all the money I had until I got paid. He didn't repeat what he said, but I got a very strong leading to give the money, so I did. I barely had enough gas to get home from church. I walk in and I don't say anything to my parents about it. Well, when I get home my mom tells me that my grandparents had left \$40 for gas on the mantle. When she told me, I laughed. Why? Because God had shown me a valuable lesson. It was not just a lesson in obedience, but it was a lesson in faith. I could have been disobedient and kept my money, but God wanted to test my faith with actions. We must put action behind our faith as God leads⁶¹ and believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him.⁶²

⁵⁵ Romans 10:9

⁵⁶ Romans 10:11

⁵⁷ Romans 12:3

⁵⁸ Galatians 5:5-6

⁵⁹ Hebrews 11:6

⁶⁰ 1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶¹ James 2:26

⁶² Hebrews 11:6

So that's a small story, but don't despise that day of small beginnings⁶³. That step of faith was my first in believing God. It became one that I would remember and use to build my faith. The scripture says that we go from faith to faith⁶⁴. Think of faith as stops on a train. You started at the point of origin where you haven't even gone a mile, but then you reach the next stop on the train and you've gone a lot further than where you were when you started. Faith is the same way. It will start small but use those experiences as the train track to get you to your next spot. After God did that, I believed him for a job during the major economic downturn. He made a way out of no way. Then I was able to believe for a better job and He opened the most unlikely of doors. I tell you these stories from my life to show what God will do. If He did these things for me, then He can and will do them for any other person who believes. But this all starts in the belief in the love that God has for us, because our faith only works through His love. As you continue in this walk with Jesus, you will find that you will go from faith to faith. You will go from stop to stop, but it is your testimony and your past experiences⁶⁵ that cause you to move the next level. If God can meet my need for gas money, then God can meet my need for a better job and even more God can cause me to stay in the things He has given me.

So, faith only works through love, but what are we putting that faith in? The answer is the truth. And who is the truth, but Jesus Christ. We know that grace and truth came by Him⁶⁶, but what exactly is the truth of God. The truth is that He loves us so much, that He sent His Son to die for us. This is the truth and it is this truth that will set you free⁶⁷. What exactly does the truth set us free from? Yes, it sets us free from our sins, from the things that we were doing before, but more importantly it sets us free from ourselves. Self is a powerful adversary. Satan takes advantage of our self and the things that we want and the desires that we have. When they aren't answered or fulfilled, Satan can help turn us bitter towards God, but it is the truth that can stop that from ever happening or remove it from who we are.

However, the truth of Jesus Christ is what brings freedom. It is the truth that we need salvation and it is the truth that at times we were lost and at enmity with God⁶⁸. It is the truth that even after salvation there are areas of our life that God must fix and clean up. Think of yourself as a mansion. Some rooms are clean and swept and look great, while others are cluttered, dingy, and dirty. This is how we are. We all have different aspects of life that we struggle with. For some, this may be swearing or lying. For others it may be drunkenness. And still for others it may be pride and being condescending rather than having humility. Whatever area it is that God still needs to work on, the truth is that we are still God's through the work of the cross in His Son. As the Holy Spirit goes through each of our rooms, the work of the cross becomes prevalent. The truth shines the light in these rooms. It shows us who we are so that Jesus can begin his clean up.

We are to reckon ourselves dead to the cross of Jesus Christ⁶⁹. What does this mean other than to walk through the work of the cross with Jesus. It's the death of Jesus on the cross and the truth of His death that allows us to see and ultimately to be resurrected in His grace. However, the truth can be brutal, and we must be willing to face it with the Holy Spirit. Someone can let you into a room with a treasure chest. The room can be dark, and they can turn on the light. They can even put the key in your hand, but if your eyes are closed you will never see what's in front of you. The truth of God is a light that shines into that

⁶³ Zechariah 4:10

⁶⁴ Romans 1:17

⁶⁵ Revelation 12:11

⁶⁶ John 1:17

⁶⁷ John 8:32

⁶⁸ Romans 8:5-8

⁶⁹ Romans 6:9-12

darkness. Let us pray that our eyes would ever be open to see His truth in our lives. This is the only way that we may come to the fullness of His grace and be forever changed.

It is walking in the truth of the cross of Jesus that leads us to His grace. This is the final aspect of the cross. Jesus brings and is grace unto us. What is grace, but God's unmerited favor. Tell me, what did any of us do to deserve Jesus Christ being sent to this earth to die on the cross for us? The answer is nothing. We tried to live according to the law but failed miserably. No man could do it, save for the Man Jesus. So, as we are drawn to the cross by the love of the Father, which is Jesus Christ, we begin to believe that He is and that He rose on the third day. Believing in this truth brings us to the grace of God, even that while we were yet sinners Christ died⁷⁰. Having gone through the cross we can now walk in the grace of Jesus that allows God to meet all of our needs according to His riches and glory⁷¹. It allows us to be reconciled to the Father⁷² that we may go boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy through His Son Jesus Christ⁷³. Finally, it allows us to walk in our brother Jesus and have all things as joint heirs in Christ⁷⁴.

This is what Jesus is. He is the work of the cross. In nailing all of our sins, curses, and aspects of self to His cross, we see Him as the love of God. We see Him as our faith that is drawn to Him through the Father's love. We see Him as the truth of the love of the Father that shines a light to tell us we need a savior. And we see him as our grace. The grace needed to walk in Him and be reconciled to the Father through Him. Four points of the cross and four points of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is made these things to us. First Corinthians says that Jesus is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption⁷⁵. Through the work of the cross, Jesus has been made all things to us. I hear people say that I need to be blessed in this way or God needs to give me this, or that God needs to move in this way. God has blessed you. God has given you everything, and God has already moved through His Son Jesus Christ. He is made unto us all things⁷⁶. If you are sick, Jesus Christ is the medicine. If you are struggling to make ends meet, Jesus Christ is the provision. If you are struggling with being bullied or picked on, Jesus Christ is your fortress that you run into. Jesus is our everything. Think of it this way. When we go to the doctor, he may give us a shot of medicine to make us feel better. The doctor is not the one that heals you, but it is the medicine that makes you better. The syringe is the way the doctor can administer the medicine. This is how our God head works. The Father is the doctor. He gave us our medicine in Jesus Christ. He is our healing. The syringe is the Holy Spirit that administers that medicine. Jesus is the healing of the world. He is our redemption. He is our fortress that we run into that we may be sanctified⁷⁷, but it all began on the cross and the work of that cross.

Now understanding that Jesus is all things to us through the work of the cross, how does the cross then work in us that we may truly be crucified with Christ. It begins with the death of ourselves and reckoning ourselves dead to the cross of Jesus.

Reckoning ourselves dead to the cross of Jesus Christ forms the basis for growing in God. When someone comes to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, their sins are forgiven, and they

⁷⁰ Romans 5:8-9

⁷¹ Philippians 4:19

⁷² Colossians 1:20-22

⁷³ Hebrews 4:16

⁷⁴ Romans 8:17

⁷⁵ 1 Corinthians 1:30

⁷⁶ Colossians 1:15-17

⁷⁷ Psalms 91:2-4

are reconciled back to the Father through their belief in Jesus Christ. There is another step after this and that is the water baptism. This is a picture of us be immersed in the water of the word, cleansing who we are, and burying our old self to be resurrected in the newness of life in Christ. In the Old Testament the high priest would sacrifice only the parts that were Holy to the Lord. The rest was taken outside the camp and burned⁷⁸. The first step in this process was the death of the animal, then the high priest could do his work. Similarly, as Jesus is our high priest, we must die first by being reckoned dead to the cross for Him to work on us. This concept is already present in what we currently observe, but how is this applied to our actual life.

When Christ died, he died to sin once⁷⁹. But it was not just sin that was nailed to that cross. The Scripture is clear that everything that hangeth on the tree is accursed⁸⁰. Jesus took on that curse for us and bore the shame of that curse. What curse am I talking about? This is all curses. Not only the curse of the law that through disobedience brought sickness, disease and judgment among other things, but also the original curse that was placed on man in the garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were cursed above all cattle and every other animal. We know that curse to be one of toil and labor, but since we were all in Adam during the sin, we were all cursed⁸¹.

We must understand that once we are born, we are born into the curse. The curse that separates us from our Father that is in heaven. The curse that caused Adam and Eve to be kicked out of the Garden of Eden. Job says that man is yet a few days from the womb and he is trouble⁸². This is because of the curse that separates us from God and ultimately puts us as enemies from the very beginning⁸³. This means every aspect of yourself, your thoughts, your desires, your wants and needs, are all cursed unless they have been through the cross of Jesus. This is how low man is in himself. This is why the Scripture said that man even at his best is as filthy rags before the Lord⁸⁴. How can a man who is cursed think that he can stand before God? If any man will glory let him glory in the Lord⁸⁵.

So, understanding that from the very beginning we are cursed, the only way to overcome this is to be crucified with Christ. Let me ask you this question. Can a dead man sin? What judgment can be given to someone who is dead? The answer is that a dead man does not care what happens to him. A dead man cannot sin as they are dead. This is why Paul tells us to reckon ourselves dead and not yield our members to unrighteousness⁸⁶.

Reckoning yourself dead to the cross of Jesus means giving up who you are and all that you are. Remember that Jesus said very plainly whosoever would lose their life would gain it and whosoever would gain their life would lose it⁸⁷. This is what he meant. In prayer, I tell God that I give all that I am to him and that I reckon myself dead to the cross of Jesus Christ. When you pray this way God will shine the light of truth in areas of your life and show you what areas of yourself need to die. The death of these areas can be easy or hard. The areas that we don't want God to touch are the ones that die the hardest. But this is all so that we can walk in the resurrection of Jesus. Remember our God is a consuming fire⁸⁸. This means that the closer that we get to Him the hotter and more consuming His fire is

⁷⁸ Leviticus 4:10-12

⁷⁹ Romans 6:10

⁸⁰ Galatians 3:12-14

⁸¹ Romans 5:12-13

⁸² Job 14:1

⁸³ Romans 8:7

⁸⁴ Isaiah 64:6

⁸⁵ 2 Corinthians 10:17-18

⁸⁶ Romans 6:11-14

⁸⁷ Matthew 16:25

⁸⁸ Hebrews 12:27-29

towards us. Paul says that when building a house to build it with gold, silver, and precious jewels⁸⁹. These are the things refined of God through the trial of our faith, which is much more valuable than gold. But those built with wood, hay and stubble are burned when the fire comes. That fire is the fire of our God. The wood, hay and stubble are aspects of ourselves that need refined that God needs to address and change into his likeness, so that when we see Him, we shall be as Him in this world⁹⁰. On the other hand, the gold, silver and precious jewels are the things the Holy Spirit has built in us. There is nothing of carnality that can withstand the fire of our God. Only that which He has built and that which He has done in our lives can stand. But we must first give God ourselves as a living sacrifice.

Romans 12 begins by Paul saying to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto the Lord, which is our reasonable service⁹¹. This is similar to when people would bring cows or turtledoves or goats to the high priest in the Old Testament. The priest would take the sacrifice and deeming it acceptable, he would clean it and dress it according to the law. This means that he would cut out the parts that were not acceptable to be sacrificed or were considered unholy. These parts were discarded and not offered. Only the parts deemed acceptable by the law were burned on the altar to go up before God as a sweet-smelling savor.

Remember that Jesus Christ is our High Priest. We are to offer ourselves to Him. Through the Holy Spirit He will clean us and make us acceptable and cut out of us the parts that are not acceptable and are to be discarded. This leaves only the things that God has done to be put on the altar as a sacrifice. People think that holiness is action, but the Scripture says to be Holy⁹². Holiness is a state of being that represents the character of who God is. The only way for us to be Holy is to be sacrificed by Jesus on the altar to the Father. It is the work of our high priest who is the mediator of the new covenant⁹³ to present us Holy unto His Father⁹⁴. This is not something that we can do. If it were possible to for humans to be Holy in themselves then Jesus would have never needed to come to this earth and die for us as our sacrifice and our testator.

Look, only Jesus is perfect. He's the only one that could fulfill all aspects of the law for us that we may fulfill it through Him. But must fall back into Jesus and allow Him to do His work as the high priest. He will not make us sacrifice ourselves or make us give up an aspect of ourselves that we do not want to. Just as he willingly gave up His own body to die on the cross, so to must we willingly give up ours to Him. He told us to take up our cross and follow Him⁹⁵, but few realize that the end is the same as it was with Jesus.

The good thing is that when we have been reckoned dead our cares and desires change because we are resurrected in the newness of life that is Jesus Christ. It's not enough to just have the cross and death of Jesus. You must have the life of Jesus Christ as well. There must be balance in Christ. Think of a person you know that is overly negative. They always see the bad in situations and never see how good God has been. Now think of someone who doesn't address negative situations. Someone who doesn't take these to God and assumes that He will take care of all things. Now don't get me wrong. It is good to have faith, but the Scripture says, "You have not because you ask not⁹⁶." Both of these

⁸⁹ 1 Corinthians 3:12-15

⁹⁰ 1 John 3:2

⁹¹ Romans 12:1

⁹² Leviticus 11:45

⁹³ Hebrews 8:5-6

⁹⁴ Jude 24

⁹⁵ Matthew 16:24

⁹⁶ James 4:2

individuals are unbalanced. Walk in the fullness of His death and in the fullness of His resurrection.

How do we walk in the resurrection of Jesus? Once our lives have been reckoned dead to the cross of Jesus, we understand that our lives do not matter. Our lives have been laid to rest in the ground. Our desires, our wants, even our needs have been cast down and made subject to the life of Jesus Christ.⁹⁷ Life is much simpler when walking in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul said it is not I that lives, but rather it is Christ that lives within me⁹⁸. He has taken control of who you are, the things you are, the things you want. Your life now lines up specifically with Him in all things.

The act of reconciliation is not just to give us a place to go when we die. Reconciliation is to reconcile us as one with the Father⁹⁹. Remember we were made in His image and He breathed the breath of life into us¹⁰⁰. He imparted a portion of his own soul into mankind. He wants that back through His Son Jesus. The point of all of this is to be one with Jesus through the Holy Spirit as Jesus is one with the Father. In my humble opinion the most powerful Scripture in the Bible is John chapter 17. Here Jesus prays not for Himself, but for us. What does He pray for, but that His brothers would be one in Jesus and in the Father. Verse 21 says, "That they all may be one: as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they may be one in us". This is what Jesus prayed. To walk in the resurrection of Jesus is to walk in oneness with Him. That is the purpose of the Christian walk and the purpose of the death of the cross; that we may live in Him and in the fullness of Him be one with the Father.

How does this work on an everyday basis? Once you reach that point in your walk you will truly know what He wants without Him having to tell you. You will sit in His presence and bask in His glory without even saying a word. There will be no hesitation to pray for someone somewhere. There will only be love and no judgment towards others. You will walk as He walked, love as He loved, and act as He acted. But rather than doing it in yourself and trying to "be Holy" you will reach the state of being through Jesus Christ.

Through the Spirit of reconciliation, we are to be one spirit and one flesh with Jesus Christ. Through the work of the cross we are given the opportunity to willingly lay down our lives and give all that we are to Him and become one with Him in the resurrection. It is appointed unto man once to die and then the judgment¹⁰¹. This is true, but if you die to cross of Jesus Christ your death and your sins and your actions have been judged. Jesus having died only died once for the sins of the world.¹⁰² Us being placed on that cross with Jesus also must die once. It's our choice. We can choose to put ourselves on that cross and altar for Jesus to do His work, or we can choose to hold onto ourselves and die a natural death to be one with Jesus that way. Either way your flesh and concept of self must die to walk in the resurrection of Him.

Walking in the resurrection means that as Jesus is, so are we in this world¹⁰³. That means the works that He did, the ministries that He did and the teachings and knowledge He had are open to us because we are one with Him. This means that God can use us as any of the fivefold ministry at any time. He can use any of the gifts of the Spirit at any time. It all comes down to His needs and what He wants.

⁹⁷ 2 Corinthians 10:5-7

⁹⁸ Galatians 2:20

⁹⁹ Ephesians 2:15-17

¹⁰⁰ Genesis 2:7

¹⁰¹ Hebrews 9:27

¹⁰² Hebrews 9:28

¹⁰³ 1 John 4:17

This is the fulfillment of what Paul said, when he said old things have passed away and behold all things have been made new¹⁰⁴. We are a new creature in Christ. We are one with Him in death and we are one with Him in life. This is the truest part of the grace of God. That we can be one with our Father through our brother Jesus Christ by dying on His cross and walking in the newness of His life. This is a mystery that has been hidden in Scripture. But the greatest thing is that once we have been reckoned dead to the cross of Jesus we are then sealed by the Holy Spirit in His resurrection to where a dead man will never come back alive¹⁰⁵.

¹⁰⁴ 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

¹⁰⁵ Ephesians 4:30

Chapter 3: The Price Paid

Before we understand what, it means to be in Christ, we need to take a deeper look at the what the death of Christ is and what He died for. The passion of Christ is not just for our sins, but it was for the very aspects of self. Each piece takes on its own meaning.

The passion of Christ really begins at the last supper. This is the beginning of the Passover observance. Jesus is breaking bread with His disciples and knows what is coming and begins to teach them a valuable lesson. He says take eat or this bread for this is body. The breaking of bread represents the breaking of His body for ours¹⁰⁶. But more importantly it shows that man shall not live by bread alone¹⁰⁷, but in partaking of the bread of life we may be reborn in the redemption and life that Christ has for us. It's for this reason that there is healing power in communion. When we partake of His body, we partake of the perfection and redemption of Christ. Remember he was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him¹⁰⁸ and by His stripes we were healed¹⁰⁹. Partaking of the broken body of Christ, the broken bread, is an image of that redemption.

He continued to take the cup and told His disciples to drink all of it, for it was His blood of the New Testament which was shed for the remission of sins¹¹⁰. We know from Hebrews that for the New Testament to begin first there must be the death of the testator¹¹¹. In this case, that is Jesus, for the blood of sheep and goats cannot be for the remission of sins¹¹². Only the blood of the lamb of God, who is the mediator of the new covenant could bring mankind to redemption. Understanding this, partaking of the blood of Jesus Christ is a picture of us partaking of the blood of Christ into redemption.

Now, I'm going to let you in on a secret. The communion ceremony is to be done in remembrance of Jesus Christ. It's to remind us of what we already have in Him. We have redemption through His blood. We have healing through His broken body. All of that has been given to us, but we must understand that we have this already through our faith in Him. We cannot rely on communion to take the place of that faith and that belief.

The other piece of this secret is that we are not to take communion unworthily¹¹³. It truly bothers me when ministers say that we need to examine ourselves and make sure there is no sin in our lives prior to partaking communion. I can hear you asking yourself why? As a Christian under the grace of God and Jesus Christ, we have already been redeemed from sin. This does not mean that we have entered into perfection with Christ, but rather that His grace and mercy are sufficient to cover us until He works on those pieces of ourselves. We are to do this in remembrance of the work of the cross, not in remembrance of our sins or our iniquities, or our transgressions. ¹¹⁴Remember his body took all of that, which is why the bread is first, followed by the blood of His redemption. I've got news for you. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God¹¹⁵. Any man that says he does not sin fools himself. But communion should remind us of the redemption we have in Jesus Christ and ultimately the grace He gave us to overcome all our shortcomings. We are to examine our

¹⁰⁶ Mark 14:22

¹⁰⁷ Deuteronomy 8:3

¹⁰⁸ Isaiah 53:5

¹⁰⁹ 1 Peter 2:24

¹¹⁰ Matthew 26: 27-28

¹¹¹ Hebrews 9:16

¹¹² Hebrews 10: 3-4

¹¹³ 1 Corinthians 11:26-29

¹¹⁴ Hebrews 10:17

¹¹⁵ Romans 3:23

faith and our belief that Jesus died for us and that we have obtained his grace through our faith. Only those without faith to obtain grace receive of the communion unworthily. Understanding this we can now see the redemptive work of the cross began during the Passover meal. After this night, Jesus goes to the Garden of Gethsemane and begins to pray for us. But before praying for us He asks His Father that if it would be possible to allow this cup to pass from Him¹¹⁶ to allow it, but if not, then the Father's will might be done regardless. This is very telling. What cup was Jesus talking about? It was the cup of the Lord. But this cup ultimately entails the entire passion of Jesus and into his resurrection. Similar to the four points of the cross, there are four cups that make up the Cup of the Lord. As we follow Christ and we walk through His cross, we too must partake of the Cup of the Lord if we are to see the death of ourselves and ultimately enter into Him.

Jesus agonized over going to the cross. I want you to think about this. You are a man, who has had the entire weight of the world put on your shoulders. You are the redemption and you have to willingly give up your life. How would you approach this? Jesus prayed and even in that trying time, He prayed not so much for Himself, but rather for us. That God may keep us in this world and make us one with Him. Despite this, Jesus agonized over going to the cross. He did not want to go in Himself as we see by Him asking His Father for another way, but in the true selflessness of the act, He tells God that not His will, but Thy will be done. This is the cup of trembling. The agony of this realization caused Jesus to sweat blood in the garden¹¹⁷. Trembling before his Father he partook of this first cup¹¹⁸.

After praying, Jesus is arrested and taken before Pilate. Here He is sentenced to be crucified. A crown of thorns is placed on His head and He is forced to carry His cross up hill to Golgotha. Remember that whosoever will follow Christ must take up his cross and follow him. You must understand that we are to take our cross in order for ourselves to be crucified on the tree. But before this he was whipped 39 times with a cat of nine tails. This is the fulfillment of the scripture he was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed¹¹⁹.

The cat of nine tails was a whip that had nine strands and at the end of these were metal pieces that would grab the flesh and rip it off the body. He was wounded for our transgressions. We all carry the law of God on our backs. We are humbled and bowed down because of it. Our transgressions are the transgressions of the law, all 613 ordinances. When we envy our neighbor, disobey parents, or don't keep the sabbath we transgress the law. Having His back beaten and wounded he takes all our transgression and they are removed from us that we may enter into His grace rather than still be under the law.

He was bruised for our iniquities. What else is iniquity, but the plans and will of man. Iniquity are the things that we do outside the leading and direction of God. It's our good intentions, but not understanding what His will is. It is our self. It's what puts man at enmity against God. But the bruising of His body, His very being of who He was, was done so that we may die to self and live to righteousness in Him. It was foretold from the very beginning that the enemy would bruise the heel of the Son of Man¹²⁰. The work of the cross puts our iniquities and our concepts of self to death.

¹¹⁶ Matthew 26:39

¹¹⁷ Luke 22:44

¹¹⁸ Isaiah 51:21-23

¹¹⁹ Isaiah 53:5

¹²⁰ Genesis 3:15

Scripture is clear that Jesus learned obedience through the things He suffered¹²¹. This is the chastisement of our peace. There is no greater peace than that of being in the will of God and trusting that He has taken care of all things in your life. This truly is the peace that surpasses all understanding. If you are mature in Christ, you recognize that the suffering causes us to fall back into the hands of God that He may truly care for us. The beatings have their purpose, but they were so that we could find peace in obedience, not out of duty, but out of love for our Father¹²². This is how Jesus earned His peace and became the Prince of Peace. It was obedience out of love for His Father. Let me give you a picture. When Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac and angel stopped him and God provided a sacrifice by a ram whose horns were caught in the thicket. The thicket represents that cross. The ram represents Jesus. Jesus was bound to the cross due to obedience and love. Love for His Father and the people and obedience to the Father's will. While it was devastating to Him, at the end he found the peace that surpassed all understanding.

We know that His body was broken for our transgressions, iniquities, and healing. But why the crown of thorns? This was put on for our souls, our thoughts, emotions, will, and who we ultimately are. See all of this must be cast down and brought into the obedience of Christ. The crown of thorns is the breaking of our thoughts, our emotions, and our will. We have the mind of Christ. The price paid for that was crown of thorns. It shows an earthly breaking for a heavenly crown that we will throw at His feet¹²³.

Finally, after his body was beaten and broken, He finally went to the cross and had his hands and feet nailed to the tree. Every cursed thing will hang on the tree. He that knew no sin became sin and ultimately became and bore the curse of the law for us on our behalf. His hands were pierced to destroy the works of man. The things that we build in our own selves out of our own hands needed to be destroyed in order for the work of the redemption of God to have preeminence. Think of the idols of the Old Testament. Man would work the wood or the stone into a specific shape of whatever their god looked like. Then he would overlay it with gold. How many times have we made things in our own selves and tried to overlay God on top of it? The work of our hands had to be nailed to the cross.

Likewise, His feet were nailed. We run to and fro across this world and at times our path has taken us away from Him. Broad is the gate that leads to destruction as we've all been on that path¹²⁴. Yet it was his feet that were placed in the refiner's fire that we may follow and walk after our Father in Christ. This is why our feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of Peace¹²⁵ and why the glorified Christ has feet of brass¹²⁶. This is the overcoming of sin and the path the we take to fulfill our own lusts.

All of these things in the crucifixion are part of the Cup of the wrath of the Lord¹²⁷. This was the full wrath of God poured out on Jesus Christ for the sins, iniquity, and transgressions of mankind. This is what we deserved. But God in his infinite love sent Jesus and Jesus in His infinite love willingly took this on our behalf¹²⁸.

I think it's important here to stop and look at this from the Father's perspective. We briefly looked at it earlier but think about taking your only begotten son and unleashing upon him the fullness of the wrath of God, that we read about in the Old Testament and what is due to

¹²¹ Hebrews 5:8

¹²² Revelation 3:19

¹²³ Revelation 4:10

¹²⁴ Matthew 7:13

¹²⁵ Ephesians 6:15

¹²⁶ Revelation 1:15

¹²⁷ Jeremiah 25:15

¹²⁸ 1 John 4:9-10

each every one of us. The pain and longing that the Father must have felt while turning His back on His son shows the lengths that He was willing to go for us to find salvation in Jesus. This shows the love the Father has to each person in that sacrifice.

Remember Jesus felt that as well. He was dying on the cross while looking to heaven and asking Father why have you forsaken me?"¹²⁹ This is the same Jesus who was with the Father since before the beginning of time. Their bond is everlasting, but as the man that knew no sin became sin¹³⁰ the Father had to separate Himself from His son. The bond was broken and due to sin the Father can have nothing to do with sin. This caused Jesus to suffer the first death of His carnal body and the second death the separation from the Father, resulting in Jesus being cast into Hell¹³¹¹³².

We have a little insight into how this impacted the followers of Jesus that were still alive. As they looked around and saw that their Messiah was crucified, they still didn't remember the teachings He gave as He walked. Their entire world had just come crashing down around them. Remember Jesus was supposed to come and setup His kingdom and rid the Jewish people of the Romans. How could this happen if He was dead? This is the cup of Astonishment and Desolation¹³³. This cup is what led Peter to deny Him three times¹³⁴. This is what caused everyone to forsake Him and fear for their lives as Jesus was nowhere to be found. Here there is no hope and no light. Only the awe of emptiness and loneliness of the desolation that is before you.

However, it is at this darkest time that redemption is near. Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning¹³⁵. Jesus while in Hell preached to the captive in captivity, to any who would listen that they may come to see Him as the Son of God and that he was the sacrifice for their sins¹³⁶¹³⁷. It was here in the desolation that the spirit of reconciliation came. It was for this reason that immediately after the death of Jesus the dead were seen walking through Jerusalem¹³⁸. They were redeemed by the blood of the lamb. It's the reason that the veil in temple was torn in two. We were all reconciled and redeemed to our Father through this sacrifice. This is the cup of salvation¹³⁹. We have been redeemed by the death of Jesus and through His death reconciled back to the Father.

We see now the 4 cups, the cup of trembling, the cup of the right hand of the Lord, the cup of astonishment and desolation and the cup of salvation, all make the cup of the Lord that Jesus drank of when going to the cross. He tells Peter very plainly in Matthew that in order to follow Him we will need to drink of the same cup¹⁴⁰. Ultimately this is to understand the death of self and how we are truly crucified with Christ.

But this is just the first half of the death of Christ. His death would have been meaningless had it not been for the resurrection. It is the resurrection that seals the redemption in the Holy Spirit. Just as the seed must die for the tree to grow, Jesus died so he could be resurrected into our Tree of Life.

¹²⁹ Mark 15:34

¹³⁰ 2 Corinthians 5:21

¹³¹ Matthew 12:39-40

¹³² Jonah 2:2-4

¹³³ Ezekiel 23:33

¹³⁴ Matthew 26:68-75

¹³⁵ Psalms 30:5

¹³⁶ Ephesians 4:8-10

¹³⁷ 1 Peter 3:18-19

¹³⁸ Matthew 27:51-54

¹³⁹ Psalms 116:13

¹⁴⁰ Matthew 20:22-23

In the Garden of Eden there were two trees¹⁴¹. One that gave life and one that gave death. God told Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil or else they would surely die. In eating this tree, their eyes were open as was their sin consciousness ultimately leading to their spiritual death and the ramifications that have followed. God kicked them out of the garden so that they could not partake of the tree of life and live forever in their fallen state¹⁴². When Jesus became the propitiation of our sins on the cross, He also became that tree of life that we may partake. But it was the resurrection that made Him this, the overcoming of death and hell.

When Jesus was in hell preaching to the captivity, hell could not hold him after he was finished. He knew no sin, meaning He was not intimate with sin as we are when we are born. For by one-man sin entered into the world¹⁴³. We were all in Adam when he fell and transgressed the law that was given to him. Jesus was not because he was not born of the seed of man but was born of the seed of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, He did not have the original intimacy of sin that the rest of us have. Given this there was no punishment in Him and hell and death had to give way for the resurrection in the Holy Spirit. It's for this reason that Jesus holds the keys to death and hell¹⁴⁴. How can He be the tree of life and not have charge over the first death, death of the body, and the second death, the sentencing to hell. Having overcome through His resurrection He released the power of that resurrection by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was very clear when He said that after He was gone, we would be endued with power and that the comforter would come¹⁴⁵. We know that comforter to be the Holy Spirit. We've already discussed some of the power that was given to us through the gifts of the Spirit, but there is so much more that the Holy Spirit is responsible. Its most important work is to seal us in the resurrection of Christ¹⁴⁶. The Scripture says that same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead is able to quicken your mortal body¹⁴⁷. Most take this to mean that the Holy Spirit can give you the physical strength to do whatever it is that God needs you to do. And while that is true, there is a greater meaning. When we die to self our mortal body is dead or should I say those aspects of ourselves are dead. It's the job of the Holy Spirit to bring that part of us back to life in Jesus Christ. Let me use a practical example. Let's say that someone really struggles with lying. No matter what happens, they just can't seem to tell the truth in tough situations. It's the Holy Spirit that brings this issue to light. We reckon it dead to the cross of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit tries the faith in that. Once it's truly been nailed to the cross, then the Holy Spirit resurrects the person, in this case, in the ability to be open and honest at all times. This is how the Holy Spirit seals us in the resurrection from the dead and the power of who Christ is.

Jesus said that in His Father's house are many mansions¹⁴⁸. If it were not so, he would not have told us. We are those mansions. However, every mansion has numerous rooms that need to be cleaned and made to be what we were intended to be in Christ. As we look at the cross, we know that everything starts with love. But when there is a room or an area of our life that needs to be cleaned up, then the Holy Spirit will shine the light of truth in that area. It's at this time that we have two options. We can ignore what the Holy Spirit is saying, or we can offer ourselves up as a living sacrifice and let Him clean us up. Once we have the truth our faith should be put behind that truth to achieve the grace that was given

¹⁴¹ Genesis 2:9

¹⁴² Genesis 3

¹⁴³ Romans 5:12

¹⁴⁴ Revelation 1:18

¹⁴⁵ Luke 24:49

¹⁴⁶ Ephesians 1:13-14

¹⁴⁷ Romans 8:11

¹⁴⁸ John 14:2

us in the resurrection of Jesus by the Holy Spirit. This seals us in the resurrection of Christ so that those areas of our lives can live to Him. Paul told us not to offer our members to unrighteousness¹⁴⁹. There is no righteousness outside of Jesus so to offer our members to righteousness we offer them to Jesus to allow the Holy Spirit to do its perfect work in us and seal us in the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This point cannot be understated. This is the fulfillment of what Peter referred to when he said to rejoice as the trial of your faith as it comes out as pure gold¹⁵⁰. This also fulfills what Paul said when he said that He that has begun a good work in you is also able to perform it¹⁵¹. All of this is so that we can become one with the Father through Jesus Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit. That is the goal, but the only way to do that is to partake of the cup of the Lord and be sealed in the resurrection by the Holy Spirit. Look, until you fully enter into Christ there will always be areas that the Holy Spirit will need to touch. But, as He does, we come closer to Christ and the Father through His work. Remember our God is a consuming fire and Paul was clear when he said that when the fire comes only gold, silver, and precious jewels will stand. These are all representative of the work that the Holy Spirit does in our house, given by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Remember that out of our bellies shall flow rivers of living waters. But without the work of the Holy Spirit to clean our pipes, the water would not come out as refreshing, but rather mixed with flesh and mud or rust. The Holy Spirit must usher the parts of self to the cross to be crucified so that it's not us that lives, but rather Christ.

¹⁴⁹ Romans 5:13

¹⁵⁰ 1 Peter 1:6-7

¹⁵¹ Philippians 1:16

Chapter 4: In Christ

There are so many Scriptures that allude to being in Christ. Putting on different aspects of who He is and was that it's easy to miss. But when the revealed word is shown, we understand that we were always meant to be in Him. The simplest one to understand is Ephesians chapter 6. The Bible says to take on the whole armor of God that we may be able to withstand in the evil day. It tells us to stand having our loins girt about with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, above all taking the shield of faith to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit which is the word of God.

Each one of these is a different aspect of Christ. Let's go through each one and understand what it is to put on Christ. The first is that our loins are to be girt about with truth. Your loins include your hips and pelvic areas. These are the main areas that control our ability to walk. The movement of the hips swing the leg forward and back as we take our first steps. We are walk in the light of the truth of Jesus Christ. Remember the Word of God is a light unto our pathway and a lamp unto our feet. Walking in the light of Jesus is walking in His truth. His truth is that of the Gospel and reconciliation and understanding of what His will is. We are to abide in His truth and worship Him in spirit and in truth¹⁵²¹⁵³. Out of our loins come our children as well. We are to reproduce spiritual children by showing them the truth of who and what Jesus is. This means sharing the truth of Jesus with others as we are led by the spirit. This forms the foundation of entering into Christ. If we cannot abide in His truth and walk with our loins girt about with it, then we have will have no part of Him.

The second is having on the breastplate of our righteousness. This covers the areas of the chest and the belly. We know that our spirit resides in the belly of the man as out of our belly will flow rivers of living water¹⁵⁴. But also, the heart of man resides in the chest. Remember God said that He would put his laws into our hearts¹⁵⁵. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus the law is established and fulfilled. It is through our faith in the truth that we obtain righteousness since Jesus is our righteousness. Through his work on the cross we have right standing before our Father through the spirit of reconciliation. We are to be clothed in his righteousness and it is the righteousness of Christ that we must step into¹⁵⁶. Our righteousness and glory are nothing before the Lord, but rather it is the righteousness of Jesus Christ that causes us to be right before God. We can only put on the righteousness of Jesus Christ after we first believe the truth.

Third we are told to have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. The gospel of peace quite simply is the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are to walk in his footsteps, go where he leads, and do what He says to do. It's so important that we walk in who Jesus is. The footsteps of a good man are ordered by the Lord¹⁵⁷. Our very steps should follow Him according to the leading of the Spirit. How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tiding of good things¹⁵⁸! People often think that this is just for those that preach behind the pulpit, but it is not just for the leadership of the church. All of us who believe in Jesus Christ have a ministry or a service to do for God. When we are sent to minister to a person, we bring the gospel of peace to them and preach the word of God to

¹⁵² John 4:23-24

¹⁵³ John 15:4

¹⁵⁴ John 7:38

¹⁵⁵ Hebrews 10:16-17

¹⁵⁶ Isaiah 61:9-11

¹⁵⁷ Psalms 37:23

¹⁵⁸ Romans 10:15

them. It is every Christian's responsibility to carry the water of the Word for people. Never forget that there is much more power in front of the pulpit than behind it.

Above all we are told to take the shield of faith wherewith we can quench the fiery darts of the wicked. I find it interesting that above all we are to take this shield. Our faith in Jesus Christ forms the foundation of our salvation, but it's not our faith that quenches those fiery darts. It's the love that our works our faith¹⁵⁹. What are we putting our faith in other than that love that God had for us shown in His Son Jesus Christ. It is this love that shields us from the fiery darts. It is this love that causes our faith to work. That is why above all we are to take the shield of faith because it works through the love of God which is Jesus Christ. How much more though is our faith justified in believing the truth of the Gospel, obtaining righteousness through that belief, and walking in the Gospel of Jesus. The faith in Jesus Christ is the foundation for us. It is why God tells us above all to take the shield of faith, that we may be able to stand and having done all to stand, stand therefore.

We are to take the helmet of salvation. We know that Jesus was made unto us salvation¹⁶⁰. But it is the helmet of salvation that covers our soul. This means that our thoughts, our will, our emotions are covered in the salvation of Jesus. We have the mind of Christ¹⁶¹. Not that we will have or that we should have, it says we have the mind of Christ. Putting on the helmet of salvation is putting on the mind of Christ. We know His thoughts, His desires, His will in our lives and in each situation. The mind of Christ also helps us to cast down all imaginations and thoughts that go against Jesus and who He is.

Finally, we take of the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. By now you know that this represents Jesus. But you also need to know that is separates the soul from the spirit and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart¹⁶². This means that our wants, desires and will are separated from our spirit to give freedom to Jesus to do His work in us as the high priest. It is Jesus who cuts the bad from the good and offers us as an offering to His Father. In Revelation chapter 2 out of the mouth of the Glorified Christ comes a two-edged sword. The Word of God cuts through the sin, the self and the darkness to bring truth to people. But even more so, it is the Word of God that holds the foundations of the world.

So, when we pray to put on the whole armor of God, what we are doing is stepping into Christ. We gird our loins with truth, which is Jesus because truth and grace came by Jesus Christ. We have on the breastplate of righteousness, which He was made unto us that it may be the justification of our faith in His truth. We have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, which is the gospel of Jesus Christ because He is our Prince of Peace. Above all we take the shield of faith, but it's the faith that works through the love of God in Jesus Christ. We take the helmet of salvation to put on the mind of Christ. Finally, we take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, which is Jesus Christ. If you've ever prayed this, you prayed to enter into Christ even if for a short period.

This is just one example of what it means to put on Christ. We are told throughout the New Testament that we have put on Christ. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ¹⁶³. This is a key Scripture in Galatians. What does that mean to be baptized? This means that we have been immersed in Jesus Christ. Think of a person dying a cloth. They have the color in the bucket and a normal cotton or linen cloth. This

¹⁵⁹ Galatians 5:6

¹⁶⁰ 1 Corinthians 1:30

¹⁶¹ 1 Corinthians 2:16

¹⁶² Hebrews 4:12

¹⁶³ Galatians 3:27

person will immerse that cloth in the color. The first time it comes out, the color is faint. It hasn't stuck to the threads yet. But after several immersions, the color darkens and becomes fuller until the original color of the fabric is no more. This is how we are with Christ. The more and more that we put Him on, the more and more we lose ourselves. I'm not saying that we need to be baptized more than once. Paul was very clear that there is one baptism in water and one in the Holy Spirit. But I am saying that the more we put on Christ, the more we lose ourselves.

Another way to think of it is a little kid in his father's suit. It's way too big and the child looks adorable in it and it makes a funny picture. But eventually that child will grow into that suit. The shirt may fit first and then the pants and finally the jacket, but eventually that child fits into that suit. As we grow in Christ, some aspects may not fit from the beginning. We must grow into them. I can tell you that you have the mind of Christ. The Bible says so, but to have the mind of Christ means that your thoughts, emotions, and will are dead to the cross of Jesus. This is something that must be grown into. That is why Paul gave us a transitional step in casting down our imaginations and bringing our thoughts subject to the obedience of Jesus Christ. This is the same as putting on Christ and is a beginning to step living in His resurrection.

In Colossians Paul tells us that above all we are to put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness¹⁶⁴. This context is of coming together as one body and having the ability to forbear one another in Christ. But as we put on charity we put on Christ and we put on his ability to forbear. Remember that Isaiah prophesied in chapter 11 that Christ would not judge according to the sight of His eyes nor reprove by the hearing of His ears, but with righteousness He will judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth¹⁶⁵. As we put on Christ we put on His forgiveness. Oh, it is the long suffering of God that brings people to repentance. We understand that as the very symbol of the love of God putting on love as we are to do, does not allow us to be judge and jury over others¹⁶⁶. This is because love covers a multitude of sins¹⁶⁷. As Christ walked on this earth in love so are we to walk in love with everyone the we come in contact with. It was not us who died to judge others, but Christ who will judge the quick and the dead.¹⁶⁸ He died for the sins of the world and is the only righteous judge.

When we put on Christ, we put on charity for all men, women, and children in the world. It doesn't matter if they are Muslim, Hindu, black, white, gay, straight, or any other thing. What matters is the love of Jesus. For it is that love that will bring people to Him, being drawn by the Holy Spirit. We are not to condemn their actions. But that is the job of Christ and the Holy Spirit as they learn and grow. You were not changed instantly but had to be worked on by our High Priest, so too must these individuals.

But this knowledge only comes by putting on charity and putting on Christ. But it is not just Christ that is put on, but also the spirits that were on Him. Again Isaiah 11 tells us of the seven spirits of God that rested on Jesus. These are the spirit of the Lord, the spirit of wisdom, the spirit of understanding, the spirit of counsel, the spirit of might, the spirit of knowledge, and the spirit of the fear of the Lord.¹⁶⁹ As we put on Christ these spirits rest upon us as well. But what are they?

¹⁶⁴ Colossians 3:14

¹⁶⁵ Isaiah 11:3-4

¹⁶⁶ Romans 2:3-11

¹⁶⁷ 1 Peter 4:7-9

¹⁶⁸ 1 Peter 4:3-6

¹⁶⁹ Isaiah 11:2

The first spirit is the Spirit of the Lord. This quite simply is the Holy Spirit. Remember that when Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove when He was raised up from the water¹⁷⁰. The Holy Spirit rested on the outside of Jesus. So, to is the Holy Spirit to rest on the outside of us. We are to be immersed in the baptism of the Holy Spirit where we are sealed in Christ¹⁷¹¹⁷². When we put on Christ, we put on the Holy Spirit, meaning that the same works that He did, we can do through Him. He is the one that said greater works than these shall you do¹⁷³.

The second spirit is the spirit of Wisdom. This is the very wisdom of God and the ability to walk in His wisdom. Paul in Ephesians told us to be wise and redeem the time for the days are evil¹⁷⁴. The spirit of wisdom allows us to understand the will of God and how to walk and move. Paul prayed that the spirit of Wisdom and revelation would be upon the people at Ephesus¹⁷⁵. When we walk in Christ, we walk in the wisdom of who God is and what He is. Think of this. We have the wisdom of how to act in every situation. We have the wisdom of when to talk and when to be silent. We have the wisdom to accomplish all that God wants. This spirit shows us how to walk in Christ.

The next spirit is the spirit of understanding. You see, when Christ walked on this earth, He didn't just know what God wanted, but He understood. He understood the purpose the will of the Father in His life. To see this only read John chapter 17. When we put on Christ and the spirit of understanding, we are able to understand what God's will is, not only in our lives, but in situations. I've often heard ministers say that we shouldn't question God. I have never agreed with this. The only way to have understanding of the situation is to ask¹⁷⁶. Now sometimes God will not tell you and expects you to walk by faith, but He will explain after. I have never had God hold back an explanation from me either in the beginning or after He had accomplished His purpose. He always explains the why to me. This is important. We are to do all things with the understanding¹⁷⁷. The spirit of understanding is what reveals the ultimate purpose of God in the situation. As we put on Christ, we must put on His understanding.

The Spirit of Counsel is important to us. This allows God to minister to us through the Holy Spirit and give us the guidance necessary to move forward. Likewise, when we step into Christ and this spirit rests upon us, we are able to give direction and counsel to those that God leads us to. This also includes teaching as well. Think of what Jesus did while he was walking on this earth. He counseled and taught the people in the ways of God through the sermons he gave to the people. He also did this in one on one sessions with his disciples. Counsel is key to leadership. The ability to guide and grow others in Christ creates disciples who in turn create other disciples. The tree grows and God develops the fruit in the tree from the spirit of counsel.

The spirit of might is the power that came with Jesus. He opened the blind eyes¹⁷⁸. He raised people from the dead¹⁷⁹. He did all of these things during His ministry. He had the might and the power to perform numerous miracles. Jesus said greater works than these shall you do¹⁸⁰. Meaning that with the spirit of might, we will be able to do these same works

¹⁷⁰ John 1:32

¹⁷¹ 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

¹⁷² Ephesians 4:30

¹⁷³ John 14:12

¹⁷⁴ Ephesians 5:15-21

¹⁷⁵ Ephesians 1:17

¹⁷⁶ James 4:2

¹⁷⁷ 1 Corinthians 14:14-20

¹⁷⁸ John 9:1-7

¹⁷⁹ John 11

¹⁸⁰ John 14:12

of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Not only these, but much more. We must recognize that we have the spirit of might to create limbs, or to feed people where there is no food. Stepping into Christ gives us this power through His spirit. You've heard stories of water being created in the desert. This is because in the Holy Spirit there is might and there is power. Putting on Christ puts on the might and power of the Holy Spirit.

There is no knowledge that God does not have. Jesus told us that the Spirit of truth would show us of things to come¹⁸¹. This is knowledge of things past, present and future. God is not one to hide things from His people. He will show us what we ask if we are willing to put Him on for the understanding. Job tells us that it is the pride of man that hides the voice of God¹⁸². How true this is. It is when we put on Christ that we are humbled in humility and the knowledge of the Lord can be upon us. Paul asked that the spirit of knowledge would be upon the people at Ephesus. Why would he pray this way? It is because the people are destroyed for lack of knowledge¹⁸³. It is knowledge in our Lord Jesus Christ that gives everyone the ability to combat the enemy and live to the fulness of who they are. Knowledge in both the written and the revealed word takes us closer to who God is and who He wants us to be.

Finally, the spirit of the fear of the Lord. Scripture says that fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and this is true¹⁸⁴. People like to say that we should fear God because of His wrath and what He can do. I completely disagree. The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord is not one of true fear, but one of the respect that a Son has for his Father. The scripture is clear that there is no fear in God because perfect love casts out fear¹⁸⁵. Then how can this spirit truly be fear. It can't. This Spirit rested on Jesus. He was never afraid of His father or who His Father was or what He could do. He respected the will of His Father. Jesus followed that will to the cross. Remember in the Garden of Gethsemane He prayed not my will, but thou will be done¹⁸⁶. He was showing the ultimate deference and respect to His Father. As we put on Christ our will fades giving way to that of the Father. That heavenly respect for who He is and His will overtakes us. I do not fear my earthly father. I know he loves me. How much more does my Heavenly Father love me?

These Spirits led Christ to not judge according to the sight of His eyes, nor rebuke by the hearing of His ears. They guided His actions, kept Him in tune with the Father and ultimately aided Him in fulfilling the law for us. As we continue to put on Christ through faith, we continue to lose more of our own life until one day we will be sealed in Him to dwell in His house forever. When that happens the seven spirits of God will dwell on us as they dwell on the Son, for the will of the Father to be done on earth. Oh, how great the day of the Lord will be!

Understanding this we must understand that we are to be in Christ. It is not enough just put on Christ from time to time, but we are to be in Him and sealed by the Holy Spirit. Since by man came death, by man also the resurrection of the dead¹⁸⁷. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. Remember during the curse we were all in Adam. We are the seed of Adam meaning that we were part of Him when he fell. We are, through the work of the cross, to be resurrected and made alive in Christ.

¹⁸¹ John 16:13

¹⁸² Job 33:14-18

¹⁸³ Hosea 4:6

¹⁸⁴ Proverbs 1:7

¹⁸⁵ 1 John 4:18

¹⁸⁶ Matthew 26:39

¹⁸⁷ 1 Corinthians 15:21

Proverbs refers to the name of the Lord as a strong tower that the righteous run into¹⁸⁸. The name of the Lord is Jesus. It is him that we run into. When you run into a tower, you are sealed on the inside and nothing can harm you. This is the same as Jesus Christ. We are to be in Him, protected and sealed in Jesus. But to enter into Him, we must first walk through His death and be reckoned dead to His cross. The only reason that anyone may enter Christ is that there is no flesh, no sin, no spot or blemish¹⁸⁹. The only way for that to happen is for our carnality to be hung on the cross. All of our thoughts, our desires, and will are against God. This includes our bad thoughts and our best of intentions. If they have not been tried in the fire of God, then they are not worthy to stand before Him and therefore may not enter into Him.

To operate in Christ is to truly be where it is not I that lives, but rather it is Christ that lives within me¹⁹⁰. Again, going back to the analogy of the suit. If we are in Christ, our arms are his arms and our legs are His legs. So, when he raises his arm our arm goes up as well. When he walks, we walk in Him. The suit cannot leave the body and the body cannot leave the suit. This is why the church is referred to as the body of Christ. Once we enter in Him, He as the head guides us¹⁹¹. You don't have to think about how you walk. You don't have to think, I need to put this heel down then bend my knee. It is second nature to you. This is how the work of Christ will be once we enter into Him. We will no longer see the cares of this world, but we will know and just walk as Christ is in this world.

Think about the amazing possibilities being in Christ. The miracles that will be done and the number that will come to salvation will be amazing, but we must first lose who we are. We must continue to put on Christ until finally we are in Him and sealed by the Holy Spirit. We must continue to be crucified to the cross of Jesus Christ and die to who He is and enter into Him by the Holy Spirit.

I must reiterate here that this is a process. Yes, the grace of God can cause us to enter in overnight, but God wants a tried and true people. So, what is that process. How does man learn to enter into Christ over time? The secret lies in the books of the New Testament. God has literally given us a road map to follow.

The book of Romans contains the basics for Christianity. It's here that we understand that we are to be saved by believing in our heart and confessing with our mouth¹⁹². Paul really shows us what it means to enter into the grace of Jesus Christ and also tells us that to start we must offer ourselves as living sacrifices in which our High Priest Jesus Christ will place us on the altar and then mold us into what he wants us to be¹⁹³. He will dress us, meaning that he will cut out the parts that are not acceptable to him and they will be taken out and buried outside of Him so that our other pieces are resurrected into the newness of Him. Paul told the Galatians that I am crucified with Christ yet it's not I that lives, but rather Christ that lives within me¹⁹⁴. To enter into Christ is to be sealed in his resurrection through the death of the flesh on the cross which was buried in the ground outside of the camp. This was ordained from the beginning. The brazen altar is a picture of this process, but again was an earthly and fleshly ordinance for the heavenly and spiritual one that was to come through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸⁸ Proverbs 18:10

¹⁸⁹ Ephesians 5:27

¹⁹⁰ Galatians 2:19-21

¹⁹¹ Colossians 1:17-19

¹⁹² Romans 10:9

¹⁹³ Romans 12:1

¹⁹⁴ Galatians 2:19-21

Baptism in water is a picture of this. A person comes to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and is saved. There is a change in the heart, but then they are immersed in the water baptism. This is the washing of the water of the word and a picture of what is to be¹⁹⁵. The baptism shows the person being immersed in the water of the word, which is Jesus Christ and being brought up in the newness of His resurrection. I cannot emphasize this point enough.

Look, this is not an instant process. Why? Because man is carnal, and his flesh will always be at enmity against God¹⁹⁶. But he that has begun a good work in you is also able to perform it. We talked about the person being a mansion. The Holy Spirit will nail one piece of you or one room to the cross at a time. But until the light comes to that other area the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ are sufficient. David asked for forgiveness for even his hidden sins, recognizing that he was not made perfect in grace yet, but rather that he needed redeeming¹⁹⁷. We are that way until we enter fully into Christ. Pieces of ourselves are refined in the refiner's fire and made right. Then God moves to the next phase. It's very important to understand that does not give any person license to do whatever they want. Paul is clear that any man who is redeemed from sin should no longer dwell therein¹⁹⁸. But the actions are no longer governed by a set of rules or ordinances. Our actions should be governed by our love for the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. A servant operates under certain parameters that have been set for them. But a son or a daughter operates in the freedom of their father. This is how we are to be. Paul said that all things are lawful, but not all things are expedient¹⁹⁹. I love my earthly parents tremendously and I would never do anything to hurt them on purpose. Likewise, we should recognize what hurts our Heavenly Father and depart from the iniquity that we dwell in. But it is not possible for any person to clean themselves up or depart from said iniquity. This is a work of the Holy Spirit. But do not allow condemnation to come on you, when you make a mistake. There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus²⁰⁰. His grace is sufficient. But foster the relationship with Him and you will see that these items will fall off of you as you walk hand in hand. Jesus is not on the cross anymore. He came not just for the remission of sins, but so that we could live a life of victory in Him. Take him off the cross and focus on walking with Him. The work of the cross, burial, and resurrection form the foundation, but there is so much more to God than this. It's time that we built on that foundation with Jesus as the chief cornerstone and built of gold, silver and precious jewels²⁰¹.

¹⁹⁵ Ephesians 5:26-27

¹⁹⁶ Romans 8:6-8

¹⁹⁷ Psalms 51:8-10

¹⁹⁸ Romans 6:1-4

¹⁹⁹ 1 Corinthians 6:11-12

²⁰⁰ Romans 8:1-2

²⁰¹ Ephesians 2:19-22

Chapter 5: The Normal Christian Life

The writer of Hebrews said that the children of Israel did not enter into their rest due to their unbelief and that we should labor therefore that we may enter into the rest of Jesus Christ²⁰²²⁰³. Most people say that this is works and praying and reading the Bible so that we can enter into the rest of Jesus when we get to heaven. But there is a rest here that can be achieved by faith through love. We labor in our unbelief to build our faith to where we can enter into rest.

Let me ask you a question. When you sit in your recliner or your couch do you doubt that as you lower yourself down that it will hold you, or that it won't be there as you are lowering yourself? We've all had the feeling we were going to miss the chair and think of the panic that sets in when you feel you are about to fall. This is exactly the way it is when we don't believe that Jesus Christ loves us and works things to good in our life²⁰⁴. We enter panic mode and we begin to try to correct the situation ourselves. In the case of the chair, this means that we either stand up or we shakily continue down on the seat even though we are unsure. In terms of Jesus Christ, we try to bring things to pass when we should simply sit and wait.

They that are led by God are the sons of God²⁰⁵. Understanding the will of God is key, but when he promises life and good things we need to stand on those promises, which includes both the written word and the revealed word. I have a Labrador boxer mix named Buddy also known as Sir Budward the Great. I'm a huge dog person and Buddy is basically like a child to me. I was engaged to my fiancé and I had a dream that I was talking to a child, maybe 3 or 4 and was explaining what happened to Buddy when he passed. It was shortly after that, Buddy stopped eating and moving. I had two options. I could have panicked and thought that I was about to lose my dog who I loved so much, or I could stand on the vision that God gave me that Buddy was going to be around for a while longer. Well, I made the wrong choice, but my fiancé now wife reminded me of the dream and said, "Daniel, you need to rest on what God showed you." We did together and ultimately Buddy was fine and in fact after the vet visit it was like he was a puppy again. I share that to show you that the real Christian life is a life of sitting, walking and standing. Our natural state should be one of rest and move when the Spirit tells us to and then stand on what He has given us the victory over.

Psalms 23 shows this very well. I know that most people see this as a Scripture for the death of a saint just simply because it says that we will walk through the valley of the shadow of death. But death is not a part of this. To walk in this shadow is not to pass through death, but rather this is a Psalm of life and how we are to live as Christians.

The first verse starts with "The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want." I'm going to stop there. Think about the power of that verse. The Lord is my Shepherd. The role of the shepherd is substantial. It is the shepherd's responsibility to feed to the sheep, to protect the sheep, to direct the sheep and to provide for all of their needs. The very first verse of this Psalm tells us that the Father is our shepherd and has provided all that we need in His Son Jesus Christ. He was made redemption, sanctification, wisdom and righteousness²⁰⁶. He is the propitiation of sins and by Him we are made joint heirs to the inheritance of a

²⁰² Hebrews 3:14-19

²⁰³ Hebrews 4:1-3

²⁰⁴ Romans 8:28

²⁰⁵ Romans 8:14

²⁰⁶ 1 Corinthians 1:30

Heavenly Father²⁰⁷²⁰⁸. Jesus Christ is the sum of all things and is the blessing. This first verse is a statement of faith. David knows that the Lord is his shepherd and will provide all things for him no matter what position he is in. It was David that said even if I make my bed in hell You will be there with me²⁰⁹. How amazing is it to have the creator of the universe as our Shepherd!

The second verse will be our focus for now. “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters.” Think about being a sheep and lying in a green lush pasture with plenty of good grass to eat. Walking next to a crystal clear lake with all the water you could drink. This is a place of rest for that sheep. The Shepherd is protecting them and ultimately supplying all their needs. But how many of us fail to recognize our need to rest in Jesus, to have the faith that he really is protecting us and providing all things to us? We have to insert ourselves and what we want into the equation and rather than rest in His promises and understanding what he has done for us. Ephesians 2:5 and 6 says that we are quickened with Christ and are made to sit together in heavenly places. The normal Christian walk and life starts in a place of rest.

Hebrews 3 expounds on this thought. The children of Israel walked in the wilderness for 40 years due to their unbelief. The Bible is clear in Hebrews 3:19 in saying, “So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.” But it’s Hebrews 4 that applies it to us. Hebrews 4:2 says “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.” We have a gospel and understand that the death of Jesus Christ is epitome of the fulfillment of that promise. Salvation begins the labor of entering into that rest. Hebrews 4:10, says, “For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his **own** works, as God did from his.” His own works is the key phrase here. When we enter into the rest of Jesus Christ, we cease from the works of our own flesh to fulfill the will of God. But rather, it is the works of Jesus Christ that continue to fulfill His will. This rest isn’t dying and going to heaven, but rather through faith being able to obtain the promise of oneness with Jesus Christ and entering into His rest where we are made to lie down in green pastures.

This place of rest has no worry, no fretting and no fear. It is the resting in the perfect love of God and knowing beyond the shadow of a doubt that “all things work together for good to them that love the Lord and are called according to His purpose²¹⁰.” If you are saved, then you are called according to His purpose. Imagine going through life in a state of rest, knowing and believing that God will supply all your needs according to his riches and glory²¹¹. That if you seek His kingdom and His righteousness that all the things of the Gentiles will be added unto you²¹². How much more could you shift the focus away from you and the things that you want to others? Our prayers would no longer be for our needs, but for the needs of others who are weaker in the faith and need to be lifted up. We could focus on the work that Jesus has for us in Him and not in ourselves or our own ambitions. To have a life of rest means complete and utter faith that God has you.

As we’ve talked about earlier this is not an overnight thing. We go from faith to faith that we may ultimately enter into the promise. It takes time and experience in a relationship to trust that explicitly. It starts with our wants, desires and will dying to the cross of Jesus Christ and ultimately being resurrected in the mind of Christ. As we get closer to God and dwell in the

²⁰⁷ 1 John 4:10

²⁰⁸ Romans 8:17

²⁰⁹ Psalms 139:8

²¹⁰ Romans 8:28

²¹¹ Philippians 4:19

²¹² Matthews 6:32-34

death of Jesus Christ, more and more rest comes upon us and more and more of parts of us enter into His rest. It's very possible for you to have entered into rest in your finances, but not in your health. It's about walking in the relationship and laboring through experience and the trial of your faith to enter into that rest²¹³²¹⁴. Remember we go from faith to faith. Your faith grows as it is tried. Let us therefore labor that we may enter into His rest from **our** works.

There is restoration in a place of rest. Verse 3 of this Psalm says, "He restoreth my soul." Think about a life where every care and every worry that you ever had is taken by Jesus Christ. He said for all of us that labor and are heavy laden and He will give us rest²¹⁵. In the place of rest our soul is no longer weakened by our ambition, our own will, or things that we perceive are problems, but rather we only see Jesus and know in the very pit of our being that He will take care of them all.

When I was first walking through this, I had a dream and, in this dream, I saw myself in a beautiful glade in a gorgeous forest and I was sitting on a log, just resting. Suddenly, a spirit came and set small fires all around me. But rather than get up, I just sat there, and a rain came and put the fires out. In this dream, the fires were started by the devil in order to try to distract me from the rest and the belief that God has all of me including my problems. I could either sit there and believe that God was in control or I could get up and try to put out the fires. In sitting there and focusing on Jesus Christ even in the midst of the fires, the Holy Spirit, in this case the rain, came and took care of them and I stayed in my place of rest.

We may say that we have faith and that we trust God in this situation and in that situation, but it is when the rubber meets that road that we really know where we stand. When something bad happens or something that doesn't look good for us happens how do we react? Do we believe in the work of Jesus Christ and take rest that all things worketh together for good for them that love the Lord, or do we react in a way that causes fear and anxiety? Remember perfect love casts out fear²¹⁶. If we truly believe that God has us, then our initial reaction is one of faith and ultimately of rest.

Life does not change. Problems will still happen and not everything is going to be sunshine and roses, but rather what changes is how we approach them and view them. Jesus is that lily among thorns²¹⁷. We must see Him in the problems and focus on Him for us to enter into His rest. When Peter stepped out of the boat he was focused on Jesus. He had rest in His Lord that he could walk on water as Jesus. But it was when he stopped seeing Jesus and instead saw that storms that were surrounding him that he began to sink, and fear took over²¹⁸. Knowing that Jesus has your life and that He will work your life, out of His love, and placing the whole thing in His hands releases you from fear to walk in the fullness of His life. This forms the basis for the Christian walk. Everything must start in a place of rest and ultimately a place of trust in the Lord.

Once we have our place of rest and trust in God. He is then able to lead us into the places that He wants. The rest of verse 3 says, "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." Starting from a place of rest we are able to walk according to His leading in the path the He wants. Resting in Jesus Christ and in His will makes that walking part much easier. When we rest, we have the faith that no matter what happens Jesus is in

²¹³ Hebrews 4:11-12

²¹⁴ 1 Peter 1:6-8

²¹⁵ Matthew 11:27-30

²¹⁶ 1 John 4:18

²¹⁷ Song of Solomon 2:2

²¹⁸ Matthew 14:28-32

control. So, coming from that paradigm we see that when we walk, we walk along with Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:15-17 says, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." Coming from a place of rest we are able to walk in the wisdom of Jesus Christ as we are led through His paths of righteousness.

Sometimes the paths of righteousness will take us through difficult times that we may not think that we can come out of. Verse 4 shows us this, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me' they rod and thy staff they comfort me." We must understand that the trial of our faith is worth more than pure gold²¹⁹. However, that trial often comes in the way of fire. But as we walk through troubled times, we must still remember that place of rest. Many think this is as we walk through death, but the Scripture says, "I walk through the valley of the **shadow** of death." This is not death itself, but we've all been through those trials that we didn't think we were going to make it out. These are walking through the shadow of death. But it's in these instances that we must see and focus on Jesus. He is the shepherd. The shepherds rod and staff are of comfort. The rod to point us in the right direction and the staff to push us along that path. Here is where we see Jesus in the midst of the storm as the lily among the thorns.

There is no going backward in Jesus Christ. We are not of them that draw back unto perdition, but there is only forward movement²²⁰. The rod and the staff of the shepherd are critical to guiding the sheep and also to keep the wolves away. It's still following in that place of rest that Jesus has us that begins our walk, but the rod and staff reminds us and give us comfort in that rest as we walk through the most difficult times, reminding us that the Lord is our Shepherd and we shall not want.

In the next verse God causes us to stand. "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." It's here after we have walked through what God wanted us to that we get victory over the enemy that we have just defeated. When a table is set before you in the presence of your enemies, the enemies are not going to go quietly and allow you your time. I was an alcoholic. But when the Lord gave me the victory, shortly after that, I was challenged. An old drinking buddy of mine put my favorite beer right in front of me and dared me not to drink it. I had a choice. A table had been prepared before me in the face of my alcoholism, but that spirit tried to lure me back. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ²²¹. I pushed the beer back and have never struggled with that since. We have been given victory, but it's the ability to stand in that victory in Christ Jesus that truly makes us overcomers.

At that point, "thou anointed my head with oil; my cup runneth over." After having the victory and learning to stand in the victory that is in Jesus, we are anointed to bring others through to that victory and be more than a conqueror, but to inherit the land that has been given us and possess it²²². There is nothing that goes to waste with God. As my cup runs over it is to fill other cups for the same thing, so that I, through Jesus, may lead others to same victory I had. What is the point of my solely standing in what Jesus had? We are to provide our testimonies and show others how they can stand in Christ.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Once we have stood on the promises and brought others

²¹⁹ 1 Peter 1:7

²²⁰ Hebrews 10:38-39

²²¹ 1 Corinthians 15:57

²²² Romans 8:36-39

through to Jesus, we will never be challenged in that area again and we will dwell with Jesus as overcomers. “To him that overcome the I will grant to sit with me in my throne even as I also overcame²²³.” We then enter into our fullness of rest having overcome in the area and cease from our works. After this God then moves to another areas and the process starts again. This is the normal Christian life. To find a place of rest that God makes for us. To walk through the valley of the challenge of that area. To stand on the victory given to us and to bring others to that life. Finally, to fully enter into rest that we may cease from our labors. This cycle works through faith in the love that Jesus has for us.

²²³ Revelation 3:21

Chapter 6: Bearing Fruit

Understanding the normal Christian walk in our own lives, it's important for us to realize how our life in Christ translates to others that both walk in the light of Jesus and those that are still in darkness. If we truly believe that He will take care of us according to all of His riches and glory, then our focus shifts away from our own lives, but to the people that are in our lives. True faith in God's love that is Jesus, makes me recognize that I'm truly in need of nothing. I have all things in Jesus Christ, but what about the people around me that live lost in this world?

I was recently traveling for work, which I do often, but this time was different. I was in Atlanta, one of the busiest airports on the planet. I was sitting at my gate not focused on anything, just staring out at the mass of people walking by trying to catch their flights. It was then that the Lord spoke to me and asked a simple question. "Who is going to reach them?" At first, I didn't understand the question. I asked what He meant. He told me this, "Daniel, people are going to and fro with their busy lives. Even my people go about their lives like this. Who is going to reach these people and pray for them? Who is going to care about each one of them as I do?" I was struck by the simplicity of this thought, but in awe of the complexity. God is looking for a people that are willing to step out of their comfort in Him and reach the people that He has sent them. I've been just as guilty as any in this arena. As many times as I've traveled and been in airports or in stadiums for a game I've never once thought about the souls of the people sitting in the arena, in the same section, in the same row or even the very seat next to me, until God specifically pointed it out to me. If the people of God, the church, aren't going to see people that God loves, then who will?

We as believers have become too complacent and comfortable in our own lives to put God and what He wants first and foremost in our lives. If we can only reach a point in our walk with Jesus Christ to realize that our desires and wants aren't necessary and that He will supply everything we need, then we can step out in faith the same way that Peter did onto the crashing waves.

But before we are able to reach others, we must have something to bring to the people, meaning we must first bear fruit in our walk²²⁴. Before we can bear fruit, we must grow as a tree planted by the water²²⁵. Before we can grow the seed must die and before the seed dies it must be planted. This is the process needed to bear fruit that others may eat of. No one plants a tree today that will immediately bear fruit. It must be watered, nurtured and at times pruned back to bring the fullness of its fruit in its season. Without this process it is not possible for any Christian to provide what others need, but we must understand that it is God through the Holy Spirit that works this process and performs the good work in us.

The seed planted is that of salvation. We are the ground that was fertile and the Holy Spirit through someone planted the seed of salvation in us. We know that this seed falls on the stony ground, or by the wayside, or amongst thorns, but in true Christians the seed was found to be in fertile ground²²⁶. This forms the foundation for everything. No plant can grow without the seed being sown in fertile ground that is ready to accept the seed. If it does not fall on that fertile ground, then Jesus told us what happens. When the seed is sown by the wayside, the person hears the word of God, but does not understand what's happening. They may feel the pull and tug of the Holy Spirit, but they aren't sure or there is no one to tell

²²⁴ Matthew 7:20

²²⁵ Jeremiah 17:8

²²⁶ Mark 4:1-20

them what's happening. Then comes Satan and catches away what was sown in his heart²²⁷. This means that they are lured back either into their own lives composed of self-gratitude and we must wait until the Holy Spirit can continue to work on them for another opportunity into salvation if the Lord is merciful.

The seed that was sown on stony ground are those that receive the word and come to salvation, but there is no root in Scripture or in how the Spirit works. Often times these are people that are led to believe that Christianity is an easy walk and that they won't have to walk through difficult times and ones that are not ready to fully trust in their salvation that is in Jesus Christ²²⁸. But when the trial comes, or they are persecuted for their beliefs then they are offended easily and leave. If you've been in church at all you've probably seen several that fall into this category. They come to church for a while, seem to really enjoy it, but then something happens they are gone. The problem is that there was no discipleship or accountability for them to teach the Word or how to walk in the spirit and be led by the Holy Spirit. When the fire comes, then they can't stand and choose to go back to their old life.

The seed that falls amongst thorns is the one that hears the Word and may even understand that the Holy Spirit is trying to pull them in, but the cares of the world are more appealing to them²²⁹. They often don't want to face the fact that they are broken and need a savior, but as Jesus said, "The whole need not a physician²³⁰." Until they can come to terms with who they are, they will go about their own way with the word choked out of them. It could be anything from the wealth they've accumulated to their own self-pity, but it is the pride of their own self that chokes this out of them.

But for those of that landed on the fertile soil, it is our responsibility to bear fruit, some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty²³¹. It starts with the planting. The next step is arguably the most difficult. The seed must die. Paul talks in Romans about being planted in together in the likeness of His death²³². He reiterates this in First Corinthians in saying that what we sow must first die before it can be raised and nurtured²³³. This goes back to reckoning ourselves dead to the cross of Jesus Christ that we might be resurrected unto His life. It's important to recognize that what is planted does not represent what the plant will be. When you plant a tomato plant, you start with a small seed that is put in the earth the grows into the plant and bears the fruit. We don't take a whole tomato plant and put it in the ground and expect another tomato plant to come up. It's this way with us. What we were the things we used to be, the person we used to be is planted, so that a new person can be resurrected in the newness of life in Jesus Christ²³⁴. This is why reckoning ourselves dead to the cross is so important. It is not possible for us to grow and bear fruit without the death of self, first.

There is one aspect that we must understand as we move forward. The Holy Spirit acts as the gardener of our plant. Once the Holy Spirit plants the seed and we die, He waters our seed through the Word, which is Jesus Christ. He begins to teach us about Jesus Christ through the Scripture and through the preaching and teaching of ministers and teachers. It's here as we are watered that we prepare to grow. We know that one plants, one waters, but

²²⁷ Mark 4:16

²²⁸ Mark 4:16-17

²²⁹ Mark 4:18-19

²³⁰ Mark 2:17

²³¹ Mark 4:20

²³² Romans 6:5

²³³ 1 Corinthians 15:34-38

²³⁴ 2 Corinthians 5:16-18

it is God that gives the increase²³⁵. The increase comes through experience. As we go from faith to faith we grown and sprout as Christians. We begin to trust God more and more. Also, more aspects of ourselves continue to die and live until Christ meaning that we begin to stretch out with branches.

Initially our growth is good, but we do reach a point where the Holy Spirit must prune us back for us to grow in the way that He wants. When Christians are young and still growing, they may begin to start working in the Spirit and trying to follow the leading of God. But they are still learning the voice of the Lord and often mistakes are made, and they must walk through these. Often this results in that individual being humbled and forced to go back to God and learn to rely on Him in a different aspect. Paul said that he had learned how to both abound and to be abased²³⁶. If we are tending a garden, we don't allow the plants to grow wildly, but we trim them or help to continue to grow upright. An unpruned plant will grow outward and ultimately be bowed over due to the weight of its own branches. The Holy Spirit guides and does our pruning for us to grow upward toward the Son.

Finally, as our tree grows, we begin to bear fruit but the fruit needs time to ripen for it to be good for anyone to eat of. There is a maturation process that the fruit needs to go through. Until that time though it's important for us to be patient. Once the fruit matures and our branches extend out, then people will be able to come to our tree for refreshing and our ministry will begin. Until that time, it is important for us to wait on the Lord to bring the fullness of maturity. Have you ever eaten a fruit that is not quite ripe? It's bitter and hard to digest and it's not easily eaten. If we step out before our time that is what we offer people to eat. This is not expedient for the other person or for us. We end up making a mess of things and the person is in a worse position than when they first came to us. David was anointed king over Israel at a relatively young age. But there was a maturation process that had to happen with David. He would not become king until he was 30 years old. The time running from Saul and fighting those battles were the maturation process for David to become the king that he would be.

Once we reach maturity through the growth process, God will begin to send people to you for them to be ministered to and refreshed. At this time the trees branches extend out and provide coolness of shade and fruit for people to eat and be refreshed. I've seen this in my own life. I've had people that I've never met before stopping me in the grocery store and start pouring their heart out about what's going on in their lives. God had sent them to me in order for me to minister to them according to the Spirit and for them to be refreshed with hope and grace. This is how we should interact with people. We may not know them or know their problems, but when they begin to pour their heart out, it's our responsibility to give them of our fruit to eat, according to the leading of the Holy Spirit that they may be refreshed and leave in the hope that is in Jesus Christ.

This is just one aspect of bearing fruit. Another is the work of the ministry. Whatever your calling may be, we must bear fruit through that calling. Many are called, but few are chosen²³⁷. Those that are chosen bear fruit for others to come and be refreshed. It is always our responsibility to bear fruit. Paul told Timothy to be instant in season and out of season²³⁸. Regardless of what is happening in our own lives, we must continue to give to others as Jesus has freely given to us. Don't forget what happened to the fig tree that Jesus came to. It was not bearing fruit for Him to be refreshed. It didn't matter what season it was.

²³⁵ 1 Corinthians 3:6

²³⁶ Philippians 4:12

²³⁷ Matthew 22:14

²³⁸ 2 Timothy 4:2

There was an expectation that the tree would have fruit and it didn't. There was no refreshing for Jesus and the He cursed the tree and it withered away²³⁹. The same goes for us. If we do not bear fruit for people, then we have no purpose in Christ. Our purpose is to show the grace that God has shown us through Jesus to others by them partaking of our fruit.

We have discussed the process, but we need to talk about the types of fruit that we bear. We know from Galatians that the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance against such there is no law²⁴⁰. The last part of this Scripture is very important. To walk in the Spirit of Jesus Christ is to bear the fruit of Jesus Christ. There is no law against these because this is the manifestation of the fulfillment of the law through Jesus Christ. Most understand the importance of the nine gifts of the Spirit, but without the nine fruits of the Spirit they are worth nothing because it becomes works without the character of who Jesus is.

The first and greatest is love²⁴¹. Paul said, that if he did anything without love, it was worth nothing²⁴². But this isn't the conditional love of man. This is the love of Jesus Christ towards mankind. We love our family. We love our friends and we may even love our coworkers, but how hard is it for us to love our enemies. We've heard numerous teaching on this, but I want to take it a little deeper. How many of us would lay down our life for our enemies? None of us would, but this is exactly what Jesus did and this is the kind of love that we are to demonstrate. He told us that if a person asks for our coat to give them our cloak too. Or if we are asked to go a mile to go two with that person²⁴³. Why? The love of Jesus Christ is selfless and pure. It does not think of its own self and it does not boast²⁴⁴. Even more so, this love is demonstrated to everyone from our spouse to the person that despises us the most. The love of Jesus Christ is no respecter of persons and loves consistently to every person. This is the type of love that we are to bear as fruit. To look outward and love people is what Jesus did as He walked this earth. Others should be able to come to our tree and eat of our love to feel the love of Jesus.

When I was a pastor, there was a homeless man who was an alcoholic that came to an outreach that we had. We would feed the community and have church in the parking lot, while talking to people about Jesus. One man came and he was dirty and smelled. I started talking to him about the Lord and he poured everything out to me. All that he did and why he felt he wasn't worthy of Jesus Christ. I explained the love of Jesus and we prayed, and he accepted salvation. I pulled him close and gave him a long embrace. Tears were flowing down, and he told me that this is the first time he had been touched let alone hugged by another person in years. Imagine not having any love in your life. Not getting a hug from a mother, a father, a brother, a sister or a child. That is what this man felt. It's imperative that we show the love that Jesus has given to us to others that they may feel the love of Jesus and come to rely on Him.

Joy is the next fruit of the Spirit. There are two aspects to this joy. There is the joy of the Lord and there is the joy that resides upon us. Our joy is a reflection of the joy of the Lord and both come from the same place. The Father took joy in His Son and the elevation of His Son to be the preeminence of all things²⁴⁵. So too is our joy from Jesus Christ. When a

²³⁹ Matthew 21:18-20

²⁴⁰ Galatians 5:22-23

²⁴¹ 1 Corinthians 13:13

²⁴² 1 Corinthians 13:1-2

²⁴³ Luke 6:28-35

²⁴⁴ 1 Corinthians 13:3-8

²⁴⁵ Colossians 1:18-19

child is born the father will often return to the child as their pride and joy. This is the same feeling that the Father had for His Son Jesus. Likewise, as we look at Jesus, we find joy in what the work of His cross has brought to us. It is a joyous thing for those whose sins are forgiven and are dead and buried in Jesus Christ. It's for this reason that praise is common to the upright and that praise is constantly on the lips of the righteous. We find joy in Jesus and in the salvation that He has given us.

I want you to think about the type of people that others are drawn to. Often these are the charismatic people and folks that people want to be around because they are a joy to be around. No one wants to be around a pessimist or someone that is doom and gloom all the time. It is the joy that we have in Jesus that can draw people. When this joy comes out in you, others will see it and ask how you can be so happy all the time, no matter what is going on. It opens the door for you to be able to minister and tell them that it is the joy you have in Jesus.

Through Jesus Christ we have the peace that surpasses all understanding²⁴⁶. This peace is demonstrated during the trials of our faith when things go wrong. It's in these times that we rest in Jesus and His peace washes over us and we are able to trust in the Lord. Similar to joy, we demonstrate this peace outwardly to others. They may be going through their own tough time and may ask how you can bear so much without breaking down. It's here that you will have the opportunity to minister and teach the person about the peace of Jesus Christ. There may be so much turmoil in that person's life that they need to find that peace. This may be the hook that causes them to come to salvation. When the rubber meets the road shows where our peace is and if we are bearing that fruit for others to eat of.

We understand it was through faith and patience that Abraham inherited the promise²⁴⁷. So too does the trial of our faith bring about longsuffering. The ability to have patience with others is a necessity when ministering to people or when God sends people to be refreshed by you. We must understand that as we pour into people we are being emptied and often people need more than we feel we should give. But following the leading of the Spirit, we must have the patience to minister effectively in their lives and continue to meet their needs as God leads.

In addition to ministering to other, longsuffering also can be a testimony to others of how you have overcome and obtained the promise that God had for you. We ultimately inherit the prize through faith and patience. Teaching this to others is not easy. But showing them can help strengthen and edify them in their own walk and their own struggles. Ultimately longsuffering comes by finding a place of rest in Jesus Christ and bringing others to sit next to you as you wait for the fulfillment of the answers to your needs.

Gentleness should be borne out by every Christian. It's important that we live a life of gentleness with people as we walk through our daily lives. Jesus told us as He sent the disciples out to be, "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves²⁴⁸." A dove is a gentle creature. So are we to be. When sinners or Christians that have fallen come to us, we must act with gentleness and compassion as the Spirit leads²⁴⁹. Often they know what they have done and are looking to be lifted back up through the gentleness of the Spirit in you. As we have done unto the least of these, so have we done unto Christ.

²⁴⁶ Philippians 4:7

²⁴⁷ Hebrews 6:12

²⁴⁸ Matthew 10:16

²⁴⁹ Jude 22

Paul told Timothy that we are to be doers of the Word, not only hearers²⁵⁰. As we do the Word, we do goodness. Again, this isn't about living to a set of rules, but living a life of love and doing right and good unto other people. There was a person I know that went to the grocery store. While checking out, he felt led to pay for the person's groceries that was in line behind him. When he offered the lady broke down into tears. She was going to have her water shut off if she couldn't make a payment and the last of her money was going to feed her family. Remember when He is hungry, we should feed Him²⁵¹. Being good to people isn't just about buying things. It is also actions. Jesus said when a man asks you to go a mile to go two with him. This is an act of goodness to that person. We must be good and do right by people. But know that it is a work of the Holy Spirit in us to bring the goodness out of us.

It is impossible to please God without faith²⁵². Faith sets the foundation of our relationship with Jesus and is how we obtain righteousness. To live a life of faith is key to the normal Christian walk. However, even the strongest Christians need another boost their faith. It's important that we agree and believe alongside our brethren that their faith may be strengthened. When two or more agree as touching anything in Jesus name it shall be done for them by God in heaven²⁵³. Agreeing and praying in faith and constantly interceding for each other is what the Father and Jesus want²⁵⁴. Jesus asked that we be one as Him and the Father are one²⁵⁵. Edification or the building up of people helps others get through their struggles. We should continually lift each other up in the Lord and in faith.

God despises a proud look and rejects the proud but gives grace to the humble²⁵⁶²⁵⁷. Meekness is borne out by the Spirit in us and does not allow the Christian to be lifted up over others. Peter said that we are to be cloaked in humility²⁵⁸. A humble Christian recognizes that everything they have is from Father through Jesus. This leave no room for pride. If any man is going to glory let him glory in the Lord²⁵⁹. Humility makes a person approachable. When someone is in need of healing whether spiritual or natural, the person easiest to approach is the one they want to go to. One that won't sit in the seat of the scornful or in the seat of judgement, but rather will see them only in love and humility to not Lord over the other²⁶⁰. God works meekness in us that when we see others, we may be able to say, "Save for the grace of God, there goes I."

We are commanded to do all things in temperance. The Spirit makes us not indulge ourselves in acts or other things. This goes to any aspect of our life from food, to church, to anything. You may be asking how can you overindulge in church? When church takes the place of your relationship with Jesus there is a major issue. It's important for us to assemble ourselves together, but this should never take the place of the work of Jesus Christ and the relationship with Him. Being tempered in all things is part of what it means to walk in Jesus Christ.

At the end of the day, the fruit of the spirit are the aspects of Jesus Christ. As we move into Him to be one with Him, we begin to bear the different fruits as we grow in our walk. We may start with Gentleness and then as the Holy Spirit moves more in us and we continue to

²⁵⁰ James 1:22

²⁵¹ Matthew 25:34-46

²⁵² Hebrews 11:6

²⁵³ Matthew 18:19

²⁵⁴ Ephesians 6:18

²⁵⁵ John 17:20-23

²⁵⁶ Proverbs 6:16-19

²⁵⁷ 1 Peter 5:5

²⁵⁸ 1 Peter 5:5

²⁵⁹ 2 Corinthians 10:17

²⁶⁰ Psalms 1:1

die to self, we may bear love. Then we move to the next piece of fruit. But it's imperative that all Christians bear this fruit not only for other Christians, but for the world. We are the body of Christ and each one of us has our part to play, but each of us will need to lean on each other at times²⁶¹. As the Holy Spirit works on us to bear fruit, we must be ready to allow others to come and partake of the fruit that is ripe and ready to eat. Our brothers and sisters may need it to help get them to the next level in Jesus. Further, how will the world know who Christ is if as Christians we are unable to display the fruit of His Spirit. Just as other Christians may come to need help, those that are lost desperately need help and it's the fruit of the Spirit that can cause them to come to Him by seeing the life that we as Christians walk. Once ripe and ready we can minister to others in Jesus Christ and allow them to be refreshed under our tree.

²⁶¹ Ephesians 4:15-16

Chapter 7: Understanding the Call

We've discussed what it means to grow in Christ and ultimately to be able to produce fruit for others, but just as important is understanding the calling in your life. We are one body fit jointly together²⁶². Everyone has their part and role for the work of Christ through the Holy Spirit. What exactly is the calling of God and what does it look like in each person's life? How do we recognize our calling and how do we abide therein? These are all questions that I've asked of people close to me as I tried to figure out exactly what it was that God had for me. It is not an easy process or one that should be taken lightly or for granted.

Ephesians 4 tells us about the different ministries that represent Christ. Ephesians 4 says, that "He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."²⁶³ Realize that the Scripture says, "some." Not everyone is called to be an apostle or a prophet or an evangelist or a pastor or a teacher. Paul talks in 1 Corinthians 12 that there are ministries of "miracles, then gift of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues"²⁶⁴. Are these any less necessary than the ministries of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors or teachers? No, they are just as important as we are to be perfected into the measure and the stature of Jesus Christ.

When you came to the knowledge of salvation through Jesus Christ you were called to serve. The very word minister is synonymous with servant. The goal of any ministry is not for the minister to be lifted up, but for Jesus Christ to be lifted up in all things as we have nothing without Him. Many desire to be an apostle or prophet due to the recognition that comes with the title, as a prophet is not without honor except in his own country²⁶⁵. But while we should desire the best gifts, our ministry is determined by God based on our calling in Him²⁶⁶. Once we grow to the point that we begin to bear fruit our calling will become clearer to us. Remember we first see through a glass darkly then face to face²⁶⁷. Our faith in Jesus is what takes us from level to level. But the calling that God has placed on our life is what drives the direction that we go.

It's important to realize that many are called, but few are chosen²⁶⁸. Through disobedience or through following our own desires and wants, we can get off the path and never fulfill our ministry. There was a man I knew. He was called to be a prophet and was on that path. The only problem was that he didn't want to humble himself to the authority that was over him. He felt he knew what God wanted in his own life and that he didn't need to listen to others, especially those that he disagreed with. I saw a vision of that man at the base of a mountain. He was walking in circles around the base and had gone around so many times he had a rut about 3 feet deep that he was walking in. Think about that. The inability to move forward with God and display the fruit of humility cost him the service that he was called to. Unfortunately, I've seen this repeated through several people. Another person was called to be a teacher. But she cast aside her calling to forward the calling of her children. One night in a dream she dreamed that she had an abortion and could feel it on

²⁶² Ephesians 4:15-16

²⁶³ Ephesians 4:10-14

²⁶⁴ 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

²⁶⁵ Matthew 13:57

²⁶⁶ 1 Corinthians 12:31

²⁶⁷ 1 Corinthians: 13:11-13

²⁶⁸ Matthew 22:14

her physical body. This was her ministry that she abandoned and did not fulfill. Let us pray that we take heed of our calling for it is a precious gift from God.

God cannot choose someone to minister to His people and to feed His sheep if they are not bearing the fruit that He needs them to. Out of our bellies flows rivers of living water, but those waters originate that the throne of God²⁶⁹. They pass through us by the Holy Spirit to others. We are nothing but pipes for the service of refreshing the people of God. But what if those pipes are full of mud and self, the things that we want and not the things of God? The water doesn't come out clean and refreshing, but brown and bitter and of no use to anyone. As we die to self, our pipes begin to get cleaned to be used of God. That's why it's so important to offer ourselves as the living sacrifice and let Jesus as our High Priest, clean up our pipes that we may be used of God in the way that He intends²⁷⁰.

The calling of God is without repentance, meaning that the calling of God is on our life no matter what happens, and He will always work towards the fulfillment of that calling²⁷¹. I went out in the world for four years and the entire time God was trying to bring me back to fulfill the calling that He had in my life. Now, He hedged up my way with thorns and stripped me down until I had nothing left in me and my only option was to go back to Him²⁷². But He worked until I came back and got on the track I was supposed to be on. I'm beyond grateful that He restored unto me the years that the palmerworm, the cankerworm, the caterpillar, and the locust had stolen from me²⁷³. Through his mercy and grace, I was able to get back to where I needed to be in Him. Had I not, I would not have been chosen to fulfill the calling of God in my life, but while I was out in the world, His calling was still on my life and was ready for me to pick up when I came back because the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Now, I would not suggest going the route that I did. It was painful, humiliating and tore me completely down so God could rebuild me. God is gracious and will give us every opportunity, until we willfully cast aside our calling. We all get down and wonder where God is. Even Elijah a man so strong in the Lord that he called down fire from heaven to consume the prophets of Baal asked God to take his life rather than face Jezebel. But God told him that he has other people that have not bowed the knee to Baal²⁷⁴. It was then that Elijah realized that he was chosen for this and followed what the Spirit of the Lord wanted. So are we when we deviate from what God has for us. But we must realize that what God wants to be accomplished will be accomplished, whether through his first choice, second choice or third. There is always someone who will say, "Here am I Lord, Send me"²⁷⁵.

So how do we discern what our calling is from God and how do we through faith and patience achieve the prize that is the high calling in Christ Jesus²⁷⁶? We must first understand what each of the ministries are to be able to accurately discern where God wants us. How can we know what God wants if we don't understand the ministries that we are potentially being called to? The lack of knowledge can cause us to miss what God has for us and for us to miss being chosen for the ministry He has for us.

First is the apostle. We get our understanding of the apostleship from the apostles after the resurrection of Jesus and after the Holy Spirit came to them. Peter preached the sermon on

²⁶⁹ John 7:38

²⁷⁰ Romans 12:1

²⁷¹ Romans 11:29

²⁷² Hosea 2:5-16

²⁷³ Joel 2:25

²⁷⁴ 1 Kings 18

²⁷⁵ Isaiah 6:8

²⁷⁶ Philippians 3:14

the day of Pentecost and ultimately saw 5,000 people come to Jesus²⁷⁷. After, they went to all parts of the world and started numerous churches. They worked in miracle working power. From Philip to Peter to Paul each saw miracles in their ministries. These were also the authority in the church and drove the direction of the church from a spiritual standpoint. A good example is Peter and Paul recognizing that gospel was good for the Gentile along with the Jew. When it comes to spiritual matters the apostle is the authority and should direct a group of churches in the direction that God wants them to go. Now there are also levels of apostles. These can be local, regional, national, and international. More importantly the apostle is responsible for furthering the church and equipping the other ministries for their work.

God gave first apostles to give leadership to the body while on Earth. This calling is not without heartache and tribulation. For to whom much is given, much is required²⁷⁸. There is heavy persecution mainly by the church or those that feel they are in authority. This makes the apostle of no reputation the same way that Jesus was²⁷⁹. They are often humiliated and ridiculed, but God takes their defense quickly. As they are given the greatest calling, they must also be ready to serve with a servant's heart more than any other. Pride must be absent and replaced with the cloak of humility. God has worked in them a good work and has trusted them with the authority that He has given them. We must as well.

I need to pause here and make you aware that not everyone that calls themselves an apostle is. Remember that humility follows the apostle. This means that apostles will not necessarily call themselves apostles, but rather would allow the Holy Spirit to inform whom It will. There are many who would call themselves apostles because they've started a church or been given a specific revelation, but God can use anyone in any aspect of the apostleship at any time, but that does not mean that they are called to be an apostle. There is a special relationship between them and God and one that cares more for the things of the Lord than for earthly matters, but a true apostle will operate in each of the aspects of starting churches, miracle working power, spiritual authority and direction.

Next, He gave some prophets. We have numerous examples of prophets from the Old Testament. From Moses to Samuel, to Daniel, to Malachi prophets seemed plentiful during those times. But this office did not stop with Jesus. There are many prophets today that are prophesying the will of the Lord and giving insight into what's to come to the Church. The prophets in the Old Testament and New Testament gave direction, correction and warning.

We see direction frequently in the Old Testament. Samuel gave direction to Israel and anointed Saul to be king over them²⁸⁰ and also changed the direction of Israel when he was told by God to anoint David king²⁸¹. God used Paul and Peter to change the direction of the church to include the Gentiles²⁸². Similarly, we see correction. David was corrected by the prophet Nathan over what David did to Uriah the Hittite²⁸³. Correction is an important tool for God to use through the prophet. Correction when coming through a prophet is done in love and not anger or through the lens of punishment. God is very careful who He uses in this, even amongst his prophets because it involves the handling of His sheep. The prophet is also responsible for warning. We saw Jeremiah warn the children of Israel about the coming Babylonian captivity. We know that Daniel was warned about the Anti-Christ

²⁷⁷ Acts 3,4

²⁷⁸ Luke 12:48

²⁷⁹ Philippians 2:7

²⁸⁰ 1 Samuel 11

²⁸¹ 1 Samuel 16

²⁸² Acts 10

²⁸³ 2 Samuel 12

coming, as was Paul and John. God does not want His people to be ignorant of things that are coming and uses His prophets to inform His people in this way.

While prophets will operate in these areas, there are also different types of prophets. Prophets can be in the city, on the wall, or in the field. A prophet in the city will prophesy about things that are coming quickly or are about to happen. Elijah would be considered a prophet in the city. While he did tremendous miracles, his prophecies were for the immediate future and for what was happening at that time. Jeremiah is an example of a prophet on the wall. He prophesied of things that were off in the future, but not the distant future. He would see Babylon conquer Judah and Israel in his lifetime after prophesying it for years. Isaiah would be considered a prophet in the field. He prophesied about the Messiah, which wouldn't be fulfilled for hundreds of years. Again, God can use any of the prophets for any purpose, but the main purpose of the prophet will fall into one of these three areas.

There is also an important subset of the prophet called the seer. Rather than prophesy, the seer will often have visions or dreams that act as prophecy. Daniel was a seer as he saw the last day kingdoms coming out of the sea, the statue of Nebuchadnezzar, John also was a seer as he saw the revelation of the end and the second coming of Jesus Christ. Many Christians, whether prophets or not will have visions and dreams, but the seer mainly operates through these.

While this is the ministry of the prophet, God can use anyone to prophesy. As Paul, said to desire the best gifts, but especially that you might be able to prophesy²⁸⁴. When prophecy comes from someone other than a prophet God uses it for edification, exhortation and comfort²⁸⁵. Now God can use a prophet for these as well, but anyone can prophesy with the gift of prophecy. Prophecy is given to build up the church, give honor to God and comfort people in their time of trouble. God always has the words that we need to hear. All He needs is a person to use to say, "Thus saith the Lord."

We need realize that not everyone who declares themselves a prophet is a prophet and we need to understand the spirit that they are coming from. A man was ministering to me and he began to prophesy. As the word started to come out, I saw a vision of snakes coming out of his mouth. I instantly raised the shield of faith to protect me from the snakes. What he was prophesying did not line up with Scripture and it did not line up with my spirit or with what God was dealing with me on. Remember, the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy²⁸⁶. We must judge the prophecy whether it be true or not. If it does not line up with Scripture or bear witness with your spirit it needs to be thrown out and not followed regardless of who's speaks it.

There are many false prophets in the world and many that will use false prophecy to get a person on the wrong path. This is why Paul said to allow the elders to evaluate the prophecy whether it be of God²⁸⁷. Now you don't want to embarrass a person who is young in the Lord and is learning to work in the gifts. Those situations should be handled privately. But it's important for the elders to understand what God wants and who they are yielding the service to. In my household both when I was growing up and also now with my family, prophecy plays a key role in the guidance from the Lord. When I prophesy, my mother who is my elder judges. When my wife prophesies, I judge. There have been times where I

²⁸⁴ 1 Corinthians 12:31

²⁸⁵ 1 Corinthians 14:3

²⁸⁶ Revelation 19:10

²⁸⁷ 1 Corinthians 14:29-33

have been corrected and times that my wife has been corrected. When my mom prophesies, we all judge, but every time it must bear witness with our spirits and line up with Scripture.

The next ministry office is that of an evangelist. It is the responsibility of the evangelist to forward the gospel to the far reaches of the world. Often times, evangelists will operate in the gifts of healing and also in deliverance. Similarly, as it was in the first century church the hearings and the deliverances that evangelists do bring people to the gospel. Remember, the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise them up and if they had committed any sins, they shall be forgiven them²⁸⁸. What James is saying is that healing can come before salvation and can be a tool to bring to people to Christ.

Similarly, to the apostle, the evangelist can be local, regional, or international. It is all based upon the calling of God. This doesn't mean that the evangelist is only called to areas that they are from. Missionaries and great examples of evangelists forwarding the word of God. While salvation and healing and deliverance are the core tenants of the evangelist, it is the responsibility of all Christians to forward the gospel and to witness to people that they come in contact with. This is our great commission. If we truly love people that are in our lives or not, we should want them to come to Jesus Christ and have the same joy that we have in Him. Despite it being everyone's responsibility, the evangelist is key to spreading the gospel in the areas that they are called to.

The next ministry to discuss are pastors. Pastors play a very important role in the church. It is their responsibility to act as the shepherd for the sheep or the congregation. They are responsible for training and bringing up people in sound teaching along with holding their congregation accountable to Scripture. They direct the local church in manners of the spirit and must be in tune with what God wants for the congregation. As the shepherd they are responsible for feeding the sheep and keeping the sheep in line.

I will say that the pastorship is the most challenging of the fivefold ministry. It is the one ministry that is responsible to be in the weeds with people and be more involved in the individual lives of the congregation. I was a pastor for four years and I remember talking to a fellow pastor. He said you can always tell a pastor when they walk into church, they carry the cares of the people with them. Often times this is true. The pastor will take unto themselves the cares of the people and it will cause them to want more for their congregation than the people want.

On the other side pastors who fail in their responsibilities will reap the curses mentioned in Ezekiel²⁸⁹. These are pastors that take advantage of the sheep or shear them for money to make merchandise of the gospel. It is these that God will make an example of and cause their fall to be severe. Remember the pulpit is for feedings and not beatings. When a pastor lifts himself or herself above the congregation, they should take heed for they will soon fall.

We need to take a second here to talk about authority. While the apostle may be the spiritual head of the corporate church, the pastor is the spiritual head of the local church. Any apostle that is a member of a congregation or even attending a church is subject to the authority of the local pastor while in that congregation. Authority is very important to God. Remember the Centurion and how his understanding of authority demonstrated his faith in

²⁸⁸ James 5:15

²⁸⁹ Ezekiel 34

Jesus²⁹⁰. It was not that he thought himself worthy, but rather that he humbled himself to the authority of Jesus Christ. Similarly, any minister who bears the fruit of meekness will enter a room or a situation and look for the authority to humble themselves to. Similarly, the prophets and the evangelists are subject to the authority of the pastor in the individual church even though outside the local church the pastor is subject to their authority. We are members fit jointly together and must yield to others when the time is appropriate.

The next ministry is that of the teacher. It is the teacher's responsibility to breakdown Scripture for the building up of saints and for the practical application of their lives. It's not enough just to know the Scripture, but we are to be doers of the Word not just hearers²⁹¹. Historically, teachers have been relegated to Sunday School and while that has its purpose, teachers are also responsible for teaching whole congregations and need to be behind the pulpit when God wants.

These five, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are referred to as the fivefold ministry. These ministries are called to the perfecting of the saints and are responsible for the raising the church up to the measure of the stature of Jesus Christ. While Jesus walked on this earth, He demonstrated each of these. He brought new revelation of the kingdom as the apostle, he prophesied of the destruction of the temple by the Romans and also about His return. He evangelized as people came to believe on Him. He was the good shepherd as He watched over the flock and fed the people both spiritually and naturally. Finally, He taught through parables what the kingdom of heaven was like and how the kingdom had come through Him. While there are other ministries, these are the ones that are the representation of Christ.

Not everyone can be an apostle, a prophet, an evangelist, a pastor or a teacher. There are other ministries of miracles, healings, helps, governance and diversities of tongues. These are just as important as the fivefold ministry and have their appropriate place. Miracles are needed for the work of God to be done and Him to receive the glory. People who operate here often have been given to operate in the power gifts. The gift of the working of miracles is just that, the working of what is physically and naturally impossible. The gift of faith works hand in hand with the gift of the working of miracles²⁹². It's the gift to believe and call things there that are not. Finally, is the gift of healings. This is to heal physically, spiritually and emotionally as God gives direction. Ministries of healings are needed to ensure that the body is healthy and well. Helps ministries are an absolute necessity to any pastor or any other minister. They help organize and execute on earthly things that are needed to give the pastor more time to spend on spiritual things. Governance oversees operations of a church, whether different committees for outreach or youth. Diversities of tongues allows others to hear the gospel in their own tongue and interpret for others. This expands the gospel to others that may not be reached. Finally, music ministers lead us in praise to God and help wash away the cares of this world that we may be able to receive the Word.

Regardless of your calling, you have a purpose to fulfill in Jesus based on that calling. Understanding your calling is key to being fulfilled in Christ. Seek Him and pray about what He has for you. He may not reveal exactly what He wants in the end from the beginning. We see first through a glass darkly then face to face²⁹³. But continue on the walk and the path that He has before you and it will be clear. I didn't fully understand my calling in God until I was 31 years old. That was when it began to come into focus despite being in church

²⁹⁰ Matthew 8:5-15

²⁹¹ James 1:22

²⁹² 1 Corinthians 12:9-10

²⁹³ 1 Corinthians 13:12

and in a relationship with God for the vast majority of my life. Find a trusted Christian to help pray and disciple you into your calling similarly to what Paul did for Timothy. Or if you are established in your calling find someone else to usher into theirs by the leading of the Spirit. Whatever it may be, it's important to abide in your calling²⁹⁴. Now that doesn't mean that God will not use you in something else for a season or two, but that may not be your main calling. I am not called to be a pastor, but I pastored a church for four years and bridged a church between pastors. God chose to use me in those areas at the time. But if you step out of your calling permanently it is a good way to shipwreck your ministry. I knew a man who was called and was operating as an evangelist. He decided that he wanted to be a pastor rather than an evangelist and started a church. Unfortunately, it blew up in his face. He saw success for a short time, but then the money ran out on the church and he started having marital problems. We must abide in the calling that God has given us to be truly fulfilled in what He wants for us.

Finally, remember there is more power in the pews than behind the pulpit. Regardless of who is ministering or preaching or praying, we all have our role to play for the body. Greater power is in the congregation as that is the diversity of the body. Any minister who doesn't realize that they are there to serve rather than be served will be unable to follow the leading of God due to their own pride. Let him that is greatest among you serve the others²⁹⁵. That is the role of any ministry, service out of love for our Father and for our fellow Christians and for the world.

²⁹⁴ 1 Corinthians 7:20

²⁹⁵ Matthew 23:11

Chapter 8: Ministering to Others

While understanding our calling is important, understanding how to pray for people and be led by the spirit while operating in the gifts is just as important. In order to see results, we must follow the instructions of the Spirit and pray the Scripture as the Spirit and the Word agree²⁹⁶. This is the part that often leads to the most confusion, fear and disobedience. Praying for someone else when the Lord asks you to is often times inconvenient for you, but necessary for Him. He has a purpose and at times that purpose must be fulfilled by us doing the thing that He wants.

I've mentioned earlier that each of us have a role in the body of Christ and that there is more power in the congregation than there is behind the pulpit. This is very true, and it cannot be the sole responsibility of the minister to pray for people or to get all of what God wants for His people. The limitation has often been the ministers are intimidated by the thought of the congregation being led by the Spirit to pray for others as they lose control. But every minister should encourage people to get to the level where they can be led by the Spirit on their own. There was a time when my mom told a woman in the church that in due time her husband would be sitting next to her in church and to trust God for that to happen. Mom told the lady this in the parking lot of church after the service as she was led. The next week the pastor made a comment about members prophesying to people in the parking lot and how it should not be done. Well it wasn't long before what my mom had told the lady came to pass and her husband was there week in and week out. The biggest issue is not the people, but the need to control. As Christians we should trust God with people and teach them how to discern the word and ultimately follow the leading of the Spirit in their own lives.

So how do we know when God wants us to minister to another person? Refer back to the earlier section of this book on being led by the Spirit. The leading is the exact same when ministering to people. You will start getting the feeling in your spirit that you need to pray for someone. You will have no idea what exactly you are supposed to do, but you know that you need to walk up and pray for someone. This is where the confusion and fear come. The confusion comes from our doubt and being unsure about if this is what God wants you to do. The fear comes from not knowing what to pray about or how to pray. There was always going to be a part of this that required our faith. Stepping out to pray for someone that first time is one of the most nerve-wracking things for any Christian to do. It tests our faith and our confidence in the Lord and our ability to hear him clearly. Overcoming this feeling and understanding that God wants us to step out in faith causes us to overcome these fears. Just like when Peter stepped out of the boat and focused on Jesus, he could walk on the water, so should we focus on Jesus as we step out to pray for another person as He leads²⁹⁷.

The other part of that story is that Peter didn't get out of the boat until he was bid to come by Jesus²⁹⁸. We should be the same way when we pray for others by the laying on of hands. We should not go up to someone and minister to them out of our own flesh, but only according to the bidding of the Lord. When we have finally discerned that it is the leading of the Spirit to pray for someone then we need to find the appropriate time whether in the service or another time. Everything must be done in decency and in order²⁹⁹. When the preacher is preaching is not the appropriate time to get up and walk across the church and

²⁹⁶ 1 John 5:7-8

²⁹⁷ Matthew 14:24-32

²⁹⁸ Matthew 14:28

²⁹⁹ 1 Corinthians 14:40

lay hands on someone. God is not the author of confusion³⁰⁰. You may have the leading for hours or even days before the timing becomes appropriate for you to do what God will have you do. So how do you know when the time is right? Again, it's the leading of the Spirit. When the time is right you will feel a release in your spirit to do what God wants. Until then you will feel a restraining where it just doesn't feel right. It's like the kids' game, Red Light Green Light. If you feel the restrain in your spirit, wait. If you feel the green light, then go.

Once you feel that release that allows you go and pray for another person it will be done in decency and in order, but once there is a break in the service there will be an opening for you to do what God ultimately wants. As you walk over, I always suggest praying in the Holy Ghost as it will prepare your spirit for what you need to do. Don't focus on what you are going to say or what you aren't going to say but focus on the Lord. He will lead and guide you when you get there. Focusing on the Spirit is the best way to get your own carnality and self out of the equation and to allow the Spirit to flow through you. At this point, you may have an inkling into what God wants you to pray about. It's here that you allow the Holy Spirit to work through you. The first few times take another Christian that you trust with you and that has experience to agree with you. Jesus sent people out in twos to minister to people³⁰¹. Remember that when two agree as touching any thing it shall be done for them³⁰². This is why a witness is needed, someone that can walk in agreement with you as you minister to people. The experienced Christian is needed so that they can judge the word that you give or what you pray about and to give you feedback on what the Spirit was doing. It's important that as any of us are growing that we take the feedback and apply it if it's what God wants.

While ministering to other people is important and praying for them for any believer, we must also have confidence in the Christ that is in us as we minister. Some people get what I call minister's remorse. This is a regret and a worry that they did what God wanted them to do and if it was correct at the fear of appearing false or misdirecting a person. God is big enough to fix our mistakes, but this is why Christians must be educated in how to follow the Spirit in their own lives. Remember God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge³⁰³." Lack of understanding is why. But when we minister, we have to trust that God has the person in His best interest and that He is able to correct any mistake that happens. Remember **all** things worketh together for good for them that love the Lord and are called according their purpose³⁰⁴.

This regret can hinder your ability to minister in the future. Hebrews tells us not to cast aside our confidence that does bring such great recompense of reward³⁰⁵. Meaning, don't sell God so short and lack the confidence in Him to ensure that what He wants will be accomplished. The most important thing that we can do, is maintain a pure heart while praying for others and only step out when we truly feel led by the Spirit.

An important key while praying whether in your own life or for people is to pray the Scripture. Not only does this remind God of His promises in the Scripture, but it also acts as an additional witness to what God is trying to accomplish. When praying for healing, use healing Scripture such as, "The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise them up and if they have committed any sins, they shall be forgiven them³⁰⁶." It's important

³⁰⁰ 1 Corinthians 14:33

³⁰¹ Mark 6:7-13

³⁰² Matthew 18:19

³⁰³ Hosea 4:6

³⁰⁴ Romans 8:28

³⁰⁵ Hebrews 10:35

³⁰⁶ James 5:15

to know two Scriptures as out of the mouths of two or more witnesses shall every word be established³⁰⁷. Remember the Spirit and the Word agree. If the Spirit wants something, the Word must act as a second witness to what the Scripture wants. By quoting two Scriptures that apply, you create a threefold chord that is not easily broken³⁰⁸. This can apply when you pray for people or even in your own individual prayer life as you kneel down before God.

As part of the body, it is every Christians responsibility to follow the leading of the Spirit and move when necessary. It doesn't matter if you are the pastor or the janitor. Each person has a role to play. It may not be given to the pastor to operate in a certain gift and maybe the janitor is the one who God has given the gift of miracles and that's what is needed in the situation. In that case God will move upon the janitor before the pastor. If the janitor does not know how to pray or how to be led by the Spirit, then an opportunity for God to move will be missed.

However, if you are ever unsure of what to do, it is always better to wait on God than step out without knowing it is what He wants. God will always give us additional opportunities as we are learning to flow in Him and will send someone else to minister to the person, He had for us if we are unable to discern what He intended. God is a big enough to watch out for each and every one of us.

All of this enables the Body ministry, where each person has their role and understands their calling and is willing and able to fulfill it as God leads. Getting everyone to this point is so important if the church is to ever stand up and fulfill it's calling as a city upon a hill³⁰⁹. You have a purpose and God will see that purpose fulfilled in you if you allow Him. He that has begun a good work in you is also able to perform it.

³⁰⁷ Matthew 18:16

³⁰⁸ Ecclesiastes 4:12

³⁰⁹ Matthew 5:14

Chapter 9: Discipleship

Every Christian has a responsibility to disciple the generation following them. This is prevalent throughout the Scripture. Moses discipled Joshua. Elijah discipled Elisha. Jesus discipled the twelve apostles and Paul discipled Silas and Timothy. Discipleship is key to the progression of the church as a whole. If each generation had to learn everything from square one, it would take lifetimes to learn all that God has for us and the progression of the church in the world would not be accomplished. How can we truly enter into Christ, in the measure and stature of who He is without building upon the foundation set by those that came before us³¹⁰.

So, what does discipleship look like? First and foremost, it has to be ordained by God, meaning that both the teacher and the disciple must feel led to enter into such a relationship. When it is not ordained by God and thrown together it is not profitable for the long term. Look at Paul and Barnabas³¹¹. While initially they set out together, it was clear that their relationship in discipleship was not going to last and ultimately Paul had to let him go. Barnabas was then replaced by Silas, who was much more profitable to Paul and ultimately the ministry at the time. Before entering into this, we should pray and make sure that this is what God wants for us to happen and then realize there is a choice for both parties. I was praying one day and a young minister who was starting a church plant was put on my spirit. I truly felt that God wanted me to offer myself to help him through this difficult time as I had experienced a lot of the same issues he was going through. So, I did. He thanked me and even said, you don't see people putting themselves out there like that. But he never came to me to establish the relationship. I couldn't force it upon him, but rather he had to choose. To this day, I don't know what has happened with his church plant or what ultimately happened to him and the ministry God chose for him. But I do know that I followed the leading of the Spirit in offering to disciple him.

Once the relationship has been solidified and prayed about and led of the Spirit, it is the role of the teacher to show the disciple what they have learned based on the level that the disciple is at. It doesn't do any good for the teacher to push and speak at a level that is above where the disciple is. Just as Jesus did with the twelve, we are to minister to them right where they are. This includes guidance in every area and also insight into how God operates through the teacher. I heard one minister say that as he was praying on a trip with some younger Christians, he was about to wrap up and the Lord told him he should have invited the younger Christians in to show them how he prays. He regretted not thinking of it before because it gives young Christians who will be the next ones to take up the mantle, guidance on how to pray and seek God themselves and how to foster that relationship with Him. This was striking to me. In the current day, we don't spend every waking hour with someone other than our families. But think about the time that Jesus spent with His disciples. They were together at all times, morning, day and night. This is why they were so intimate with who He is. Likewise, Joshua was with Moses. It was this closeness that gave Joshua the courage to move forward and conquer the promised land and caused Peter to give the sermon on the day of Pentecost.

While there must be an openness from the teacher, there must also be a willingness to listen and learn from the disciple. Often young Christians struggle with humility and will want things to happen quickly. The teacher must bridle that, and the disciple must show a willingness to learn and grow. Remember Amos said, "How can two walk together lest they

³¹⁰ Ephesians 2:18-22

³¹¹ Acts 15

be in agreement³¹².” This is true of the teacher and the disciple. They must be in agreement by the Spirit about the teaching and the direction that God is taking them. There is a humility that is needed and an understanding of authority. Both of my parents had a hand in my discipleship. To this day they are still authorities in my life and will be until either Jesus returns or He takes them. I still yield spiritual authority to them, but in my household, I am disciplining my wife. She must take my lead and subject herself to my spiritual authority as she continues to grow. It's possible to be both at one time. We should never stop learning from others and yielding authority where appropriate and to what God has ordained over us.

Paul told Titus that the younger women need to learn from the older women on how to behave and act³¹³. This is true for everyone. Learning from the experience of others allows the Spirit to give us a leg up on our own training as we don't have to learn the lessons that they learned the hard way. Or should I say, we don't have to learn them by going through the things that the previous generation had to. Likewise, we should want to spare the next generation those trials and tribulations for the lessons that we learned. I say that, but it's also important to know that not every lesson can be learned this way. Sometimes, we need to go through the trial of our flesh so that it can die, and Jesus can reign. That goes for anyone who follows Christ. So even though we may want to spare people the tough lessons that we learned, there are certain ones that they will need to walk through. This is all dependent on their calling and election. Some lessons cannot be taught with words but must be lived by experience. When I was a young Christian, I remember telling my dad that I understood what God was doing and that experience was overrated. Well the Scripture says that we go from faith to faith and I had to understand that experience with God is what builds up the faith. There is a major difference between head knowledge and spirit knowledge. Head knowledge goes away when the rubber meets the road, but when the lesson is learned in the spirit it stays and sticks and you are able to trust in the Lord in those areas.

Fortunately, the trial of our faith is worth more than pure Gold because it takes into the deeper relationship with God³¹⁴. But imagine if you were going through something without a guide and you were struggling to hear the Spirit accurately. This is the reason that discipleship is ordained of God and needs to be a pillar of the operation of the church. Ideally, every new Christian is given a mentor. This may not be the person that ultimately disciples that individual but think of it as a nurse over a newborn. That mentor is accountable for watching out for the new Christian, praying with them and teaching them the basics of what it means to be saved. We wouldn't dream of leaving a newborn baby on their own with no one to take care of them, feed them and change their diaper. Why do we do that with new Christians? Every church should have bench of “nurses” that take the role seriously to help our newborns in the Spirit. Otherwise the enemy lies in wait ready to pounce. After they grow and pass the stage where they need milk, we should then find a disciple for them. This again needs to be ordained of God, but nevertheless needs to be done. That teacher should pour all of their heart into the disciple just like it was their very own son or daughter. After all, that's what Jesus did for us.

Now, it's important that the teacher is led by the Spirit in all areas of discipleship. If overbearing, they can cause more harm than good. If not involved enough, there is too much room for Satan to come in and pluck the disciple. Everything with God is in balance

³¹² Amos 3:3

³¹³ Titus 2:3-5

³¹⁴ 1 Peter 1:7

and so must we be with those we are discipling. The teacher should constantly be in prayer for them and asking God how to forward their knowledge further, but also allow them to make their mistakes and learn from them. Showing the disciple grace is important that they may continue to learn and grow. When they make a mistake, often times they will know it, but driving the learning from it is most important. One minister referred to young Christians as pigeons rather than eagles. The reason being that they made a mess of everything. This is why we need true discipleship, so that an experienced Christian can avoid the mess and judge what they are doing and how they are praying for others. This is so critical to the development of Christians. Without it bad habits will form, and God will have to correct those in the long term. We wouldn't allow our children to go on without any guidance or let them teach themselves about life or how to navigate the world. We shouldn't allow God's children to wander aimlessly without any guidance or discipleship.

Now, the teacher should never take the place of God in the relationship. Rather they should seek God together and at times force the disciple to get their own answers and serve as a second witness. Our God is jealous, and He will not allow us to take His true place in discipleship. We as teachers must realize that we are guiding our disciples on their journey with God and that we are not to be raised up over Him, but rather that we are there to help the disciple to stay pointed to the Father through Jesus Christ.

Without true discipleship, we leave the door open for Satan to take occasion out of our slothfulness to deceive the unlearned and those that have no foundation. We must tend the garden that God has given us to make sure that all the teaching that God wants takes root in the fertile ground it's been placed. It is not the pastor's job to personally disciple every Christian in their church. Rather they need to disciple future pastors or other future ministers. Rather it is the responsibility of the members of the body to make sure that people are disciplined properly. The pastor should oversee on a high level, but the true discipleship rests with the individuals in the congregation.

Chapter 10: What next?

Together we have taken this journey of faith and belief in Jesus Christ. That's what our lives are to be. A journey with Jesus Christ where we first begin walking side by side with Him and then ultimately become one with Him through the work of the cross. This way as we grow and minister to others, self is no longer the issue as all people see is Christ. We are the light of the world. We are the city that is set upon the hill³¹⁵. But that light is not our light, it is the light of Jesus Christ. He is that city New Jerusalem that the righteous run into. But we must be prepared through our walk and development to represent Him to rest of the world.

I can't stress this enough. Take time in your individual relationship with Jesus Christ. He is much more than just your salvation. When I was growing up my mom would ask me, "Daniel, is Jesus just your savior or is He going to be Lord of your life too?" That lesson has stuck with me throughout my life. We all know people who have Jesus as a savior, but then keep Him at arm's length for the other parts of their life. We should be more than that and take heed of our relationship lest we fall³¹⁶. It's imperative to spend time not just in prayer for other people, but in true communion with the Lord by staying in His presence. This time of communion is invaluable to being able to stay in your place of rest. We must build ourselves up in our most Holy faith³¹⁷. Spending that time in the presence of God is a key part along with praying in the Holy Ghost.

Everything that you have read is based on the continued development of your relationship with God. The only way to grow is to give yourself over to Him and let Him work and build the house upon your foundation that was laid by the apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone³¹⁸. Yielding your members to righteousness is to fully yield yourself to Him and His will³¹⁹. Be patient. True development in the Lord takes time. Remember through faith and patience they inherited the prize³²⁰. We are not different. That is how we achieve our full inheritance in God through Jesus Christ. He that has begun a good work in us is also able to perform it³²¹.

Finally, you will make mistakes. You will trip and fall. Your faith is going to waiver and at times you will struggle. When you do, don't run from Him, but run towards Him. He is faithful and just to forgive us. He will work through it and make us better than we were before. It is His responsibility as our High Priest to clean us up and make us acceptable to our Father. Let him. Relationship matters most. He will form you as a new creature, but He cannot work if we don't allow Him to. We must hand over all that we are to Him like a lamb to the slaughter for the sacrifice and allow Him to change us into vessels of honor for His work.

Allow me this last part to pray over each one of you:

Dear Heavenly Father Lord, we come boldly upon your throne of grace to obtain mercy to find grace to help in the time of need. We give you glory honor and praise! You are the alpha, the omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last and we worship you for who you are! Lord you know every heart of every person that has read these pages. I

³¹⁵ Matthew 5:14

³¹⁶ 1 Corinthians 10:12

³¹⁷ Jude 1:20

³¹⁸ Ephesians 2:20

³¹⁹ Romans 6:13

³²⁰ Hebrews 6:12

³²¹ Philippians 1:6

simply ask that this change their relationship with you. If they do not know you, Lord, I pray for their salvation that your light might shine into the darkness and bring them to the knowledge of who You are and that it may set their feet upon the path of righteousness that you have for them. If they do know you Lord, I ask that you bring them closer to you. Allows the words of these pages provide the knowledge they need to grow in You, for Your people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Lord as they go about their everyday life, I ask that the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the knowledge of You be upon them. Let them see you Jesus walking through the pages of the Bible and open their eyes to a deeper walk and a deeper understanding of You. Once again, we give you all the glory, all the honor, and all the praise. In Jesus name we come to You. Amen.

Scripture References

All references are from the King James Version of the Bible.

1. John 1:1 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.
2. Ephesians 1:17 – That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
3. Colossians 2:13-17 – And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hat he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.
4. Genesis 6 – Please refer to Genesis chapter 6 in your Bible
5. Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
6. Genesis 1:2 – And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God move upon the face of the waters.
7. Genesis 1:3 – And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
8. Genesis 1:4 – And God saw the light that is was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.
9. Genesis 1:6-7 – And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And god made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.
10. 2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore is any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
11. Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
12. Genesis 1:11 – And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.
13. Matthew 7:20 – **Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**
14. Matthew 21:18-22 – Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, **Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever.** And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, **Verily I say unto you, if you have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.**
15. Genesis 1:14-19 – And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the

earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

16. Psalms 119:105 – Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
17. Genesis 1:20-23 - And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.
18. Matthew 16:24-28 - Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.**
19. Matthew 4:18-20 – And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.** And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.
20. Genesis 1:24-25 – And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.
21. Genesis 1:26-28 - And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.
22. John 17:18-24 - **As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me**

- where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.
23. Isaiah 46:9-10 - Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:
 24. John 16:12-14 - I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.
 25. Revelation 19:10 - And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
 26. Psalms 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
 27. Psalms 37:23 - The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.
 28. Matthew 7:9-11 - Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?
 29. 1 Kings 19:11-13 - And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?
 30. Romans 8:14 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
 31. Job 33:13-17 - Why dost thou strive against him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters. For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man.
 32. Acts 10:9-16 - On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.
 33. 1 Corinthians 14:33 - For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

34. John 10:25-30 – 25 - Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.
35. 1 Samuel 3:9-11 - Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. And the Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.
36. 1 John 4:13 - Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.
37. 1 Corinthians 12:10 - To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
38. Matthew 18:16 - But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.
39. 1 Corinthians 12:10 - To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
40. Romans 8:25-27 - But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
41. 1 Corinthians 12:8 - To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;
42. 1 Corinthians 12:8 - For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
43. 1 Corinthians 12:10 - To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
44. Romans 8:14 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
45. 2 Corinthians 3:6 - Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.
46. John 1:17 - For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
47. John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
48. John 1:14 - And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
49. John 1:17 - For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
50. Psalms 23:5 - Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

51. Galatians 2:20 - I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
52. Galatians 5:24 - And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.
53. Genesis 22 – Refer to Genesis chapter 22 in your Bible for the story of the sacrifice of Isaac.
54. Colossians 1:18 - And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.
55. Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
56. Romans 10:11 - For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.
57. Romans 12:3 - For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.
58. Galatians 5:5-6 - For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.
59. Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
60. 1 Peter 1:6-7 - Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:
61. James 2:26 - For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
62. Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
63. Zechariah 4:10 - For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth.
64. Romans 1:17 - For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.
65. Revelation 12:11 - And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.
66. John 1:17 - For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
67. John 8:32 - **And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**
68. Romans 8:5-8 - For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.
69. Romans 6:9-12 - Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed

unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

70. Romans 5:8-9 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
71. Philippians 4:19 - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
72. Colossians 1:20-22 - And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouceable in his sight:
73. Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
74. Romans 8:17 - And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.
75. 1 Corinthians 1:30 - But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
76. Colossians 1:15-17 - Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
77. Psalms 91:2-4 - I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.
78. Leviticus 4:10-12 - As it was taken off from the bullock of the sacrifice of peace offerings: and the priest shall burn them upon the altar of the burnt offering. And the skin of the bullock, and all his flesh, with his head, and with his legs, and his inwards, and his dung, Even the whole bullock shall he carry forth without the camp unto a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn him on the wood with fire: where the ashes are poured out shall he be burnt.
79. Romans 6:10 - For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
80. Galatians 3:12-14 - And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
81. Romans 5:12-13 - Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.
82. Job 14:1 - Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.
83. Romans 8:7 - Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

84. Isaiah 64:6 - But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.
85. 2 Corinthians 10:17-18 - But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.
86. Romans 6:11-14 - Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
87. Matthew 16:25 - **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.**
88. Hebrews 12:27-29 - And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.
89. 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 - Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.
90. 1 John 3:2 - Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
91. Romans 12:1 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
92. Leviticus 11:45 - For I am the Lord that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.
93. Hebrews 8:5-6 - Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.
94. Jude 24 - Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,
95. Matthew 16:24 - Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**
96. James 4:2 - Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.
97. 2 Corinthians 10:5-7 - Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man

- trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.
98. Galatians 2:20 - I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
99. Ephesians 2:15-17 - Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.
100. Genesis 2:7 - And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.
101. Hebrews 9:27 - And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
102. Hebrews 9:28 - So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.
- 103.1 John 4:17 - Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.
- 104.2 Corinthians 5:17-18 - Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;
105. Ephesians 4:30 - And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
106. Mark 14:22 - And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, **Take, eat: this is my body.**
107. Deuteronomy 8:3 - And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.
108. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.
- 109.1 Peter 2:24 - Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
110. Matthew 26:27-28 - And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**
111. Hebrews 9:16 - For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.
112. Hebrews 10:3-4 - But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.
- 113.1 Corinthians 11:26-29 - For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For

- he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.
114. Hebrews 10:17 - And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.
115. Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
116. Matthew 26:39 - And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying,
O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.
117. Luke 22:44 - And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
118. Isaiah 51:21-23 - Therefore hear now this, thou afflicted, and drunken, but not with wine: Thus saith thy Lord the Lord, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over.
119. Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.
120. Genesis 3:15 - And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.
121. Hebrews 5:8 - Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;
122. Revelation 3:19 - **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.**
123. Revelation 4:10 - The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,
124. Matthew 7:13 - **Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:**
125. Ephesians 6:15 - And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
126. Revelation 1:15 - And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.
127. Jeremiah 25:15 - For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.
- 128.1 John 4:9-10 - In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
129. Mark 15:34 - And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, **Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?** which is, being interpreted, **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**
- 130.2 Corinthians 5:21 - For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
131. Matthew 12:39-40 - But he answered and said unto them, **An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

132. Jonah 2:2-4 - And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.
133. Ezekiel 23:33 - Thou shalt be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, with the cup of astonishment and desolation, with the cup of thy sister Samaria.
134. Matthew 26:68-75 - Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee? Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crew, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.
135. Psalms 30:5 - For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.
136. Ephesians 4:8-10 - Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)
137. 1 Peter 3:18-19 - For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;
138. Matthew 27:51-54 - And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.
139. Psalms 116:13 - I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.
140. Matthew 20:22-23 - But Jesus answered and said, **Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?** They say unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, **Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.**
141. Genesis 2:9 - And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
142. Genesis 3 – Please see Genesis Chapter 3 in your Bible.
143. Romans 5:12 - Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

- 144.Revelation 1:18 - I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.
- 145.Luke 24:49 - And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.
- 146.Ephesians 1:13-14 - In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
- 147.Romans 8:11 - But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.
- 148.John 14:2 - In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
- 149.Romans 5:13 - (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.
- 150.1 Peter 1:6-7 - Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:
- 151.Philippians 1:16 - The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:
- 152.John 4:23-24 - But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
- 153.John 15:4 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
- 154.John 7:38 - He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.
- 155.Hebrews 10:16-17 - This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.
- 156.Isaiah 61:9-11 - And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.
- 157.Psalms 37:23 - The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.
- 158.Romans 10:15 - And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
- 159.Galatians 5:6 - For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

- 160.1 Corinthians 1:30 - But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
- 161.1 Corinthians 2:16 - For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.
- 162.Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- 163.Galatians 3:27 - For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- 164.Colossians 3:14 - And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.
- 165.Isaiah 11:3-4 - And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.
- 166.Romans 2:3-11 - And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God.
- 167.1 Peter 4:7-9 - But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging.
- 168.1 Peter 4:3-6 - For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.
- 169.Isaiah 11:2 - And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;
- 170.John 1:32 - And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.
- 171.1 Corinthians 12:12-14 - For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we

- be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.
- 172.Ephesians 4:30 - And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
- 173.John 14:12 - **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**
- 174.Ephesians 5:15-21 - See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.
- 175.Ephesians 1:17 - That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
- 176.James 4:2 - Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.
- 177.1 Corinthians 14:14-20 - For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.
- 178.John 9:1-7 - And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, **Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.** When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, **Go, wash in the pool of Siloam,** (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.
- 179.John 11 – Please read John Chapter 11 in your Bible.
- 180.John 14:12 - **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**
- 181.John 16:13 - **Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.**
- 182.Job 33:14-18 - For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealet their instruction, That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man. He keepeth back his soul from the pit, and his life from perishing by the sword.

- 183.Hosea 4:6 - My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.
- 184.Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- 185.1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.
- 186.Matthew 26:39 - And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, **O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.**
- 187.1 Corinthians 15:21 - For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
- 188.Proverbs 18:10 - The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.
- 189.Ephesians 5:27 - That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
- 190.Galatians 2:19-21 - For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.
- 191.Colossians 1:17-19 - And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;
- 192.Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
- 193.Romans 12:1 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
- 194.Galatians 2:19-21 - For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.
- 195.Ephesians 5:26-27 - That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
- 196.Romans 8:6-8 - For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.
- 197.Psalms 51:8-10 - Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
- 198.Romans 6:1-4 - What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know

ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- 199.1 Corinthians 6:11-12 - And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.
- 200.Romans 8:1-2 - There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
- 201.Ephesians 2:19-22 - Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:
- 202.Hebrews 3:14-19 - For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.
- 203.Hebrews 4:1-3 - Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.
- 204.Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
- 205.Romans 8:14 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
- 206.1 Corinthians 1:30 - But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
- 207.1 John 4:10 - Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- 208.Romans 8:17 - And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.
- 209.Psalms 139:8 - If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.
- 210.Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
- 211.Philippians 4:19 - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
- 212.Matthew 6:32-34 - (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take

therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

213. Hebrew 4:11-12 - Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

214.1 Peter 1:6-8 - Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

215. Matthew 11:27-30 - **All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

216.1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

217. Song of Solomon 2:2 - As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.

218. Matthew 14:28-32 - And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, **Come**. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, **O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?** And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

219.1 Peter 1:7 - That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

220. Hebrews 10:38-39 - Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

221.1 Corinthians 15:57 - But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

222. Romans 8:36-39 - As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

223. Revelation 3:21 - **To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.**

224. Matthew 7: 20 - **Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**

225. Jerimiah 17:8 - For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

226. Mark 4:1-20 – Please see the Mark Chapter 1 in your Bible.
227. Mark 4:16 - **And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;**
228. Mark 4:16-17 - **And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.**
229. Mark 4:18-19 - **And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**
230. Mark 2:17 - **When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**
231. Mark 4:20 - **And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.**
232. Romans 6:5 - **For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:**
233. 1 Corinthians 15:34-38 - **Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame. But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.**
234. 2 Corinthians 5:16-18 - **Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;**
235. 1 Corinthians 3:6 - **I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.**
236. Philippians 4:12 - **I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.**
237. Acts 9:18-19 - **And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.**
238. Matthew 22:14 - **For many are called, but few are chosen.**
239. 2 Timothy 4:2 - **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**
240. Matthew 21:18-20 - **Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, **Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever.** And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!**
241. Galatians 5:22-23 - **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**

- 242.1 Corinthians 13:13 - And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.
- 243.1 Corinthians 13:1-2 - Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.
- 244.Luke 6:28-35 - Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.
- 245.1 Corinthians 13:3-8 - And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.
- 246.Colossians 1:18-19 - And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;
- 247.Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- 248.Hebrews 6:12 - That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
- 249.Matthew 10:16 - Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.
- 250.Jude 22 - And of some have compassion, making a difference:
- 251.James 1:22 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
- 252.Matthew 25:34-46 - Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also

unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, In as much as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

253. Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
254. Matthew 18:19 - Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.
255. Ephesians 6:18 - Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
256. John 17:20-23 - Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.
257. Proverbs 6:16-19 - These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.
258. 1 Peter 5:5 - Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.
259. 1 Peter 5:5 - Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.
260. 2 Corinthians 10:17 - But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.
261. Psalms 1:1 - Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
262. Ephesians 4:15-16 - But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.
263. Ephesians 4:15-16 - But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.
264. Ephesians 4:10-14 - He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting

of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

265.1 Corinthians 12:27-31 - Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

266. Matthew 13:57 - And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, **A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.**

267.1 Corinthians 12:31 - But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

268.1 Corinthians 13:11-13 - When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

269. Matthew 22:14 - **For many are called, but few are chosen.**

270. John 7:38 - **He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

271. Romans 12:1 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

272. Romans 11:29 - For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

273. Hosea 2:5-16 - For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink. Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths. And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now. For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal. Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax given to cover her nakedness. And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of mine hand. I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts. And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, whereof she hath said, These are my rewards that my lovers have given me: and I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall eat them. And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the Lord. Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as

- in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be at that day, saith the Lord, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali.
274. Joel 2:25 - And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.
275. 1 Kings 18 – Please refer to 1 Kings chapter 18 in your Bible.
276. Isaiah 6:8 - Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.
277. Philippians 3:14 - I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
278. Acts 3 and 4 – Please refer to Acts chapters 3 and 4 in your Bible.
279. Luke 12:48 - **But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.**
280. Philippians 2:7 - But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
281. 1 Samuel 11 – Please refer to 1 Samuel chapter 11 in your Bible.
282. 1 Samuel 16 – Please refer to 1 Samuel chapter 16 in your Bible.
283. Acts 10 – Please refer to Acts chapter 10 in your Bible
284. 2 Samuel 12 – Please refer to 2 Samuel chapter 12 in your Bible.
285. 1 Corinthians 12:31 - But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.
286. 1 Corinthians 14:3 - But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.
287. Revelation 19:10 - And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
288. 1 Corinthians 14:29-33 - Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.
289. James 5:15 - And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.
290. Ezekiel 34 – Please refer to Ezekiel chapter 34 of your Bible.
291. Matthew 8:5-15 - And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, **I will come and heal him.** The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, **Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** And Jesus said unto the

- centurion, **Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.** And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.
292. James 1:22 - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
- 293.1 Corinthians 12:9-10 - To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
- 294.1 Corinthians 13:12 - For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.
- 295.1 Corinthians 7:20 - Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.
296. Matthew 23:11 - **But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.**
- 297.1 John 5:7-8 - For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.
298. Matthew 14:24-32 - But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, **Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.** And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, **Come.** And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, **O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?** And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.
299. Matthew 14:28 - And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.
- 300.1 Corinthians 14:40 - Let all things be done decently and in order.
- 301.1 Corinthians 14:33 - For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.
302. Mark 6:7-13 - And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse: But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats. And he said unto them, **In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city.** And they went out, and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.
303. Matthew 18:19 - **Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.**

- 304.Hosea 4:6 - My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.
- 305.Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
- 306.Hebrews 10:35 - Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.
- 307.James 5:15 - And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.
- 308.Matthew 18:16 - **But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.**
- 309.Ecclesiastes 4:12 - And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.
- 310.Matthew 5:14 - Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.
- 311.Ephesians 2:18-22 - For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.
- 312.Acts 15 – Please refer to Acts chapter 15 in your Bible.
- 313.Amos 3:3 - Can two walk together, except they be agreed?
- 314.Titus 2:3-5 - The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.
- 315.1 Peter 1:7 - That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:
- 316.Matthew 5:14 - **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**
- 317.1 Corinthians 10:12 - Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.
- 318.Jude 1:20 - But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,
- 319.Ephesians 2:20 - And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;
- 320.Romans 6:13 - Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.
- 321.Romans 6:12 - Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.
- 322.Philippians 1:6 - Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: