

Acts 26:17–18 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am **sending you** to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me! 1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And **God is faithful**; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 2 Thessalonians 3:5 May the Lord direct your hearts **into God's love** and Christ's perseverance. 1

Timothy 3:9 They must keep hold of the **deep truths** of the faith with a clear conscience. 1 Timothy 1:5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a **pure heart** and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 1 Timothy 6:11–12 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. **Fight the good fight** of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. Titus 1:7–9 Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good,

who is self-controlled, upright, **holy** and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by **s o u n d doctrine** and refute those who

oppose it. John 7:17 Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. Acts 20:27 For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. John 15:19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, **you do not belong to the world**, but I have chosen you out of the

Hebrews 10:16–17 “This is the **covenant** I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” Romans 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but **alive to God** in Christ Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! Galatians 3:26–27 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were **baptized into Christ** have clothed yourselves with Christ. Romans 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquer-

“everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” Luke 14:33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my **disciples**. 2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being **transformed** into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. James 4:7 **Submit yourselves**, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by **prayer and petition**, with thanksgiving, present your request to

God. Psalm 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Titus 2:11–12 For the **grace of God** has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions,

and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 1 Peter 1:24–25 For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the **word of the Lord** endures forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you. Psalms 68:19 Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Proverbs 13:3 Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin. Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If **God is for us**, who can be against us? Galatians 6:7–8 Do not be deceived: God cannot be

mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap

destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the **Holy Spirit comes on you**; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Psalms 34:18 The LORD is **close to the brokenhearted** and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

# THE BIBLE ICE BREAKER

co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. 2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, since we have these **promises**, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. Luke 12:32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the **kingdom**. John 3:5–6 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the **Spirit** gives birth to spirit. Amos 3:7 Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets. Micah 6:8 He has

A guide to help you approach the Bible and explore God's written word.

By Alex Muhl

justly and to love mercy and to **walk humbly** with your God. Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings. Matthew 15:13 He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be

The Bible Ice Breaker

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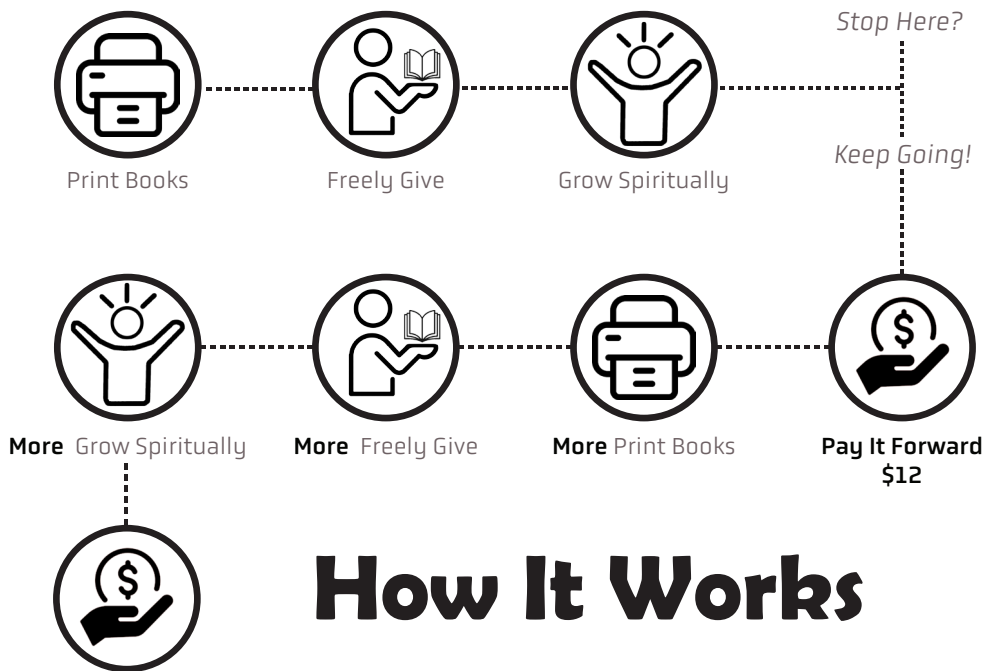
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# FORWARD

BY RYAN LADEN

The Bible Ice-Breaker. Interesting concept. Helping people get started in their own reading and understanding of the Bible through short, inciteful, and personalized Bible-centric studies. When Alex Muhl first brought this idea to me, it met a pressing need in the life of the church. We needed to find a way to get our people to open the Bible on their own and to start engaging with God's word when they were away from the teaching of the church.

I am happy to report that these studies have done just that. They are a great way to place the important truths of the Bible in front of the people of the church in such a way that everyone who participates in these studies will learn how to seek out and apply the message of the Bible on their own.

Since the creation of these short studies, the need has only grown in the life of the church as more and more people who do not yet possess a solid foundation in the message of the Bible keep finding their way into a living relationship with Jesus Christ. And so it is with great joy that I commend to you the Bible Ice-Breaker by Alex Muhl.

Senior Pastor  
Table Rock Fellowship  
Medford, Oregon, USA



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**DARKNESS**



*INTO LIGHT*

A guide to help you walk in the light and  
experience God's freedom.

Chapter One

## Light Of The World

All have lived in darkness ever since the fall in the Garden of Eden. Our created value, purpose, and destiny have been hidden in this state. Everything changes with Jesus Christ as he came as light that revealed the way, the truth, and the life. He welcomes us into his Kingdom of Light.

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John 8:12

*“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.””*

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Luke 11:34

*“Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness.”*

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John 1:5

*“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

## Follow Jesus

Jesus Christ offers his light to everyone, as no one is excluded from this invitation. However, we must come to him with ears to hear the spiritual truths found in his words. If we do so, we will become a bright reflection of his light for those around us. It's time to leave darkness and follow Jesus.



John 14:10

*“Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”*

Jesus lived in perfect unity of God's will, for it was the Father who lived within him. It's by listening to Christ's word and submitting to his authority to forgive sin we learn God's will for our lives. God's will in Jesus, his Son, whose hands knew no evil, was to wage war against sin and death on our behalf. In vain, the devil and his demons arrived and cursed God's name using their tricks of pride and lust, but they could not hold against the truth. Jesus then submitted to the cross, knowing he would be wounded for our transgressions and bruised for iniquity. His hands pierced, and his blood spilled, forever cleansing our sin and calming our fears. However, death could not hold him as Jesus raised to life announcing the battle's end. Jesus bought salvation and released those in captivity, for by his stripes, we are healed. Through Jesus, we have witnessed the will of God's love, and those who receive love and forgiveness from Jesus, also receive it from God. The way we are loved, so we are to love each another.

**Read John 14:9 – 15**

Verse 10 – Who gave Jesus the authority to live God's will?

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Verse 11 – List two ways our faith in Jesus grows.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 12 – Why has Jesus chosen believers to do God's work?

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Verse 13 – What is the reason believers will do these things?

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Verse 14 – What does this say about the authority God has given you?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I will sow the love of God into my words and actions so that my relationships may reap the love of God.

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I will hold onto my Heavenly Father's words and seek to glorify him by pursuing a love for others.

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No mortal man or evil person will ever snatch away God's love for me.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....praising God for the unfailing, unconditional and everlasting personal love that he has for you.

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**For more, read John 13:31 – 38**

John 13:34 – 35

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

Jesus taught us many things during his time on earth, and it all pointed towards the unfailing love God has for us and how we are also to love one another. These three simple words, “love one another”, sum up everything that a disciple of Jesus Christ ought to pursue. For someone to know God is to love, for God is love, and it’s through the love of Christ Jesus, we are to live. God is living within us when we love one another, and if we are to love God, then we are also to love one another. However, it’s not always easy as sometimes relationships fall apart, causing us to get hurt by those we care about. There are other times when people intentionally seek to hurt us by doing and saying things that are difficult to forgive. God’s love, though, is perfect in every single way. God is near as we seek after his will to love and follow his Spirit. When distressed, we are to trust in God by asking for his help. After receiving God’s love, it’s through loving one another that we obey God’s command showing ourselves to be his disciples.

**Read John 14:9 – 15**

Tick two areas that you currently need God's help the most.

- |                                   |                                     |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Love     | <input type="checkbox"/> Hope       | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisdom        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maturity | <input type="checkbox"/> Discipline | <input type="checkbox"/> Guidance | <input type="checkbox"/> Encouragement |

Verse 15 – In what way is your faith attached to obeying God's command?

---

List two ways Jesus has demonstrated his love for you.

1. 

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2. 

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How can you demonstrate forgiveness to others?

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***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

God, my Father, is willing to help me overcome the hurt in my heart caused by others by developing a greater faith in his love and forgiveness.

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I will not allow my love concerning others to become cold, but instead, I will follow the steps of Jesus Christ, committing myself to God.

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As I love, I shall love unconditionally. When I give, I aspire to give generously. While I worship, it will be God's name alone. Those I forgive, I will forgive deeply.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....inviting God to replace the expectations you have over others with unconditional love for them.

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***For more, read Matthew 5:43 – 48***

Matthew 6:33 – 34

*“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”*

Throughout the Gospel, Jesus is continually reminding us to have faith in him. All through the Bible, God has given us the same message about never living in fear. It's his will for us to never, in any situation to ever worry about anything, ever. Though we understand this, the reality is we do allow fear into our hearts. Worry has no measurable value. The name of Jesus, however, is greater than all things that may come into our lives! When we walk with him, there is no reason to worry, but we must also believe having faith that Jesus is the Good Shepard who will lead us through the valley of darkness. Worldly people pursue worldly treasures. As children of God, we are not of this world. Rather than magnify status and possession, we ought to magnify the glory of God by seeking him. Those moments when we are worried are opportunities for us to draw closer to God, and we do that by listening to his word and sharing our lives with Christ.

**Read Matthew 6:25 – 34**

Put an 'x' on the line below to show how often you worry.

*ALL THE TIME*

*NEVER*

List the reasons not to worry found in each verse.

Verse 25 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 27 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 30 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 32 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 33 \_\_\_\_\_

Put an 'x' on the line below to show how often Jesus wants you to worry.

*ALL THE TIME*

*NEVER*

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

My life will be filled with great peace as I delight in and listen to God's word. I will allow nothing to worry me as I follow his ways.

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I have fixed my focus on the result, the revelation of God's glory in me, not upon the struggles along the way.

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When my troubles increase, then so shall my faith in the Lord. I am thankful for how he guards my life. I will trust in him and remember that he is faithful.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....acknowledging that there is nothing we can do to contribute to the wisdom, power, and riches that God gives us.

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**For more, read Luke 8:4 – 15**

Luke 8:14

*“The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.”*

Our ability to worry is not limited to the essential aspects of life. We often invest our focus to matters that have little to no significance at all, or worse yet, circumstances out of our control. It greatly matters what we decide to worry about as our hearts, thoughts, choices and actions will be bent on obtaining it. When our sight is set on receiving approval from others and material possessions, our lives move towards that direction. A bird doesn’t require a barn to eat, and a flower doesn’t ask for clothing to be beautiful. In the same way, we don’t need to be afraid of missing out on what we need. God is our creator, and we are his treasure. According to his eternal love, he is glad to give all we need. There is nothing we can add to what Jesus Christ purchased on our behalf at the cross. Do not worry. Trust in God. He will establish you. When Jesus is our treasure, we will seek to know God and live for his purpose. Each day as we open our hearts to hear his word, we begin to learn what is truly worthy of our attention.

**Read Matthew 6:25 – 34**

List four things that worry you.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |

How does God’s word lead your heart towards the following:

Priorities God’s will in your life.

\_\_\_\_\_

Give protection against coveting.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Trust in God’s goodness.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

I declare that I will allow the difficult times in my journey to complete the process of me becoming more like Christ.

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No level of suffering, rejection, negative feedback or difficulty will stop me from following God.

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Even when I am tired, angry and depressed, I will trust in you, for you are always right and always good.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....handing your concerns over to God and asking for his help to face today's troubles and not run from them.

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***For more, read Mark 4:35 – 41***

John 5:24

*“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”*

Jesus, the Son of God, was given unrestricted insight into all truths. His testimony lines perfectly with God's will proving these words are from the Father, who cannot lie. We need the word of truth so that we may live by it. For without the truth, there is an opportunity for lies and deception to take place. Here Jesus shares the most fundamental and important truths that all Christians must understand and believe. Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved with all sins forgiven. Unfortunately, this truth is difficult to believe as many continue to live under condemnation. Instead of freedom, there is slavery, and instead of truth and faith, there are lies and doubts. Our sin often speaks louder than God's word, so hear these words now, allowing them to echo into your soul. By God's grace, who holds all authority, you have forgiveness from all transgressions, been purified from all sin and cleansed from all wrongdoing. God's word is the truth, so now live by faith in the reality of your redemption.

**Read John 5:16 – 30**

How did Jesus know what was good?

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According to verse 24, how do we have eternal life?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

According to verse 29, write down below what will happen to....

1. Those who do what is good.

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2. Those who do what is evil.

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

Through Christ, I have redemption, and my sins are held against me no more. God has shown me his boundless love and grace by giving me a new life.

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There is no one good except for God. May I dwell on the good deeds of the Father and act as I see him act.

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I recognise that God is my Saviour by believing that my sins are forgiven.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....requesting God's Spirit to help you build your life on the truth revealed in his word.

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**For more, read Luke 6:43 – 45**

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 Luke 6:43
 

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*“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.”*

God is above all and does not conform to our idea of reality, for God is reality. Our faith grows according to hearing God's word and believing what it says. We are to respectfully observe God's word and seek to practise its teachings. God's will ascends higher than any tradition or custom. The Pharisees, rather than love God and care for their neighbour, were zealous for religion and regulation. Those who earnestly seek God will find the truth in his word. At the same time, those who are confident in themselves and have no interest in God will continually be deceived. In addition, everyone who refuses the invitation for salvation will have their choice respected. After standing before God in their broken self-righteousness, they will be found guilty of sin and deserving of wrath. On the last day, they will be handed over to the dominion of darkness for eternity. The status of judge rests on Jesus. His testimony about us counts for everything. It's through accepting Jesus as your atonement for sin and believing in his name that your name is forever sealed in the lambs' books of life.

### Read John 5:16 – 30

Put an 'X' on the line below to show where you focus hope.

*CHRIST'S ACTIONS*

*YOUR ACTIONS*

*GOD'S STRENGTH*

*HUMAN LIMITS*

*HOLY SPIRIT*

*EMOTIONS*

How will time observing God's word impact the following:

Purify your thoughts.

---

Guide your actions.

---

Soften your heart.

---

Strip away religious zeal.

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I recognise that Jesus is Lord by obeying his word and following what he has shown me.

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No longer am I judged as a guilty person. There is an eternal life with Christ that awaits me.

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God has turned his ear to hear my cry for mercy. With him, there is forgiveness. Now, I will serve him with reverence.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....yielding yourself to God's forgiveness as you let go of condemnation, believing that through Christ Jesus, you have redemption.

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**For more, read John 13:1 – 11**

Mark 10:45

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Jesus, the Son of Man, had all the authority and the highest position above all. God gave him power over the heavens, the earth, all of mankind and all the animals. All was beneath him, yet Jesus did not live that way. The life Jesus lived was of one who sincerely cared for other people. The king of the highest became a servant to the lowest. Everything that Christ did was in the service of others, and whatever we do for others is done in the service of Christ. In the world, greatness is to have a prestigious position that you can hold over others while wearing a fancy robe. The Pharisees had these things, but Jesus never acknowledged them as being great. For heaven, greatness is obtained after letting go of selfish ambition, living obedience to the cross and expressing your faith through love. Jesus loved the broken, rejected, forgotten and the lost. He gave food to the hungry and water to the thirsty. Jesus was a friend to the friendless, and the way he served set an example for those who would follow. To be great in the Kingdom of God is not to be served, but to serve as Jesus did.

**Read Mark 10:35 – 45**

What does it mean to be great according to the world?

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What does it mean to be great according to God?

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What do the following scriptures teach you about being a servant?

Luke 16:13

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John 12:26

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I don't want to serve God for selfish reasons. I will serve him because of who he is and what he has accomplished through Jesus.

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I am willing to have the Holy Spirit challenge me in every area of my life to be a servant. I am determined to go God's way, even when it's a difficult choice.

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When I am humble, God leads me down the straight path and teaches me his ways of love and faith.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....thanking Jesus for submitting to the position of a servant while calling out for his help to be free from captivity.

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**For more, Matthew 25:31 – 46**

Matthew 25:40

*“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”*

There is nothing we can add to what Jesus finished for us on the cross. The work of Jesus, which cleansed us from all accusation, had to be done, for unless Jesus washes us, we have no part with him. The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to be a saviour, master, teacher and servant to those who will accept him. If we allow God into our hearts, he will return what has been stolen, mend what’s been hurting and bind together everything that is everlasting. The service of Jesus will always direct us towards walking on the righteous path as we put into practice actions that glorify our Father in heaven. Allow God to bring out the things of God. Rather than strive to obtain what is given, find rest for your weary soul by leaning into God’s loving arms. His teachings bring wisdom and understanding, his love for us soften every heart, and his empowering Holy Spirit enables all to live holy and pleasing in his sight. The will of God is willing to give us all things. When our faith is in Jesus, we will confidently stand before God blameless and unashamed, ready to receive all we need to serve God’s will.

**Read Mark 10:35 – 45**

How can you practice these principles in your life?

Be a friend to the friendless.

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Accept the rejected.

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Reconcile the lost.

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I will allow the trials of my life to teach me to live a self-denied life and to receive the blessing of God.

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I will continually make it my aim to avoid doing things with my strength. Using my understanding will only cause me to fall.

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I will admit my true condition, seek after God's strength and be open to his correction.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....accepting the invitation to follow Jesus Christ as a servant by caring for others above yourself.

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**For more, read Luke 17:1 – 10**

# Daily Read Scripture

Begin the new daily habit of reading scripture and allow it to fill your heart with love, train your mind with the truth, and equip your body with power.

## Matthew 4:4

*“Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’””*

It's God's proven way for us to read the Bible and know him better. The truth found in scripture is the substance our spirit hungers for, and the light that guides our feet. Scripture helps us mature while also revealing the path of righteousness for us to follow. A healthy intake of God's word will build a firm foundation for your life, which will sustain you through many trials and tribulations. Make the required effort and time to meet God in his word daily.

## Getting Started

Launching a new spiritual habit can be difficult. Have a plan and be prepared by practising some of the following points:

- Pick one of the four gospels as a starting point for reading.
- Select a time when you can read daily for 30 minutes undisturbed.
- Avoid being discouraged when you don't understand the scriptures.
- Restart your routine when you forget to read several days in a row.
- Highlight and reflect on verses that speak to your heart.
- Approach the scriptures with a humble and teachable attitude.
- Purchase a Bible that you enjoy carrying around with you.

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***Seek First  
The Kingdom***

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if you have a moment

here are some....

things <sup>of</sup> great

**IMPORTANCE**

A guide to help you build faith and experience  
God's abundant grace.

Chapter Two

## God-Reality

The grace of God that comes through Jesus Christ offers us far more than forgiveness. By faith, we have been given a new righteous nature empowered by grace to reign in this life. We can now express God's character, love, wisdom, and holiness in each area of life.

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### Romans 5:17

*For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!*

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### Romans 4:25

*"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification."*

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### Romans 8:1

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

## Believe Jesus

Walking in the full measure of what Jesus has paid for requires us to let go of the old way of living. Instead, we must humble ourselves and allow him to renew our thinking. Experiencing God-reality is as simple as reading about what Jesus has accomplished and believing it. It's time to start living in the reality of our redemption.

## Passages Used in Each Study

#9 Romans 12:9 – 10      *Bible Reading* - Romans 12:9 – 21  
*For more* - Romans 2:1 – 11

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#10 Romans 2:7      *Bible Reading* - Romans 12:9 – 21  
*For more* - Acts 2:14 – 41

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#11 Romans 6:13      *Bible Reading* - Romans 6:1 – 14  
*For more* - Romans 8:5 – 17

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#12 Romans 8:7      *Bible Reading* - Romans 6:1 – 14  
*For more* - Acts 4:23 – 31

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#13 Romans 15:1 – 2      *Bible Reading* - Romans 15:1 – 13  
*For more* - Romans 12:3 – 8

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#14 Romans 12:3      *Bible Reading* - Romans 15:1 – 13  
*For more* - Acts 5:17 – 42

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#15 Romans 10:9      *Bible Reading* - Romans 10:1 – 13  
*For more* - Romans 5:1 – 11

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#16 Romans 5:1 – 2      *Bible Reading* - Romans 10:1 – 13  
*For more* - Acts 10:23 – 48

## Romans 12:9 – 10

*“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.  
Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another  
above yourselves.”*

What good is love if it is not put into action? God's sincere love goes into action by seeking to be a blessing for others, building them up. It is the self-sacrificial and kindly affectionate love Jesus demonstrated and commanded his followers to imitate. As Christ's love flows through us, we become an overwhelming, devastating, awe-inspiring source of good in the world. There is a mind that conforms to the pattern of this world. It says, 'if you take out my eye, then I get to take out yours,' and 'if you hurt me, you can be sure I am going to attack you in a place that hurts.' It says that 'if you offend me, you can go straight to hell.' The love of Jesus, however, leads us to associate with those who are oppressed, live at peace with everyone, and forgive those who have caused offence. When opposed by evil, do not allow it to bring out the worst in you, but rather, allow it to bring out the love of Jesus. This is how sincere love goes into action, and just as the body without the Holy Spirit is dead, love without action is dead.

### Read Romans 12:9 – 21

List four ways of practising hospitality to everyone.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Put an 'X' on the line to show your response towards those in a low position.

EMBRACE

CAST-OFF

According to Matthew 5, what actions do the following verses instruct?

Verse 22 - 24 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 28 - 29 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 39 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 44 \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

The Lord will teach me to practice humility and value others above myself. I surrender to God my selfish ambition.

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When I have been wronged, I will remember God's great mercy. I will forgive others the same way I have been forgiven.

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God is love. In him, there is no hatred at all.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....asking God to bless and protect your enemy, that their lives would be filled with God's love and their relationships with his peace.

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**For more, read Romans 2:1 – 11**

Romans 2:7

*“To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.”*

The word of God teaches us to stop looking at our desires and instead look at the needs of others. Love is always a choice, but not always the choice we want to make as it is never self-seeking and never self-serving. The life of Jesus demonstrated to everyone how love is the most powerful force, for nothing can stand against it. When our evil desires and behaviours separated us from God's kingdom, the love of Christ Jesus reconciled us back to the Father. Nothing can possibly remove you from the love of Jesus, for his love has won the day. Love cannot be defeated because it stands unchanged no matter the circumstances. For us to live like Jesus is to love the way Jesus loved. Do this by having the same heart as the Lord, persisting in loving others and doing good to those who have sinned against you. Rejoice at the opportunity to forgive those who have caused hurt and cherish the responsibility to express mercy to those who have wronged you. Cling onto unconditional love allowing every expression and motion from the heart to be a song of worship to the Father.

**Read Romans 12:9 – 21**

What is the inevitable consequence of repaying evil with evil?

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How will the outcome of a difficult situation be impacted by the following:

Being joyful in hope, having a good attitude.

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Being patient in affliction, creating space for God to work for you.

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Being faithful in prayer, continually involving God throughout the process.

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After all you have learned, what does verse 21 mean to you?

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***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

I must sacrifice who I am for whom I will become. Help me to put an end to the hatred and selfishness in my heart. I want to love like Jesus.

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The Lord will send me the broken, the forgotten, the rejected, the lost, and the friendless. I will love them.

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God's love stands unchanged when it is opposed by evil. I am here to serve those who persecute me.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

*....relying on and persisting in God's love as you overlook an offence caused by someone you care about.*

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***For more, read Acts 2:14 – 41***

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 Romans 6:13
 

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*“Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.”*

By God’s wonderful mercy and Jesus submitting to the Father’s will, our old life that used to be a slave to sin, giving into every wicked desire has been nailed to the cross crucified forever. God has blown up sin, sending it into oblivion so that we can have complete freedom. We have redemption through the resurrection of Jesus. We have been given a new nature empowered by God’s grace, helping us to put into practice God’s word. Our worst and most urgent problem has now been met with the greatest possible solution. Freedom is the gift given by grace that saves us through faith, not by works, so nobody can take pride in what God has done. However, God’s grace offers more than salvation and forgiveness. With the bondage of death destroyed, we never again have to be obedient to sin. God’s gift of freedom helps us live free from sin. Those who are considered dead to sin and alive in Christ Jesus will walk in God’s strength bearing his fruit.

**Read Romans 6:1 – 14**

What do these verses say about the old life?

Verse 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 6 \_\_\_\_\_

What do these verses say about our new life?

Verse 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 10 \_\_\_\_\_

According to verse 12, how do you count yourself dead to sin?

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According to verse 14, what does it mean for you to be alive to God in Christ?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

By walking in the light, I have fellowship with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. His blood has purified me from all sin.

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The prayer of a righteous believer is powerful. I will walk into your presence with boldness and confidence as I present my request to you, God.

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My shame has been put to shame, and my death has been put to death. In the name of Jesus, I am alive and free.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....calling on God to empower you with his grace, enabling you to live a life pleasing to him.

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**For more, read Romans 8:5 – 17**

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 Romans 8:7
 

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*“The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.”*

In our walk, we make mistakes doing things we know to be wrong by going our way rather than follow God’s direction. The outcome of disobedience is a weight of condemnation and a feeling of shame, telling us that we are unqualified to live as children of God. Our Father, unwilling to leave us in a place of despair, sent his Son Jesus, that we may be buried in his death and raised to new life. All of the corruption, brokenness and imperfections from the old nature have been taken off and replaced with Christ’s new nature. Since the life we now live, we live to God, everything that is not from God must go. Spend time praying against the self-hatred, self-pity and self-condemnation ruling in your life, which is keeping you in bondage. These things are a lie designed to separate you from living and experiencing Christ freedom. They are rooted in the heart as unbelief, which means they will be stripped away with the truth and revelation of God’s love for you. Christ died so that you could receive an inheritance of freedom. Yield yourself to God, allowing him to firmly establish you as his own.

### Read Romans 6:1 – 14

Put an ‘x’ on the line below to show how God cares for you.

CHERISHED

ABANDONED

LOVED

HATED

Put an ‘x’ on the line below to show what God wants for your life.

FREEDOM

CAPTIVITY

FORGIVENESS

CONDEMNATION

Put an ‘x’ on the line below to show the extent of God’s acceptance.

ACCEPTED

REJECTED

How does your new nature change the way you strive to be good enough?

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***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

God will purify my eyes so I can appreciate the splendour of his beauty. He will cleanse my mind so I can be mindful of his instructions.

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The armoury in heaven has everything I need to win the battle over sin. I will make my stand against evil using the full armour of God.

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Great is the Heavenly Father's love towards me. God satisfies my heart as I delight in his holiness.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

*....inviting God's love and acceptance into your heart while casting out fear and shaking off self-hatred.*

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***For more, read Acts 4:23 – 31***

Romans 15:1 – 2

*“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.”*

What is the point of having faith if not to glorify God by magnifying Christ and lifting others? For it is by God’s grace alone that anyone who believes should be spared from the eternal punishment in the forsaken burning abyss and impending everlasting doom. It is by God’s amazing grace that we have inherited reasons for hope, the joy of the Holy Spirit, and the peace that arises from having eternal life. But who is to benefit from a believer with strong faith? When the focus is on the self, religion becomes a way of getting an advantage over others. As faith gets used in this way, musicians sing to perform, teachers speak to prove their wisdom, and brothers and sisters act in love expecting a reward. Jesus walked by faith, encouraging others to lift their praises to God and not themselves. Jesus spoke God’s word with boldness as he proclaimed the truth that leads to righteousness. His actions were selfless, having no ambition except to please others for their good. May your faith aim to glorify God in all you do.

**Read Romans 15:1 – 13**

Who is to benefit from the work God is doing through you?

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Put an ‘x’ on the line below to show how others receive your faith?

*BLESSING*

*BURDEN*

What do these verses say about pleasing one another?

Verse 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 7 \_\_\_\_\_

According to verse 13, what does God give us to help us accomplish his work?

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|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |

***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

God is helping me reject what is evil and be set apart as holy. It is his will for me to be blameless in spirit, soul, and body.

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God will show me how to have a teachable mind and remain humble before him. I desire to walk his walks and offer an undivided heart.

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The Holy Spirit living within me is able to give me peace. I will continually come to him and be thirsty no more.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

*....committing your actions to Jesus as you live for God's glory.*

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***For more, read Romans 12:3 – 8***

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 Romans 12:3
 

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*“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”*

God has granted us his strength so that we may live as his children. We receive his power by being filled with his Spirit to put into practice what his scripture teaches. His authority and guidance has been presented to you, but how will you use it? The one who graciously shares his love and wisdom with us set an example for us to follow. Jesus bore the consequences of our weakness and the punishment of our sin. This was his responsibility to carry and not ours. However, we are instructed to have the same attitude of mind as Christ. Each of us has a calling to seek the benefit of those around us. The more Christ you put into your heart, the more profound impact you will have on those around you. The world needs believers who will put aside glorifying themselves and instead use what God has given them to reach those without eternal hope. Your words will encourage, your actions will inspire, and your glory will be found in Jesus Christ.

**Read Romans 15:1 – 13**

How is serving others for their good different to serving others for your good?

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Why is sincere encouragement useful for building others up?

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List two ways you can seek the benefit of those around you?

1. 

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2. 

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What does it mean to accept others the way Christ welcomes you?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I will sing rejoicing to the Lord. It is fitting to praise his name with skilful music and shouts of joy. I will dwell on the great deeds of my Father in heaven.

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God has promised joy to those who trust him, peace to those who fear him, and salvation to those who call on his name.

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The Lord will direct my heart into his everlasting love and build me up in the perseverance shown by Christ.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....answering the call to build others up for their good by sharing what you learnt from walking with God.

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**For more, read Acts 5:17 – 42**

Romans 10:9

*“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

On account of Jesus and his obedience to the cross, all sin has been paid for so that salvation can be received by all who call on his name. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, but also for the sins of the whole world. Hearing and believing God’s word protects us from the deceitful lie that tries to lead us away from his mercy and grace. If we claim that we have not sinned, we deceive ourselves and make God out to be a liar. However, to those who receive Jesus and believe in his name, they have been given the right to become children of God. Whoever confesses their need for his mercy shall receive it, for Jesus Christ has the authority to forgive sin. Even though we were rightly deserving of wrath, God has shown us his kindness by restoring our fellowship with him. All of our unrighteousness and sin has been purified, allowing us to walk in God’s light. Our sin does not deny us access to God in the same way our efforts, strength, and capacity cannot earn his forgiveness. It is by faith in God’s word that we receive the gift of salvation that has been offered to all.

**Read Romans 10:1 – 13**

According to verses 2 – 3, what is the severe danger of having a zeal for God without knowing his righteousness?

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What does verse 11 say about God’s readiness to forgive and welcome you?

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Get still before the Lord, writing down the areas of your heart where you need to welcome God’s mercy.

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***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

I am thankful for the miracle birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Son of God – Jesus Christ, the righteous one.

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I believe my sins were forgiven when Jesus cancelled the debt that stood against my life, condemning me.

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I believe that God the Father raised Jesus to life again, allowing him to declare to everyone that death has been defeated.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....handing over the guilt of your sin while asking for help to see the fullness of his forgiveness.

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***For more, read Romans 5:1 – 11***

Romans 5:1 – 2

*“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.”*

Do not let anyone disqualify you from receiving what God has freely given you. Some are passionate about God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Rather than please God through faith, they aim to obtain a right standing with the Father relying on good deeds. It is impossible for anyone established in self-righteousness to please God, for they are trying to do it in their own ability. Those under the influence of deception are unaware of how they have been misguided by falsehood. Let everything that is contrary to God’s grace be stripped down until only the truth remains. You who believe in the name of Jesus have been justified by faith. You now have peace with the Father as he welcomes you into fellowship. He has granted you access to his power, enabling you to live as a child of God. You will stand before him confident, unashamed and free from accusation. For by the grace of God, you have been redeemed.

**Read Romans 10:1 – 13**

What are three reasons why you can approach God with great confidence?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

In what way does reading scripture keep you far from falsehood?

\_\_\_\_\_

How will being planted in a Church support your faith?

\_\_\_\_\_

Why is it impossible to walk this Christian journey without the Holy Spirit?

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***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

My heart is led into repentance as I see my inability to follow God in my strength. Only he can create a pure heart and a renewed steadfast spirit in me.

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My Heavenly Father has promised to pour his Holy Spirit into my heart and welcome me as a child of God. Believing him restored the joy of my salvation.

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Jesus remembered me when he went into his kingdom.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....praising God for sending his Son Jesus into the world to fulfil the requirements for us to be made righteous.

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***For more, read Acts 10:23 – 48***

# Daily Prayer

Begin the new daily habit of praying to God in private as you share your heart, gratitude, thoughts, emotions, concerns and needs with him.

## Matthew 6:6

*“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”*

Communication is essential in every relationship. Scripture reminds us to seek God through prayer, involving him in each part of our lives. As you approach God with your needs, remember to thank him for being faithful and good. Lay down your request before him while resting in his peace. The Father greatly desires for us to share with him the intimate details of our lives. Trust that God is listening and moving as you share your heart with him through prayer.

## Getting Started

Launching a new spiritual habit can be difficult. Have a plan and be prepared by practising some of the following points:

- Approach God with faith and know he is paying attention to your words.
- Select a time when you can pray daily for 30 minutes undisturbed.
- Keep away from being discouraged when you can't find the right words.
- Use the book of Psalms as inspiration on what to pray about.
- Practise opening up your heart to God and speaking what comes out.
- Turn off everything that will cause you to be distracted.
- Keep the focus on growing in your relationship with God.

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***Stand Righteous  
Through Faith***

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pleasing aroma of Christ **GLORIFIED**

BLESSED IN THE HEAVENLY REALM **SET APART**

CLOTHED WITH LOVE CO-WORKERS WITH CHRIST

CLEANSED FROM WRONG-DOING

ESTABLISHED IN FAITH **RIGHTEOUS** Marked With a Seal

Overflowing with thanksgiving **OVERFLOWING**

Rescued  
Purified  
Protected  
Reconciled  
Justified

# ABOUT THIS NEW LIFE

TRAINED  
living  
sacrifice  
CHOSEN

Accepted **FREE FROM ACCUSATION** empowered

Christ's ambassadors **LOVED**  
self-controlled anointed **QUALIFIED**

CITIZEN OF THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT

equipped for work **BLAMELESS**

god's child **REDEEMED** without blemish

born  
sent

A guide to help you know your identity in Christ and fulfil your purpose.  
Chapter Three

free  
called  
SAVED

hopeful **FEARLESS** STRENGTHENED WITH POWER  
**FORGIVEN**

**PREDESTINED FOR ADAPTATION**

Filled with the Spirit **god's special possession**

## All Things New

The transformation from repenting and welcoming the Holy Spirit into our hearts is radical. Our entire identity moves from being a broken sinner to becoming the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The task of the Holy Spirit is to reveal our identity to us as we read God's word, while our job is to believe.

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### Galatians 2:20

*"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*

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### Ephesians 1:17

*"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."*

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### Colossians 1:22

*"But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—"*

## Become Like Jesus

Letting go of our previous identity can be challenging. The stumbling stone that stops many is letting go of trying to be righteous through our works. We must humble ourselves and allow the work of Jesus to tell us who we have become. It's time to see ourselves as God's people made completely new.



## Passages Used in Each Study

#17 **Colossians 3:12 – 13**      *Bible Reading* - Colossians 3:1 – 14  
*For more* - Galatians 5:13 – 26

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#18 **Galatians 5:22 – 23**      *Bible Reading* - Colossians 3:1 – 14  
*For more* - Ephesians 4:17 – 24

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#19 **Philippians 3:8**      *Bible Reading* - Philippians 3:3 – 14  
*For more* - Ephesians 2:11 – 22

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#20 **Ephesians 2:18**      *Bible Reading* - Philippians 3:3 – 14  
*For more* - Colossians 1:3 – 14

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#21 **Galatians 6:9**      *Bible Reading* - Galatians 6:1 – 10  
*For more* - Colossians 1:3 – 14

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#22 **Colossians 1:9**      *Bible Reading* - Galatians 6:1 – 10  
*For more* - Philippians 2:12 – 18

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#23 **Ephesians 4:2 – 3**      *Bible Reading* - Ephesians 4:1 – 13  
*For more* - Philippians 2:1 – 11

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#24 **Philippians 2:3 – 4**      *Bible Reading* - Ephesians 4:1 – 13  
*For more* - Galatians 1:1 – 10

Colossians 3:12 – 13

*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*

Sent by God the Father, the Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven into our broken and hopeless world. For the sake of the ministry of reconciliation, which would unite the lost children back to the Father, Jesus submitted to the cross on our behalf. By God's grace and placing our faith in the finished work of Jesus, we have been adopted into God's royal family. Jesus has set us free, and who the Son sets free, is free without question. On the third day, Jesus raised from the dead into a new life. We also submit into a new life with Christ to participate in his freedom and divine nature. However, we followed our evil desires and gratified the flesh in our time living as those who were subjects to wrath. In that state, we embraced the world's patterns and behaviours. The cleansing blood of Jesus makes us pure, while the Holy Spirit empowers us to live righteously. Then let us live up to the name we have already attained, children of God and citizens

**Read Colossians 3:1 – 14**

According to verses 5 and 8, what makes up our earthy nature?

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According to verses 9 and 10, write down below....

For what reason are we to not practice the earthy nature?

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What is shaping our new self into renewal?

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In what way do the virtues from verse 12 become our new nature?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I cannot love, serve and support others without the help of God's Holy Spirit.

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The Lord has given me grace. Becoming more aware of God's grace helps me live as a child of God and produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

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I cannot separate myself from my old nature by relying on my strength and understanding. It is God's Spirit and wisdom helping me live differently.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....asking God to be the centre of your attention and the focus of your thoughts.

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**For more, read Galatians 5:13 – 26**

Galatians 5:22 – 23

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

A new life with Jesus Christ gives us a new way of living. Our Father in heaven is holy, and since we are his children with his Spirit living in us, we are also to seek holiness. God has called us to abide in his Spirit and to obey his word. We are made in God's image, which means the process of our renewal and restoration comes from learning about him. We are living out our true identity when we choose to love, forgive and serve one another. If we follow Christ's example, then we will walk in God's light, putting to death the evil behaviours, thoughts and desires that once ruled over us. We need to allow God to fill our hearts and minds with his ways and his thoughts. At times it may seem impossible for us to live as Jesus lived, yet, what is impossible for man is possible for God. The process of transformation is, at times, painful and difficult. Stand firm as a child of God against the devil's schemes. Know that God is leading you by his Spirit into his true righteousness.

**Read Colossians 3:1 – 14**

Why is it considered faith to live as a child of God?

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Does God's word about you line up with how you view yourself?

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In what way does love bind all of God's virtues together in perfect unity?

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What fruits of the Spirit do you need God's help with today?

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compassion | <input type="checkbox"/> Faithfulness | <input type="checkbox"/> Forgiveness | <input type="checkbox"/> Gentleness   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goodness   | <input type="checkbox"/> Humility     | <input type="checkbox"/> Joy         | <input type="checkbox"/> Kindness     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Love       | <input type="checkbox"/> Patience     | <input type="checkbox"/> Peace       | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-control |

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I desire to be influenced by the Spirit and not the world around me.

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I want the word of God to change my heart, break my pride, and guide my life into living like Jesus.

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I am a child of God, and my Father affectionately loves me. The Holy Spirit is at work within me, changing my desires towards all that is holy.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....embracing the calling to allow God to produce his fruits in your attitude and actions.

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**For more, read Ephesians 4:17 – 24**

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 Philippians 3:8
 

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*“What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ”*

In our walk with the Lord, it is easy to lose focus on God's grace and start placing confidence in our actions and self-righteousness. Confidence in the flesh comes from building an external appearance of godliness while neglecting the internal condition of your soul. A religious facade will fail terribly at giving you any right standing with the Father. We will never obtain righteousness and peace in the presence of our Lord relying on good deeds. Indeed good deeds indicate that a person has been made right by God. However, good deeds themselves cannot make us righteous. While they may appear to hold some value, they do not. There is only one way we are made right with the Father, and that is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. Anything we try adding to what Jesus has already done for us is just filthy rags in comparison. Faith is built when we stop trusting in our actions and status, which is garbage, and start looking at the work of Christ on the cross, which brings redemption.

### Read Philippians 3:3 – 14

According to verse 9, what are the two types of righteousness?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

List two areas of your life where self-righteousness grows.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

How might someone's actions change after learning they have a right standing with God through faith?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why is it important to understand that we can't earn God's love and mercy?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I will give up on trying to earn a right standing with God and accept by faith that Jesus Christ has made me perfect, as he is perfect.

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I need God to help me see that I am filled with the Holy Spirit and give me the wisdom to understand the word of God.

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I will rejoice in the Lord, even when I don't want to, as it protects me from seeking evil desires.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....rejoicing in the Lord, praising him for his forgiveness and unyielding faithfulness towards you.

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**For more, read Ephesians 2:11 – 22**

## Ephesians 2:18

*“For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”*

One of the goals for a Christian is to take hold of Christ in the same way he has taken hold of us. Often what stops this unity with the Lord is the shame and condemnation of our past acts of unrighteousness. Shame tries to convince us that we have not been made righteous, while the weight of condemnation suggest we will be judged for our actions. No matter how great the shortcomings, nothing we have done can stop us from receiving the fullness of God. Our actions have consequences, and it's our responsibility to face our circumstances with integrity. Letting go of our shame involves a deep acknowledgement of being a broken sinner in need of God's mercy. It can often be an uncomfortable process to share your heart with God in this way. However, what we keep hidden in the dark has control over us. Practice the habit of forgetting what's behind you by confessing to the Father what you have done in the darkness. Bring it to the light and confess the Lord's love and mercy over that failure. After this, get back up and press forward to receive everything God has in store for you as his precious beloved child.

### **Read Philippians 3:3 – 14**

In what way does carrying guilt distance our relationship with God?

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Complete the following sentences below.

I can approach God as a blameless child of God because....

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The Father has forgiven me for....

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According to verse 14, what should you do next?

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***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

I have come to seek God with all of my heart. Because of his forgiveness, I will let go of my past, allowing nothing to stop me from receiving him.

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My heart cries out for the living God. He gives me wisdom to act and strength to stand. He will carry me through the fire and lead me to the other side.

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My help comes from the Lord, the maker of the heavens and the earth. The Lord watches over my life and protects me from harm.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....bringing God your secret pain and hidden shame, allowing him to understand the way you feel.

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***For more, read Colossians 1:3 – 14***

Galatians 6:9

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”*

Those living under the rule of God's Spirit have a responsibility to seek and help those caught in sin. It can be a tiresome burden to have sincere compassion for one another. Scripture gives us advice on how to lift each other up in a way that is gentle and safe. When helping others trapped in sin, we must watch out for the temptation that tries to pull us into their situation. We must also hold no moral authority, thinking ourselves higher or better than others. Clothe yourself with love and humble yourself to their position as a fellow brother or sister. Then you will be able to lift them upwards. Never allow the frustrating challenges to discourage you. It's not always the difficulty of dealing with people that pulls our attention away. Often natural love or other affections distract us from doing what God has called us to achieve. No matter the circumstances or the opposition, never give up on seeking to be a blessing for others. If you continue, standing firm in your faith, you will undoubtedly reap a harvest of righteousness and peace.

**Read Galatians 6:1 – 10**

Verse 9 – What will happen if we refuse to give up on doing good?

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Verse 10 – Who has God called us to be good towards?

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How can you sow to please the Spirit in these areas?

Devotion to God.

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Personal relationships.

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Caring for a neighbour.

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Caring for an enemy.

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

Love and faithfulness glorify the Lord. I want to partake in his glory and live for his name.

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Those whose ways are blameless, walking in accordance with the will of the Lord, will be blessed.

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I will fear the Lord and find delight in his ways. His commands are to be fully obeyed.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....requesting God to supply the strength required for you to be a blessing towards others.

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**For more, read Colossians 1:3 – 14**

Colossians 1:9

*“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,”*

In every situation, there is an opportunity to be either a blessing or a burden onto others. Whichever we choose, our actions always have consequences. Living righteously will produce goodness, while selfishness leads to a negative outcome. We reap what we sow, which means we must follow through with good deeds if we aim to do good. A good heart filled with good things will produce good fruit. In the same way, a heart filled with the Spirit will produce the fruits of the Spirit. We must permit the Holy Spirit to take the lead in our lives, allowing him to bring to the surface God's character. This kind of surrender may seem difficult. However, take comfort knowing it is impossible for the Holy Spirit to fail, for God will never betray you. His actions line up perfectly with God's will and word, for he is the Spirit of Truth. Make it your aim to share in the Spirit's wisdom, holiness and strength as you do good serving one another.

**Read Galatians 6:1 – 10**

Put an ‘X’ on the line below to show how others receive your help.

*BLESSING*

*BURDEN*

Put an ‘X’ on the line below to show how the words from your tongue sow.

*LIFE*

*DESTRUCTION*

List three areas of your life where you are aiming to be a blessing.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

List four ways you need help from the Holy Spirit to accomplish this work.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

The Spirit listens to me while I pray and speaks to me when I listen. He is worthy of my time, devotion, love and surrender.

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I repent for limiting the Holy Spirit's involvement in my life. The Father is pleased to teach me how to understand his Spirit as he guides me along his path.

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The Heavenly Father will help me produce fruits that glorify his name as I commit to walking with the Holy Spirit.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....inviting God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through the wisdom and understand that the Spirit gives.

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**For more, read *Philippians 2:12 – 18***

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 Ephesians 4:2 – 3
 

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*“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”*

We have a calling to live a life worthy of the gospel by living in God’s holiness, actively saying yes to his word. Others can see unity in the way we treat one another. Peace with God leads to us living at peace with each other as we are under the one grace, moving towards the one goal governed by the one Holy Spirit. Fellowship with the Spirit keeps us in alignment with glorifying God as that is what the Spirit loves doing the most. The Holy Spirit has a personality of likes, dislikes, goals, ambitions, characteristics and motivations. There are things that the Holy Spirit is passionate about and eager to achieve in our lives, relationships and service. All is made clear when we hear from the Spirit. However, not everything the Spirit says is what we want to hear. Keep the bond of peace when faced with the choice of going against what the Spirit desires. Do this by seeking an intimate relationship with the Spirit, surrendering selfish ambition and trusting that God is working for the good of those who love him.

### Read Ephesians 4:1 – 13

List the callings on your life found in each verse.

Verse 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 11 – Who has appointed our specific individual calling?

\_\_\_\_\_

Verse 12 – For what reason have we been given this calling?

\_\_\_\_\_

Verse 13 – When will this calling be brought into fulfilment?

\_\_\_\_\_

***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

Hearing from the Holy Spirit comes from an intimate relationship with God, where we desire to hear from him.

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The Holy Spirit is my best friend and my greatest encourager. No one can speak life into me the way he does. He knows me and loves me perfectly.

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I want to keep in step with the Spirit, not moving to the left or the right.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....calling on God to reveal himself through the constant presence and work of his Holy Spirit.

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***For more, read Philippians 2:1 – 11***

Philippians 2:3 – 4

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”*

As the Spirit leads us, our lives begin to move into alinement with God's ways. His desires are becoming our desires since we are sharing the same heart. It's through this transformation that we find deep fulfilment and joy in living out the will of God. Whereas before we lived for selfish reasons, now we are committing our actions and thoughts towards praising and glorifying the Father's name. While that sounds great, the reality is we hold onto selfish ambition because we are afraid of trusting God with our needs. Understand this, the riches and pleasures of this world are nothing compared to his generous and affectionate love for you. Turn your attention to seeking the benefit of others by looking to their needs and not your own. As for you, find rest trusting that God cares for you and is working all things together for your benefit. When we live for selfish ambition, we deny the Lord the opportunity to be the one who provides for us. Allow him to be the one who fills your heart and life as you live for his purpose.

**Read Ephesians 4:1 – 13**

What does it mean to trust God with all of your personal needs?

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How is your attention more focused on serving others when you are trusting God to provide for you?

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Why is it considered worship to God when you serve others above yourself?

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***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

The Lord is my shepherd, and I lack nothing. The Father provides for me because he loves me and cares for me.

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I am free to serve others, having been satisfied with Jesus Christ. I want the Lord to help me serve those around me as I look to their needs and not my own.

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God's grace is made perfect in my inability. I will focus on what you can do through me and not for me.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

*....allowing God to bring you into greater maturity as you accept the calling to build up his kingdom.*

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***For more, read Galatians 1:1 – 10***

# Daily Worship

Begin the new daily habit of entering into a private place of worship as you prioritise sitting down and spiritually engaging with God the Father.

## Psalms 100:2 – 3

*“Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.”*

Worship takes many forms, and it will not be the same for everyone. We must discover how we each prefer to open our hearts and minds towards God. Be still in a place of humility and thanksgiving as you reconnect with the heart of God. Fix your attention on Jesus as you surrender your burdens and concerns over to him. Create an atmosphere where you can openly express the depth of your heart to God. Allow God to refresh your soul as you give him your praises.

## Getting Started

Launching a new spiritual habit can be difficult. Have a plan and be prepared by practising some of the following points:

- Prepare a playlist of worship songs to help you enter God’s presence.
- Select a time when you can worship daily for 30 minutes undisturbed.
- Find a private place where you can physically express praise to the Lord.
- Allow the worship to change your attitude and adjust your perspective.
- Especially praise God when you feel overwhelmed and anxious.
- Intentionally dwell on God’s faithfulness and love towards you.
- Use worship as a tool for entering into a time of passionate prayer.

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***Embrace Your  
New Identity***

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A guide to help you participate in God's divine nature and experience his promises.

Chapter Four

## The Divine Nature

God has called us to live a life of love and holiness. However, it is impossible to do that while living from a place of the flesh. God's design for us to obey him comes from participating in his divine nature through faith. Everything required for genuine love and holiness has been given freely.

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1 Peter 2:5

*“you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

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2 Peter 1:2

*“Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”*

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1 John 4:9

*“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.”*

## Obey Jesus

The door for us to leave behind rebellion, sin, selfishness, and darkness has been opened wide. Everyone is commanded to answer the call to holiness. However, no one will fulfil that command in their strength. It's time to learn to participate in God's divine nature and live holy.

## Passages Used in Each Study

#25 1 Peter 1:15 – 16      *Bible Reading* - 1 Peter 1:13 – 25  
*For more* - 2 Peter 1:3 – 11

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#26 2 Peter 1:4      *Bible Reading* - 1 Peter 1:13 – 25  
*For more* - 1 Peter 4:1 – 11

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#27 1 John 4:16      *Bible Reading* - 1 John 4:7 – 21  
*For more* - 1 John 1:1 – 10

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#28 1 John 1:7      *Bible Reading* - 1 John 4:7 – 21  
*For more* - 1 John 3:11 – 18

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#29 1 John 3:9      *Bible Reading* - 1 John 3:1 – 10  
*For more* - 1 John 2:3 – 11

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#30 1 John 2:9      *Bible Reading* - 1 John 3:1 – 10  
*For more* - 1 Peter 5:1 – 11

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#31 1 Peter 3:9      *Bible Reading* - 1 Peter 3:8 – 18  
*For more* - 1 Peter 4:12 – 19

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#32 1 Peter 4:13      *Bible Reading* - 1 Peter 3:8 – 18  
*For more* - 1 John 5:13 – 21

1 Peter 1:15 – 16

*“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.””*

God is the almighty King who rules with truth and justice while also the faithful, affectionate Father who deeply cares for you. He knows you perfectly as he has held you in his heart since the day you were created. He has heard each cry for help and felt the emotion behind every tear. It’s his passion for you to receive every physical and spiritual blessing from him. You must remember these things while undergoing the Lord’s discipline. We know that God brings all of his children into maturity. Be encouraged knowing that your discipline is a sign that you are a legitimate child of God. His process is pulling you out from the wickedness of the world to be set aside as holy. Being refined is not a pleasant experience as it is never at any point comfortable. It can, at times, be excruciatingly painful to bear. You are being established and equipped to carry out his commands. The Lord is building in you a temple with his own hands where he will house his love, strength, wisdom, purity, word, and Holy Spirit. The way you live will bring glory to God as he works through you to minister to those around you.

**Read 1 Peter 1:13 – 25**

Why does God mature us before leading us into more responsibility?

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What is the outcome of having responsibility without the maturity to handle it?

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How does hardship help reveal the hidden immaturity in our lives?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

My heart desires to have a deeper and more intimate relationship with God the Father. I am willing to throw off everything that hinders my walk with him.

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God uses the hardship in my life to discipline me as his beloved child. I will keep my heart soft toward him, not allowing myself to become bitter.

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I will lean on the faithfulness and the promises of God during difficult times. As I follow, he is leading me into a harvest of righteousness and peace.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....rejoicing in the truth that God loves you and is leading you into a deeper relationship with him as he brings you into maturity.

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**For more, read 2 Peter 1:3 – 11**

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 2 Peter 1:4
 

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*“Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”*

Since the moment you called on the name of Jesus, welcoming his Spirit, God has been extending an invitation for you to participate in his perfect nature. It is through this that we are able to display all of his characteristics. This is the greatest invitation anyone could be offered. You are being presented with a way to escape living the sinful nature that destroys everything it touches. Accept his invitation by learning what you have inherited from God, then acting on what you discover. Leave behind ignorance as you become mature in your knowledge. No longer allow your minds to be easily carried away by worldly desires, evil pleasures and falsehood. Instead, capture every thought that goes against the word of God and the truth spoken about you. Keep yourself grounded in reality as you actively engage with God's nature. Being holy is living pure lives in accordance with the truth. We are participating by living God's identity while fulfilling his purpose, as his divine nature has become our own.

**Read 1 Peter 1:13 – 25**

Verse 13 – How do we keep our minds from drifting away from God?

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Verse 14 – What are we called away from?

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Verse 15 – What are we called towards?

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Verse 16 – For what reason are we given this calling?

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Verse 18 + 19 – How have we been redeemed from the empty way of life?

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Verse 22 – How do we continue purifying ourselves?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

Understanding my position in God's family brings me great confidence. I have been raised with Christ and seated with him in the heavenly places.

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I will not substitute God's way of life for something doomed for destruction. Now that through God's word I know better, I ought to live wiser.

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My battle is against false beliefs and not flesh and blood. I will capture every thought that contradicts the love, freedom and grace given through Christ.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....inviting God to reveal the knowledge of his power that enables you to live a godly life.

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**For more, read 1 Peter 4:1 – 11**

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 1 John 4:16
 

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*“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.”*

The core of God’s character is love. Since we are participating in his divine nature, the essence of who we are also becomes love. For us to know God is to love others the same way he does. We can understand his compassionate, gracious, and abundant love by receiving it from him. It’s his love that transforms our hearts into being others-focused. It’s his mercy that teaches us how to forgive those who have caused offence. Receiving God’s love inspires us to have an unrelenting, passionate devotion to all people. However, it is not always easy to love others. Often there are those in our lives that cause frustration and disappointment with their behaviour. Rather than include them, we would rather distant ourselves or cut them out of our lives altogether. The outcome of this will always lead to division and bitterness. By seeking God’s wisdom, we can find a better way. If we open ourselves up to God, he can direct our hearts into being patient, forgiving and caring towards people we struggle to be around. Allow him to teach you his love as you invent new ways of expressing his kindness.

**1 John 4:7 – 21**

According to verse 7, what does love say about us and God?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

List what each verse reveals to us about God's love.

Verse 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 16 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 17 \_\_\_\_\_

According to verse 21, how will our love for God be reflected in our lives?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

By following Christ, I am led to a place of purity. I have regained my innocence and right standing through him. What was once lost has now been returned.

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The light that comes from God's love is revealing the path of peace. I will surrender my pride and follow the example set by Jesus Christ.

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My right to be offended is fading as my life is being filled with God's love. As I pray, the Lord is helping me show his compassion and gentleness to others.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

*....asking God to help you see and love others the way he does.*

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***For more, read 1 John 1:1 – 10***

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 1 John 1:7
 

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*“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”*

The condition of our hearts determines how well we love and serve God. Caring for others is a vital function of the heart, as it gives us great joy and satisfaction. However, all takes a negative turn with fear in the heart. God’s design for us is to receive approval from him. By instead seeking that approval from others, we expect them to fill a gap that only God can fit. When insecurities take over, the focus shifts towards selfishness and away from sincere love. Unfortunately, we always hurt and betray those we care about when we seek our own benefit. Fear causes us to strive for acceptance by manipulating people into caring about us. When we don’t get the impossible affirmation we desire, we express rage, jealousy and hatred. Relationships based on fear are always destructive and never acceptable. We must release others from this responsibility by turning to God for his approval. The fear of rejection goes out as the love of God comes in. His acceptance allows us to live our true nature of loving others unsparingly.

### 1 John 4:7 – 21

According to verse 18, write down below...

What happens as the love of God comes in?

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What does it say about us when we have insecurities?

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Put an ‘X’ on the line below to show whose acceptance you are seeking.

*GOD’S* *OTHERS*

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Put an ‘X’ on the line below to show how accepted you are by God.

*100%* *0%*

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How does becoming aware of God's acceptance free you to love others?

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***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

Instead of seeking admiration from those around me, I will live to please my Lord, Jesus Christ.

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As the love of God comes into the heart, the fear of being rejected goes out.

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God's love brings freedom to those who receive it. I will hold no expectations over how people are to treat me. My love will be generous and others focused.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

*....turning to God for his acceptance while casting out the fear of being rejected from your heart.*

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***For more, read 1 John 3:11 – 18***

1 John 3:9

*“No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning because they have been born of God.”*

We have been consecrated and rendered pure by placing our hope in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. There is nothing our actions can do to earn the gift God has freely given us. God regards us as holy as we have been cleansed from all contamination, impurity and moral filth. God is directing us into practising holiness as we listen to his word and follow his Holy Spirit. On the contrary, everything of the world is leading us into seeking pride, pleasure and possessions. The world teaches us to follow our way, love ourselves above all else, and believe in whatever is most convenient. The life God calls us to is one of self-denial and submission. We are to surrender our will and forsake living for ourselves as we take up the cross to follow Jesus. Hearing this is unpleasant, as we love our lives and want to keep it. Participating in God's divine nature involves an abandonment of living in the broken one. Obedience to God will only occur when we truly love him more than we love ourselves.

**Read 1 John 3:1 – 10**

List two areas God is currently calling you away from the ways of the world.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

In your own words, how do you define the following terms?

Sincere love for Jesus.

\_\_\_\_\_

Knowledge of God’s word.

\_\_\_\_\_

Empowering Holy Spirit.

\_\_\_\_\_

Denying yourself.

\_\_\_\_\_



**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

God's word will guide me into snuffing the flame of lust, breaking down the wall of pride, and uprooting areas of intimidation.

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I love God more than I love myself. I am willing to walk away from what he says is detestable. I will step towards and embrace what he says is good.

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I need God's help and protection if I am to avoid participating in the world's selfishness. The Lord will help me to follow his ways as I meditate on his word.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....surrendering your will and renouncing the world's ways as you look to God to participate in his divine nature.

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**For more, read 1 John 2:3 – 11**

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 1 John 2:9
 

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*“Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness.”*

Being unaware of the motives directing our hearts can cause us to act displeasing to God. In these situations, we require conviction through God's word, Spirit, Church and circumstances. Sin, however, is always willful and never an accident. We are aware of what God expects from us and yet deliberately fall short of it. Sin will never go away on its own, and we will never be equipped to deal with it separate from God's grace. Our disobedience must be confronted with his love, his truth, his strength and our concentrated effort. Unfortunately, we often take the easy path of hiding the problem while minimising its consequences. Deception then occurs as we turn a blind eye, convincing ourselves that sin isn't a big deal. One area where this is especially true is with unforgiveness. Rather than forgive, we justify our negative attitude and judgmental thoughts towards others by focusing on what they did to offend us. If we humble ourselves, God will restore our relationships and redeem our pain. As we forgive, God works through the offence to display the love and mercy he has for those around us.

### Read 1 John 3:1 – 10

In what way is being offended an opportunity to show God's character?

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List four ways unforgiveness destroys a relationship.

1. _____	2. _____
3. _____	4. _____

According to verse 5, how has Jesus dealt with the sin done against you?

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According to verse 10, why is unforgiveness improper for a child of God?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

The Father doesn't always protect me from being hurt in this world. However, as I yield to him, he always redeems my pain and suffering for his glory.

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I will call on the Lord's strength when it comes to forgiving others.

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God's character is demonstrated through me when I am obedient to his word. I will forgive others to the same extent that Christ has forgiven me.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....releasing and forgiving others from the offence as you seek to love them as God does.

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**For more, read 1 Peter 5:1 – 11**

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 1 Peter 3:9
 

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*“Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.”*

God helps us live in unity as he invites us to humble ourselves, surrender our will, and allow him to take the lead in our lives. What limits our effectiveness is the division that flows through a prideful, arrogant and selfish heart. Only through humility will we ever put aside our own interests and together serve God’s will. Unfortunately, pride often remains hidden in the heart until it is revealed through conflict with other people. Scripture gives us two ways of responding to evil and insult. We can follow the patterns of the world, or we can use the circumstances as a way of glorifying God. Those who are rooted in self-love will attack and destroy whatever threatens their self-image and interests. However, those with humble hearts will be sympathetic as they view and love others the way God does. Do not become discouraged when others insult you, and do not be distracted by your affliction. Rather, by persisting in love, speak well of those who curse you and invite those who exclude you.

**Read 1 Peter 3:8 – 18**

According to verses 10 and 11, what must we do to see good days?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

List two ways you can respond to an insult with a blessing.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

According to verse 12, write down below how God responds to....

1. Those who practice righteousness.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Those who do evil.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

When afflicted, I will remain humble and obedient to God's word. It's during the difficulties God's loving-kindness and mercy is most revealed through me.

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The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and those who are crushed in spirit. Jesus will never, ever, ever leave me nor forsake me.

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I will allow God to take the lead in my life by turning to him for guidance. I will rely on his compassion and surrender the outcome to his will.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....sharing the hurt you feel caused by others while asking the Lord to bless them through your actions.

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**For more, read 1 Peter 4:12 – 19**

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 1 Peter 4:13
 

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*“But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.”*

One way we can find peace is to follow the popular direction of the world. However, this path leads only to ruin. An alternative option, which offers much resistance, is the peace that comes from Jesus. We have unity with the Father as we enter a relationship with him. Unfortunately, everyone who participates in God’s divine nature will suffer, though not all suffering comes through persecution. Often the anguish we feel is from denying ourselves and obeying God’s word. Jesus desires to walk with us, transform us and produce good fruit in us. The pain comes when the Lord disciplines us and leads us where we don’t want to go. It can be tempting to avoid suffering by taking the easy path of convenience. In those moments, remember this; God’s grace is sufficient. Jesus will personally sustain you. Instead of compromising on what God is doing in your life because of hardship, stand firm in the Lord. Trust that through grace, your strength and ability is equal to his. The suffering caused by obedience will last only a moment, but the glory revealed through enduring faith last an eternity.

### Read 1 Peter 3:8 – 18

Why is it better to suffer for God’s will than for doing evil?

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According to verse 18, what was the outcome of Jesus suffering for sins?

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What will the outcome be if you continue in your walk with God?

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List two ways God's strength enables you to do what you couldn't before.

1. 

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2. 

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***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

My purpose is not to live a relaxed, comfortable life. I have, however, come to be victorious through every adversity as I walk with the Lord.

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Jesus sustains me always, especially when I feel so weak that I can barely stand.

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No suffering is wasted as God redeems it and uses it to prepare me for producing more fruit. I rejoice knowing the result is Christ revealed through me.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....requesting God's glory to be revealed through you as you rejoice and participate in the sufferings of Christ.

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***For more, read 1 John 5:13 – 21***

# Daily Journaling

Begin the new daily habit of journaling your journey with God and processing your inner thoughts and feelings.

Psalms 77:11 – 12

*“I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”*”

Daily journaling is a helpful tool no matter what challenges or seasons of life you are currently facing. The main purpose is to share your heart with the Lord. It is good to write down your reasons for joy, hope and inspiration. However, it is perhaps even more important to express your thoughts of anger, frustration and disappointment. One of the major benefits of keeping a journal is looking back with the perspective of how God met you in your place of need.

## Getting Started

Launching a new spiritual habit can be difficult. Have a plan and be prepared by practising some of the following points:

- Decide if you prefer to write a daily journal using a book or a digital app.
- Avoid setting an expectation regarding the content of your journal.
- Focus on documenting your memories, goals, and lessons.
- Reflect over your journal to notice areas of growth and victory.
- Write at least one sentence that captures what is happening in your heart.
- Permit yourself to write your unfiltered thoughts and raw emotions.
- Keep your journal private as you share it with only the Lord.



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***Participate In  
God's Plan***

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I JUST WANT TO KNOW...

Jesus

A guide to help you know Jesus Christ and  
walk in fellowship.

Chapter Five

## Intimate Fellowship

Jesus came into the world to fulfil the Father's will and destroy the devil's work. On both accounts, the Lord was successful and victorious. Because of that, we are set free from sin and death. The good news doesn't stop there, as we are now invited to walk alongside Jesus Christ in this world.

### Matthew 11:28 – 29

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”*

### John 7:37 – 38

*“On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.””*

### John 17:26

*“I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.””*

## Know Jesus

It is God's heart to share with us more than we often realise. Jesus came so we might know true intimacy with the Father. However, God will never force his way into our lives. We must invite him into our hearts and take the time to get to know him. It's time to purposefully press into God and walk in intimate fellowship.

## Passages Used in Each Study

#33 Luke 12:15 *Bible Reading* - Luke 12:13 – 21  
*For more* - Matthew 6:19 – 24

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#34 Matthew 6:20 *Bible Reading* - Luke 12:13 – 21  
*For more* - Mark 10:17 – 31

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#35 John 12:46 *Bible Reading* - John 12:42 – 50  
*For more* - Luke 11:33 – 36

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#36 Luke 11:33 *Bible Reading* - John 12:42 – 50  
*For more* - Luke 10:25 – 37

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#37 John 15:5 *Bible Reading* - John 15:1 – 8  
*For more* - Matthew 21:18 – 22

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#38 Matthew 21:22 *Bible Reading* - John 15:1 – 8  
*For more* - Mark 9:42 – 50

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#39 Mark 8:34 *Bible Reading* - Mark 8:34 – 38  
*For more* - Luke 23:32 – 43

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#40 Luke 23:42 – 43 *Bible Reading* - Mark 8:34 – 38  
*For more* - Matthew 20:1 – 16

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 Luke 12:15
 

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*“Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”*

It's the Father's heart for all of us to know him intimately as we walk through this life with his hand in ours. Not wanting anyone to be led astray, Jesus warns us about something that often deceives our hearts, blinds our vision, and pulls us from his path. We are being urged to watch out, be alert, pay attention, be prepared and stay vigilant from the snare of pursuing material possessions. To "be on your guard against all kinds of greed" is to say, watch out for the worldly pleasures that will turn your heart selfish. It's a dangerous path that will only yield destruction as it steals, kills and destroys those walking on it. Jesus came that we have life and have it to the full. While the treasure that we store for ourselves in this life will perish, the treasure we build for the kingdom of God will last an eternity. What makes for an abundant life? What is the eternal value of money, and is it greater than the value of relationships? Jesus demonstrates that abundant life is found in loving and being loved by others.

**Read Luke 12:13 – 21**

According to verse 18 – 19, how did the man intend to use his wealth?

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According to verse 20, what was God's attitude towards the man's selfishness?

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According to verse 21, what was the rich man's fault?

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List two ways you can use earthly wealth to build God's Kingdom.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Put an 'x' on the line below to show where you are investing your resources.

EVERLASTING KINGDOM

TEMPORAL POSSESSIONS

BUILDING OTHERS UP

A COMFORTABLE LIFE

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

Jesus truly is eternal life as nothing from him will ever perish. I will fix my eyes on what is unseen and not get distracted by what is seen and temporary.

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The unconditional love and forgiveness that I have received through the gift of salvation are far more precious to me than any amount of wealth.

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As I meditate on scripture and spend time in prayer, the Holy Spirit is at work in my heart, transforming my desires into what is good.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....requesting God's help and protection against all kinds of greed that pull you from his path.

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**For more, read Matthew 6:19 – 24**

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 Matthew 6:20
 

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*“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”*

There are two options on how we can deal with the heart's desires. We can either trust the Lord by yielding it over to him to experience the peace that surpasses understanding, or we can exclude God altogether by firmly grasping control. However, and be warned, the enemy is a thief fixated on killing our joy, stealing our rest and destroying our sound mind. A thief can only steal what's in our possession, which means he can only cause the fear of missing out regarding what we refuse to commit to God. This fear causes us to behave obsessively, manipulating others into giving us what we want, wandering off the path God has laid out, and it prevents us from having selfless, generous, outpouring hearts. Once you commit your desires to the Lord, it is no longer in your possession but rather in his capable and trustworthy hands kept safe from any thief. Don't be afraid, just believe. God is sensitive to your needs as he knows about them before you do. Store your treasure in heaven as you seek first his kingdom and righteousness while you see him give you these other things too.

### Read Luke 12:13 – 21

List four things you consider to be the treasures of your life.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |

How would your life be different if you pursued....

1. The desires of the flesh.

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2. The desires of the Spirit.

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How will your focus shift after submitting your treasure into God's hands?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I want to let go of fleeting pleasures knowing the Lord has a calling on my life. It's his will to reveal his righteousness, holiness and redemption through me.

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Though yielding the heart's desires can be difficult, I do so knowing the Lord to be trustworthy. He has never failed to prove himself faithful, not even once.

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The world will one day perish while whatever I do for the kingdom will last forever. I will store treasure in heaven by living with the perspective of eternity.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....yielding your heart's desires before the Lord as you seek to know and satisfy the desires of the Holy Spirit.

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 John 12:46
 

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*“I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.”*

The darkness is a miserable, lonely place, yet many get stuck calling it home. People remain in the dark because of the fear of having their shameful deeds exposed by the light. Sin seers the mind, pollutes the heart, and chains a heavy-weight of condemnation around the soul. It produces a cycle of thoughts set on degrading our value to the point where we truly believe we are worthless, unredeemable and without hope. The darkness would have been our end if it had not been for the compassion of Jesus Christ, who willingly came into the world to set the captives free. Jesus is the only one who can punish those who have sinned as he holds all the authority. However, he will not do it. Jesus will not throw the stone because he loves you and cares for you. Instead, he put our shame and condemnation on himself, taking it to the cross, giving us his own perfect righteous nature. He revealed how to walk in a relationship with God and equipped us with his Spirit, who guides us into thriving in the light. Step out of darkness knowing the Father's loving arms are waiting to embrace you.

### Read John 12:42 – 50

What do these verses say about judgement?

Verse 47 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 48 \_\_\_\_\_

How will focusing on these truths help you step out of darkness?

Jesus has the authority to forgive sin.

\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus has a tender heart towards you, wanting to walk by your side.

\_\_\_\_\_

How will continually focusing on God's compassion, and not your past mistakes, help you thrive in the light?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome him. Though I once lived in darkness, I am now a child of the light.

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The Lord has delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk humbly before my God in the light of life.

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The unfolding of God's words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....stepping out of darkness, leaving behind your past actions as you embrace the call to walk with Jesus in the light.

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**For more, read Luke 11:33 – 36**

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 Luke 11:33
 

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*““No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light.”*

God has appointed his children to be his vessel for his light in this world. His truth, character, holiness, purity, freedom, compassion and love is found at work in us as we follow in the footsteps of Christ. Unfortunately, the opportunity for others to bear witness to his glory is lost when we succumb to the desire to have the world's approval. We will compromise and even blatantly dismiss God's ways when driven by a concern about how others perceive our behaviour. God is making his appeal through us. If we don't put his ways into practice, others may never come to know him. They will therefore have to stand in their self-righteousness on the day of judgement, facing eternal punishment and endless torment in unquenchable fire. For some, following the Lord will result in rejection, but for others, it will lead them to receive the gift of salvation. In this way, all persecution or any lost opportunity we experience from putting the Lord's ways into practice becomes worth the cost.

### Read John 12:42 – 50

According to verse 43, what was the true reason believers hid their faith?

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According to verse 46, what change in direction occurs for those who believe?

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What is your understanding of these two words?

A recommendation.

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A command.

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Put an 'x' on the line below to show how you behave around unbelievers.

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

Christ's love compels me to no longer live for myself. I will avoid fearing man's rejection by wholeheartedly obeying the one who has given me new life.

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The message of reconciliation has been committed to me by Christ. I can not fulfil this calling while also striving for the approval of others.

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I trust that practising God's word and sharing his love will draw some of those around toward Christ.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....opening your heart and ways to God's word as you live alone for his praise and glory.

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**For more, read Luke 10:25 – 37**

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 John 15:5
 

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““I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

Jesus wants to live within us and have us live within him. We are able to draw closer to the Lord as we learn to surrender authority and commit our hearts to him. Doing so opens us to going wherever the Spirit wants to lead us along the narrow path. While enthusiasm for God is good, on its own, it will only ever produce empty loud religious gestures that do nothing to bring glory to God or advance his kingdom. However, continually remaining in the Lord through devotion causes our hearts to be forged into the image of Christ Jesus. With His gentle hands, Jesus strips away the hatred, bitterness, anger, frustration, lust, selfishness and evil in our hearts and firmly establishes his love, peace, kindness, joy and self-control. Anything that does not produce good fruit gets cut from our lives and reduced to ashes, while everything that does produce fruit gets pruned so it will increase and be more fruitful. All of this is to the Father's glory, that we may have faith that goes beyond understanding, a devotion that has no regard for self, and joy that shines amidst a furious storm.

### Read John 15:1 – 8

What are the two things that must happen to bear much fruit?

Verse 2 = \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 5 = \_\_\_\_\_

Put an 'x' on the line below to show how often you remain in the word.

ALL THE TIME

NEVER

Put an 'x' on the line below to show how often the word remains in you.

ALL THE TIME

NEVER

Tick the fruits you need God's help to produce as you remain in his vine.

- |                                     |                                       |                                      |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compassion | <input type="checkbox"/> Faithfulness | <input type="checkbox"/> Forgiveness | <input type="checkbox"/> Gentleness   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goodness   | <input type="checkbox"/> Humility     | <input type="checkbox"/> Joy         | <input type="checkbox"/> Kindness     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Love       | <input type="checkbox"/> Patience     | <input type="checkbox"/> Peace       | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-control |

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

My heart's true condition is being exposed through the trials of life. I want to be found with deep roots as I plant myself in God's word.

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My life is like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth good fruit. My branches will not wither, and whatever I do in God's name will prosper.

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My heart is deceitful, and I do not understand it. I will open my life to God's examination so I may be pruned and shaped into his image.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....asking for help to remain in God's word and be devoted to his ways.

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**For more, read Matthew 21:18 – 22**

Matthew 21:22

*“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”*”

It is not God's plan for us to remain unchanged, lose against addiction, or be ruled by evil desires. We are called to be overcomers living in freedom through God's grace. Jesus has given us this great and wonderful promise that whatever we ask in his name shall be done. We are told to ask in faith, believing that the Father is compassionate, while asking with the right motive, ensuring that our request aligns with God's will and word. God instructs us to sanctify ourselves while also teaching us that he is the only one who brings the sanctification. It's God's work in us that brings the change. However, we are to participate in the process by seeking to understand scripture, remove known triggers from our environment, build a network of accountability, yield to the work of the Spirit, pray often, and get back up each time we stumble. Getting an addiction out of your life can be extraordinarily difficult and deeply disheartening, especially when you see no noticeable transformation. Do not give up, and do not settle for a life less than what God's word offers. Be encouraged by the Father's willingness to help you, teach you, and work alongside you to grow and mature.

**Read John 15:1 – 8**

In what way are these essential for change and growth?

The wisdom from God's word.

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The power of the Holy Spirit.

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The Father's discipline.

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The Churches fellowship.

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What are two things you need to remove from your environment?

1.

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2.

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

The Lord is meeting my weakness with his strength, my foolishness with his wisdom, my selfishness with his love, and my sin with his forgiveness.

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There are behaviours in my life unfitting for a Christian. I cannot fix it alone, and I desperately need help from Jesus Christ. I am ready to address it God's way.

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Since God gives power to the faithful and strength to the weak, I do not lose heart. Outwardly I am wasting away, yet inwardly I am being renewed daily.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....humbling yourself before the Lord as you acknowledge your need for help with a specific addiction or harmful habit.

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 Mark 8:34
 

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*“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”*

Being a disciple does not depend on your position in the Church, relationship status, education, qualifications, experience, age, career choice, background or personality. However, it depends on your willingness to surrender the life you want for yourself, embrace God's word and ways, and live in this life as Jesus did. Choosing to be a disciple devoted to God is a serious decision and should not be rushed into without proper consideration. Though walking with the Lord is the greatest honour anyone can ask for, it is at times painful and challenging. There will be times when you will want to hold onto your life and desires, give up on your responsibility to build people up, and want to choose your path separate from Jesus. In these moments of conflict, remember that the life the Lord offers is filled with the goodness and blessings of God, that the work the Lord is doing through you will last an eternity, and that Jesus is a wise and compassionate leader who is to be considered trustworthy and faithful.

### Read Mark 8:34 – 48

Why must you deny yourself in order to be a disciple?

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List two responsibilities you need God's help carrying.

1. 

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2. 

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How is life different when you are following Jesus?

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Put an ‘x’ on the line below to show who is influencing your decisions.

***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

My sacrifice to the Lord includes me denying myself and obeying his word. I will practice God's commands, even when it goes against my desire.

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God has given me a new name and a new path. I will be faithful and seek to follow in his footsteps.

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I want to know Jesus Christ and have him be found in me. When I am lost, I will call out his name and trust that he will find me. Nothing can separate us now.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

*....denying yourself as you take up God's calling to walk with Jesus.*

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Luke 23:42 – 43

*“Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.””*

Jesus is giving an invitation to be rescued from our hopeless situation. It doesn't matter what you have done, where you have been, or what kind of mess your life is in right now. You are included in this invitation. Each person is responsible for choosing to receive salvation through Jesus, as no one can do it for you. Giving up your life can seem difficult, especially for those who have built wealth, developed fame, and loved pleasure. However, it becomes easy to follow Christ when you understand the suffering and pain caused by sin, the selfishness of the human heart, and the inescapable hopeless destiny of death. The reality is that nothing this world has to offer can fill the place in your heart reserved for Christ. Jesus is the Messiah who came to bring you a truly abundant life to the full. The invitation is to come as you are, be cleansed from all wrongdoing, be reconciled to the Father, be filled with the Spirit, and walk with Jesus learning from his ways. There is nothing left to do except come forward and receive.

**Read Mark 8:34 – 48**

According to verse 35, what will happen if you try and save your own life?

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Complete the following sentences below.

For me, faith is....

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For me, obedience is....

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God wants my life because....

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

My God will never do anything to harm or destroy me; therefore, I give myself freely and totally to him. I am committed to his care.

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I am now at peace with God because of my faith in Jesus Christ. I rest in what Jesus Christ did for me on my behalf on the cross. In his freedom I am free.

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Jesus came into the world to save sinners like me. I was lost, but now I am found.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....giving thanks for the invitation from Jesus to have an intimate relationship with the Father through the Holy Spirit.

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**For more, read Matthew 20:1 – 16**

# Daily Memorise Scripture

Begin the new daily habit of picking out scriptures that speak to your heart and committing them to memory until you have received a revelation.

## Proverbs 7:2 – 3

*“Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.”*

Taking the time to establish God's word in your heart through memorisation does many things. For starters, slowly and repeatedly studying a verse helps you notice details that would have otherwise been missed. Memorising scripture also helps us live its teaching as our minds begin to think differently. God often puts specific scriptures on hearts. It is wise to grab those verses and reflect on them until we understand what God wants to show us.

## Getting Started

Launching a new spiritual habit can be difficult. Have a plan and be prepared by practising some of the following points:

- Pick a scripture from your daily reading of scripture that speaks to you.
- Select a time when you can memorise daily for 15 minutes undisturbed.
- Utilise digital applications designed to help you memorise scripture.
- Repeatedly write down the verse until you can say it word for word.
- Write down in your journal what God is teaching you about the verse.
- Pick a chapter of the Bible and work your way through memorising it.
- Revisit old verses that you have memorised to keep it fresh in your mind.

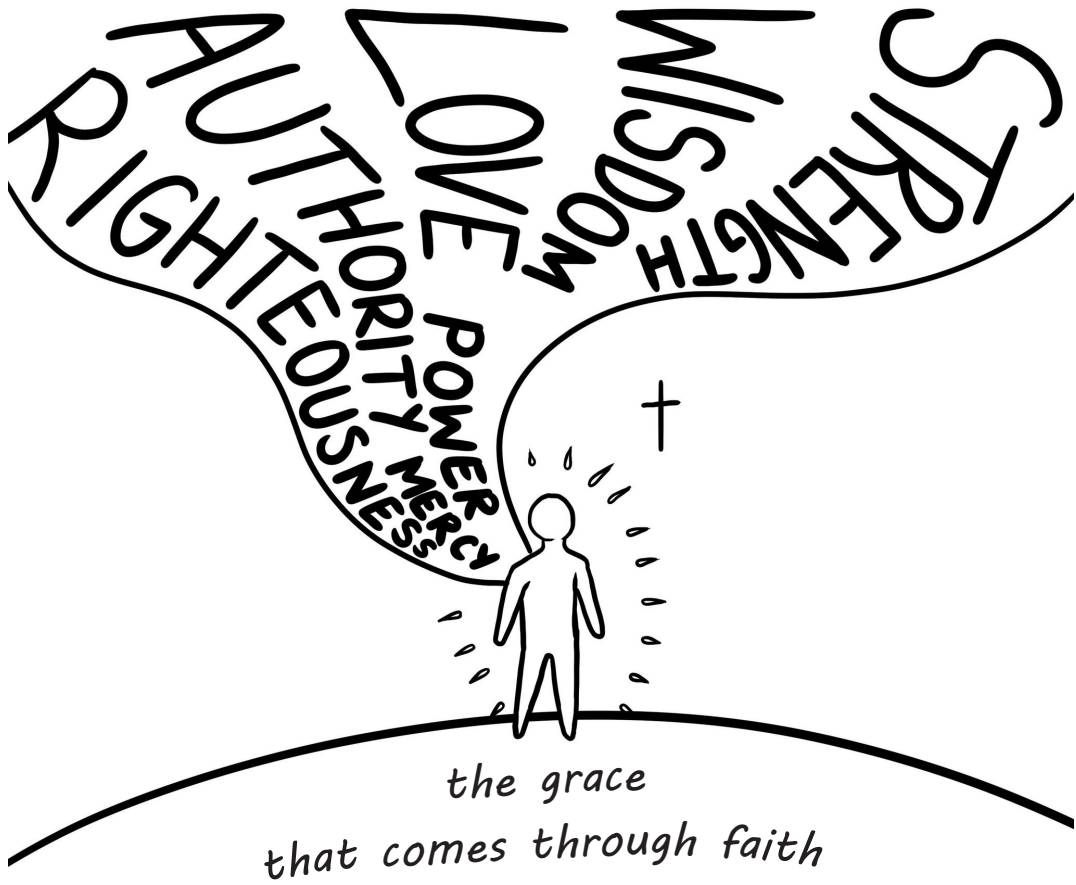
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***Walk In  
The Light***

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A guide to help you mature in your faith and  
be effective for the kingdom.

Chapter Six

## Time of God's Favour

God has generously granted all of heaven's resources to his beloved children. We have unlimited access to God's grace and receive from him every spiritual blessing as we stand in faith. God's Kingdom flows through us in various ways to demonstrate to others that Jesus is the Messiah.

### 2 Corinthians 6:1 – 2

*“As God’s co-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.”*

### 1 Corinthians 15:10

*“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”*

### 1 Corinthians 1:30

*“It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.”*

## Reveal Jesus

Spending time with Jesus Christ while having his Kingdom following through us will not go unnoticed. Living compelled by love and being separated for holiness will reveal Jesus Christ to the world. It's time to walk in God's favour, live out our salvation, and allow his grace to work through us.

## Passages Used in Each Study

- #41 1 Corinthians 13:6 – 7      *Bible Reading* - 1 Corinthians 13:1 – 13  
*For more* - 2 Corinthians 8:1 – 15
- 
- #42 2 Corinthians 8:7      *Bible Reading* - 1 Corinthians 13:1 – 13  
*For more* - 2 Corinthians 9:6 – 13
- 
- #43 1 Corinthians 2:12      *Bible Reading* - 1 Corinthians 2:6 – 16  
*For more* - 1 Corinthians 9:19 – 27
- 
- #44 1 Corinthians 9:19      *Bible Reading* - 1 Corinthians 2:6 – 16  
*For more* - 1 Corinthians 3:12 – 15
- 
- #45 2 Corinthians 5:17      *Bible Reading* - 2 Corinthians 5:11 – 21  
*For more* - 1 Corinthians 10:1 – 13
- 
- #46 1 Corinthians 10:12      *Bible Reading* - 2 Corinthians 5:11 – 21  
*For more* - 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 18
- 
- #47 2 Corinthians 3:17      *Bible Reading* - 2 Corinthians 3:7 – 18  
*For more* - 1 Corinthians 12:1 – 11
- 
- #48 1 Corinthians 12:4 – 5      *Bible Reading* - 2 Corinthians 3:7 – 18  
*For more* - 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 31

1 Corinthians 13:6 – 7

*“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”*

Love is supernatural and the pinnacle of a spirit-filled life as it goes against all human instincts and sound reasoning for self-preservation. Love is God’s plan for us, and as scripture teaches, obedience to that one command fulfils the entire law of Christ. Love is how we show ourselves to be disciples of Jesus. Love is the very heart of God, as God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. Love is everything; without it, the power to serve through spiritual gifts, the ability to teach the deeply hidden truths of God’s word, and the faith to do impossible tasks are empty, utterly useless, unfruitful, just a resounding gong. Love offers genuine fellowship to the friendless, reinforces the broken, welcomes the rejected affectionately, and attentively seeks out the lost. Love returns an insult with a blessing. Love does not give up during a difficult season, nor does it grow bitter while preserving. Love never keeps a record of others' wrongdoing to charge against them. Love always forgives, always serves, always cares, always provides. Love willingly lays down one's life for a friend.

**Read 1 Corinthians 13:1 – 13**

How is it considered an act of love towards others to confront your own sin?

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Put an 'X' on the line below to show what you focus on in others.

*THE BEST*

*THE WORST*

How can you help others believe in themselves?

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What does it mean to rely on God's love during a relational conflict?

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***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

Love presents itself as useful by first having the desire to do good. I will make it my ambition to serve those around me for their benefit.

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Love that comes from God is complete and sufficient. When I receive all my love from him, I will lack nothing and therefore be able to live free from jealousy.

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Love leads to a good place, even though the journey is challenging. In those moments of struggle, I will look to Christ and persevere as he did.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

*....asking God to direct your heart into Christ's love and perseverance.*

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***For more, read 2 Corinthians 8:1 – 15***

## 2 Corinthians 8:7

*“But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you —see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”*

God's grace working in us enables us to joyfully give generously in times of severe trial and even poverty. The offering is not to be presented begrudgingly or reluctantly. Rather, we are to chase after with eagerness the opportunity by viewing it as a great privilege. Generosity springs from a heart that desires to support the Lord's work. The gift is for the Lord, however, it's the Church and its appointed leader's responsibility to distribute it with God's wisdom. To reap an effective outcome for the Kingdom, we must sow generously with our resources. If there is no sowing, there will be no harvest. God sees those who give generously and promises to bless them so they can continue to sow. Some have attempted to abuse this promise in order to get rich for themselves. However, and be warned, God sees the heart and is able to distinguish between genuine selflessness and greed. Let us then generously present our offering with love before the Lord so that it may result in others praising his glorious name.

### Read 1 Corinthians 13:1 – 13

Put an 'X' on the line below to show your attitude towards giving.

EAGER

RELUCTANT

In what way do you need God's grace to help you be willing and generous?

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What do the following scriptures teach you about being generous?

Malachi 3:10

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Proverbs 11:24 – 25

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

My attitude when giving is important. Rather than resent the offering, I will be cheerful and grateful for the opportunity to support the Lord's work.

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Giving discreetly is one of the purest expressions of selflessness. I willingly give up what could be kept for myself, for my treasure is stored in heaven.

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God ensures that I will always have something to give. Regardless of my small offering, I lay it down before the Lord, knowing he is pleased with me.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....expressing gratitude for the opportunity to support God's work in the Church through generous giving.

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**For more, read 2 Corinthians 9:6 – 13**

1 Corinthians 2:12

*“What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.”*

God is pleased to reveal himself and his message of wisdom to those led by a sincere desire to know him. Though scripture is crucial, it will not reveal the Father's heart, power and character on its own. This is because God's wisdom has been kept hidden in Christ and is only revealed through his grace. God's wisdom speaks of spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words that cannot be discerned through sophisticated thinking. The revelation that leads us into his love, truth and life depends on the Spirit sharing his insight. The Holy Spirit is in perfect harmony with the Father and has unrestricted access to his thoughts. God, who passionately desires us to know him intimately, has granted us fellowship by placing the Holy Spirit within us. We must focus on the Spirit to hear the Father's affectionate voice calling us into his presence. As we draw near, we will hear him joyfully proclaiming the righteousness, holiness and redemption we have through Jesus. To believe his voice is to have the mind of Christ.

**Read 1 Corinthians 2:6 – 16**

Verse 9 – What does the Spirit reveal to us?

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Verse 10 – How does the Spirit know these things?

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Be still and write down what the Spirit reveals to you about the following.

Your Forgiveness.

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Your Identity.

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God's love for you.

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

The Pharisees did not recognise the Messiah regardless of having God's word and witnessing him heal the sick, cast out demons, and raise the dead.

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God's wisdom is not useful for self-serving flesh-pleasing worldly living. The more I follow scripture and the Spirit's direction, the more set apart I become.

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There is one Father and one teacher of God's word. I will be still and listen to what the Spirit wants to teach me.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....inviting God to confide the deep hidden things of his heart with you through the Holy Spirit.

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**For more, read 1 Corinthians 9:19 – 27**

## 1 Corinthians 9:19

*“Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.”*

The Spirit illuminates the truth of our freedom in Christ as we store God's word in our hearts. This awareness stirs up a healthy desire to express our faith and devotion to the Lord outwardly. We are free from all restrictions, yet we must remain available to obey our master's commands. It is the will of the Father for his children to voluntarily bind themselves through service to those who don't know him for the sake of leading them to Jesus. This calling instructs us to acquire the interests, characteristics, behaviours and experiences of those we hope to be saved. The exception to this principle is doing or approving what goes against God's word. We must humble ourselves and temporarily relinquish our rights in Christ to establish common ground. Doing so will soften people's hearts to hearing the gospel and receiving salvation. We must be wise and not step outside the Lord's leadership. Others get hurt, and his will is delayed when we do things our way. Christian liberty is important, but never at the expense of pursuing unity, building others up in faith, and establishing God's kingdom.

### Read 1 Corinthians 2:6 – 16

List four ways you can build common ground with those who don't know Jesus.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |

How will the outcome of a situation be different with the Spirit's guidance?

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Under what circumstances is it damaging to do the following:

Share a scripture.

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Pray for someone in person.

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I will put myself under the authority and leadership of Jesus and his appointed leaders in the Church instead of serving as I best see fit.

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I have the right to do anything – but not everything leads others to Christ. The Spirit will help me point others to God as I humble myself and serve his way.

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It is far more beneficial and constructive to have unity in the Church than to be right about methods of fellowship.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....seeking the Spirit's guidance on how to better relate to others for the purpose of leading them to Jesus.

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**For more, read 1 Corinthians 3:12 – 15**

2 Corinthians 5:17

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:  
The old has gone, the new is here!”*

Experiencing the Father's love compels us to follow him down the narrow path in life. Not everyone will understand your devotion to the Lord, as the narrow pathway is questionable to those compelled by worldly desires. Remember that even Jesus was called out of his mind by his family, raving mad by his audience, and demon-possessed by the teachers of the law. We must push through all discouragement to fully embrace the ministry of helping others respond to the message that Jesus died for all, and therefore all died with him. God has made us his ruling authority on earth by naming us Christ's ambassadors. His authority empowers us and equips us to handle his word correctly, represent his character well, and administer the message of reconciliation. However, be warned that the message loses effectiveness when we don't live it ourselves. The sinful nature of death has been crushed, destroyed and blasted into oblivion. We have been presented with a new perfect, and flawless nature created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Truly the old has gone, and the new is here.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:11 – 21**

List the reasons to serve found in each verse.

Verse 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 14 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 18 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 20 \_\_\_\_\_

In your words, what is the ministry of reconciliation?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

According to verse 21, what is the identity of those reconciled?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

Receiving God's love compels me to be about the Lord's business. My worldly life no longer drives me as I have decided to serve the one who saved me.

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God has given me empowering grace to serve as Christ's ambassador. I will live this calling in the strength, wisdom and love given to me by the Holy Spirit.

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If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....committing yourself to the ministry of reconciliation.

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**For more, read 1 Corinthians 10:1 – 13**

## 1 Corinthians 10:12

*“So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!”*

Everyone reconciled to God has been declared righteous through Christ. In this way, we are fully qualified to present ourselves to the world as representatives of his Kingdom. However, God's commission is not to be handled lightly, as it requires us to make a genuine commitment while undergoing heavy training. Remain watchful and vigilant against the undetectable process of drifting into a cozy, fizzled-out spiritual slumber. We can't offer anything above a powerless service to the Lord when life's pleasures and worries have dimmed out our fiery passion. Do not lose your zeal, and do not lose heart. Instead, go into strict training by willingly putting yourself under the Lord's discipline to develop an uncompromising attitude. We must be intentional about identifying everything in our lives hindering our spiritual growth. Once we know what they are, we must follow through by aggressively shutting every door that welcomes darkness into our hearts. Do not settle for where you are. Go through the process of crucifying the flesh and its desires with the help of the Holy Spirit. Then we can stand firm together with confidence before the Lord, knowing we will not fall.

### Read 2 Corinthians 5:11 – 21

Put an 'X' on the line below to show how you feel you are doing spiritually.

*SHARP* \_\_\_\_\_ *DULL*

*DETERMINED* \_\_\_\_\_ *DISCOURAGED*

*FOCUSED* \_\_\_\_\_ *LOST*

*ENERGISED* \_\_\_\_\_ *EXHAUSTED*

List two spiritual habits you need to grow.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

List two worldly behaviours you need to remove.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

A zeal to preserve God's honour drives me to make changes in my life. I want to present Christ and his message to the world accurately.

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To ensure I hit my target, I will go into strict training by reading and practising God's word. I don't want my life to be spiritually aimless and ineffective.

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It's my responsibility to fan into flame the gifts and callings put on my life.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....stirring up a fiery passion for doing the Father's will.

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2 Corinthians 3:17

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

We often do the best we can with the available resources. The problem is that our tools and knowledge of handling life are ineffective and destructive. When feeling powerless, we turn to dark places to cope, escape and find temporary pleasure. We then return to a worse situation with defeated minds, bruised hearts and weary souls. Do not be frightened, child of God, for the Father is pleased to send you a helper. God loves you, has compassion for you, and has tasked his Holy Spirit to be with you forever. Remember that living guided by bitterness, anger and fear made you feel empty, devoid of hope and broken. Resolve in your heart to throw out your old ways as you place unquestioning trust in the leadership of the Spirit. Acknowledge his Lordship over your life by allowing him to speak truth into your life. His words will brighten your thoughts, shape your attitude, refine your character, guide your behaviour, and confirm your identity. Our lives are filled with love, rest, wisdom, strength and gratitude by continually saying yes to his commands. Be humble, and you will be exalted.

**Read 2 Corinthians 3:7 – 18**

List two roles the Holy Spirit has in your life.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

According to verse 18, what happens as we contemplate the Lord's glory?

\_\_\_\_\_

In what way do these lead to freedom?

God's boundaries.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Holy Spirit's conviction.

\_\_\_\_\_



**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness for testing and strengthening. Not everything the Spirit does will comfort me, but it will always bring me life.

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A Spirit-led life is established on continual practice. I will learn to say yes to God's desires and not my own.

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In the Lord's freedom, I am free. Rather than use my freedom to indulge the flesh and be burdened by slavery again, I will serve others humbly in love.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....submitting to the leadership and direction of the Holy Spirit as he leads you into freedom.

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**For more, read 1 Corinthians 12:1 – 11**

## 1 Corinthians 12:4 – 5

*“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.”*

Spiritual gifts are an important aspect of our fellowship. It is the Father's choice to equip his people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up. While we don't choose or earn our spiritual gifts, we are responsible for discovering, unfolding, practising and implementing them. Whatever your gifts may be, trust they were given to you with your interest, personality, experience, and circumstances in mind. If unsure about your callings and spiritual gifts, spend time planted in God's word while serving in the Church. As you do so, you will gradually develop passions and ideas about contributing to the kingdom. Follow through with action, trusting God will correct your step, guide your sincere heart, and empower your inner being with his grace. Some have mistakenly attached their personal value to their spiritual gift. Be very cautious of this mindset, as it leads us to think little of where God has called us to glorify his name. If unchecked, we will start exaggerating spiritual experiences to feel validated. Remember that you're precious because of the cross, not your works.

### Read 2 Corinthians 3:7 – 18

Put an 'X' on the line below to show which Kingdom you have been building.

*GOD'S KINGDOM*

*MY KINGDOM*

What are you deeply passionate about in life?

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What ideas do you have about building others up in faith?

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How will prayer help you mature in your spiritual gift?

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How will God's word help you stay on track in your calling?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I am not expected to fulfil the God-given calling on my life in my natural ability and strength. I must rely on God's gift and his empowering grace.

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Rather than stress about spiritual gifts, I will follow my passions and ideas while listening to the leadership of the Spirit and the counsel of God's word.

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It is a horrible experience serving God in an area I am not called with a spiritual gift I do not possess.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....bringing your passions and ideas to God while asking for his help to bring them forward.

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**For more, read 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 31**

# Daily Read Literature

Begin the new daily habit of reading Christian literature written by those who have walked with the Lord so that their faith can inspire you.

## Hebrews 13:7

*“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.”*

Across history, many men and women of faith have walked intimately with the Lord. They have written down their teachings, lessons, revelations, journeys, and mistakes in books for us to read. We have the opportunity to sit down with the Holy Spirit and receive the wisdom God has given them. God has given us each other so that we may learn from one another. Use these resources and follow the example of those who faithfully serve Jesus.

## Getting Started

Launching a new spiritual habit can be difficult. Have a plan and be prepared by practising some of the following points:

- Choose books by credible authors commonly accepted in Christ circles.
- Select a time when you can read daily for 30 minutes undisturbed.
- Aim to read one chapter of the book per day.
- Avoid reading on topics that you have no interest in learning about.
- Use Christian literature books to enrich your Bible reading time.
- Avoid purchasing books you are not yet prepared to read.
- Be open to reading books that are for a different target audience.

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***Step Into  
God's Calling***

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**WARNINGS**

encouragements

and

**COMMANDS**

A guide to help you seek purity while  
developing strong fellowship.

Chapter Seven

## Training In Righteousness

God will always work alongside us to lead us into purity and develop strong fellowship. He does that as we receive scripture with reverence, taking it to heart regardless of our preference. We must open ourselves to God's word and allow the Holy Spirit to teach, rebuke, and correct us.

### 2 Timothy 3:16 – 17

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

### 2 Timothy 2:25

*“Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,”*

### 2 Thessalonians 2:15

*“So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.”*

## Share Jesus

All servants of God go through seasons of preparation so they can be equipped to share the message of Jesus with others. Others will be open to the truth when they see the genuineness of our faith. It's time to allow God to prune our hearts and train us in the ways of righteousness.



## Passages Used in Each Study

#49 1 Timothy 3:1      *Bible Reading* - 1 Timothy 3:1 – 12  
*For more*      - 2 Timothy 2:14 – 26

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#50 2 Timothy 2:21      *Bible Reading* - 1 Timothy 3:1 – 12  
*For more*      - Titus 1:5 – 9

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#51 2 Thessalonians 3:14      *Bible Reading* - 2 Thessalonians 3: 1 – 14  
*For more*      - 2 Timothy 1:6 – 14

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#52 2 Timothy 1:7      *Bible Reading* - 2 Thessalonians 3: 1 – 14  
*For more*      - Titus 1:10 – 16

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#53 2 Timothy 3:2      *Bible Reading* - 2 Timothy 3: 1 – 9  
*For more*      - 2 Timothy 4:1 – 8

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#54 2 Timothy 4:2      *Bible Reading* - 2 Timothy 3: 1 – 9  
*For more*      - Titus 2:7 – 15

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#55 1 Thessalonians 4:7      *Bible Reading* - 1 Thessalonians 4:1 – 12  
*For more*      - 1 Timothy 6:11 – 21

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#56 1 Timothy 6:11      *Bible Reading* - 1 Thessalonians 4:1 – 12  
*For more*      - Titus 3:1 – 11

## 1 Timothy 3:1

*“Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.”*

Each of us is called to be a leader in some capacity. We are to be spiritual leaders in our homes, relationships, ministry roles, friend groups, workplaces, and other social environments. The way we are to lead in these settings has been modelled for us through Church overseers. Godly leaders must be free from well-founded criticism and deservingly have a good reputation. By first managing our personal walk with the Lord, we can learn to assist others. The experience, love and wisdom gained through developing and maintaining healthy relationships will equip us to show others how to be selfless. Living a restricted and sober lifestyle prepares us to guide others down the narrow pathway of purity. Growing to be self-controlled against the sinful nature equips us to offer genuine encouragement and guidance to those enslaved by all kinds of passions. Stretch forward out of your current situation by taking responsibility for the condition of your heart and life. Learn to handle yourself well, and God himself will position you in a place of influence for the sake of his Kingdom.

### Read 1 Timothy 3:1 – 12

List two areas of your life where you can be a spiritual leader for others.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

According to verse 3, list four things spiritual leaders are to avoid.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean to hold firmly to the deep truth of the faith daily?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why must we be tested before taking on significant responsibility?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

Practising kindness and hospitality with strangers will prepare my heart for sharing the gospel with outsiders.

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Becoming noticeably organised will give others the confidence to trust me with more demanding responsibilities and opportunities.

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In every situation, there is the opportunity to be a blessing or a burden. I want to be indispensable because of the wisdom, strength and love I contribute.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....devoting yourself to maturing in the ways of God so that you can be a well-rounded spiritual leader.

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**For more, read 2 Timothy 2:14 – 26**

## 2 Timothy 2:21

*“Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.”*

God has a special and eternally significant plan for each of us. He has not assigned a minor or common task to anyone. All things are secure in God's hand, which means no one can prevent God's will from occurring in our lives except us. We are guided into our purpose as we actively pursue his character, live for his kingdom, and turn away from all wickedness. Doing so will bring us maturity, strength, refinement, humility, and everything else required for the task. Then we will live set apart, useful, and prepared. However, the reality is that while all are called for a special purpose, only a few will live it out. Unfortunately, many never discover what God has prepared as they get entangled with selfishness, unforgiveness, life worries and pleasures. God desperately does not want anyone to miss out on what he has in store. Listen and respond to scripture's urgent plea for us to flee the evil desires of the world and flesh. Abandon everything impure and pursue righteousness, faith, and love with all your heart.

### Read 1 Timothy 3:1 – 12

Put an 'x' on the line below to show how often you actively seek purity.

ALL THE TIME

NEVER

Why does seeking purity require concentrated effort?

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How will seeking purity prepare you for your future?

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According to 2 Timothy 3:16 – 17, what four things prepare you for good works?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I can discover and remain on the path of purity by living God's word.

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Rather than be wise in my own eyes, I will honour the Lord and shun evil.

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For I am God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for me to do.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....asking God to help you cleanse your life from wickedness so that you may be prepared to live out your purpose.

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**For more, read Titus 1:5 – 9**

## 2 Thessalonians 3:14

*“Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed.”*

Scripture can ask us to do challenging tasks that seem harsh and bitter. In these moments, we must remember God’s heart is for all people to walk in intimacy with him. All commands are given in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be taken lightly. God’s word instructs us to keep away from believers who are idle, disruptive and do not live according to the Lord’s teaching. We must be careful who we decide to walk with in life. Surrounding ourselves with unbelief, wild living and selfishness will corrupt our hearts and blur our vision. If unchecked, we will gradually stop pursuing holiness and instead walk on the pathway that leads to destruction. Be warned and take these words to heart. Worldly Christians will drain your passion and suffocate your zeal for the Lord. Seek and learn from believers passionately reading God’s word and faithfully producing the fruits of the Spirit. As you wholeheartedly pursue God’s nature, trust the Lord is working through you to attract those who are idle to himself.

### Read 2 Thessalonians 3: 1 – 14

Put an ‘X’ on the line below to show which path your friends compel you to walk.

<i>LOVE</i>	<i>SELFISHNESS</i>
<i>PURITY</i>	<i>WICKEDNESS</i>

According to verse 6, list the two types of people we must avoid.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

How will the following impact your intimate relationship with the Lord?

Walking with worldly people.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Walking with godly people.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

Scripture has offered me guidance on how to have a relationship with Jesus. I will not follow the example of those who do not know or love the Lord.

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Those with rash, fruitless, greedy and dishonest friends come to ruin. Those with discerning, productive, devoted and pure-hearted friends experience life.

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If I walk with the wise, I will become wise. However, to have good friends, I must become a good friend. I will walk with Jesus and learn how to love others.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....requesting God's help in finding Christian friends.

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**For more, read 2 Timothy 1:6 – 14**

## 2 Timothy 1:7

*“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”*

Each of us has been given types of gifts to build up the body of Christ. These gifts are not for our benefit but for those whom God wants to empower, teach and comfort through us. Understand these gifts do not operate automatically, as we must work diligently in God’s strength to produce fruit. One thing that often suppresses our gifts from being effective is fear. Fear is a relentless uncompassionate thief that manifests in many ways to steal what God has in store for us. Intimidation subdues our strength, courage and boldness. Anxiety demands self-preservation and discourages acts of compassion. Worries consume our thoughts, hinders our ability to act sensibly, and frustrates our sound judgement. Living like this is unacceptable as people desperately need to hear the truth, receive encouragement, and witness sincere faith. Confront and conquer fear forever by believing in the victory and identity you have inherited through Christ. Acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is able and willing to work through you in extraordinary ways. Take authority back from fear and live God’s calling.

### Read 2 Thessalonians 3: 1 – 14

Verse 2 – How should we handle those who seek to oppress us?

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Verse 3 – How will God help us against the evil one?

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Verse 5 – Where does the Lord direct our hearts?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Put an ‘X’ on the line below to show the state of your gifts.

ACTIVE

SUPPRESSED

How will knowing your identity in Jesus Christ give you confidence?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I will not tolerate a life of feeling little, helpless and unable to make a difference. God has given me his word and Holy Spirit to help me make a powerful impact.

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Rather than keep to myself, I will courageously step out of my comfort zone to express love to others.

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The enemy constantly seeks to discourage me and tell me I am destined for sudden disaster and failure. I will not give those thoughts power over my life.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....embracing your identity in Christ while facing your fears with God.

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**For more, read Titus 1:10 – 16**

## 2 Timothy 3:2

*“People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,”*

Warnings in scripture are given for our awareness. They help us understand our environment, point out potential threats, and urge us to seek security. We are cautioned to be highly watchful and resistant to the seductive invitation for us to seek pride, pleasure and possessions. We have an enemy persistently seeking to destroy us and our intimacy with the Father. His strategy is to portray God's word as restricting while making sin seem good and desirable. Knowing that we follow our heart's desires, the enemy strives to diminish our faithfulness to the Lord by getting us to idolise ourselves and the world. Deciding to ignore this warning will lead to painful outcomes. We will accept God's forgiveness while disregarding the command to live in holiness. God's invitation to deny ourselves and live in him will be replaced with a louder flesh-pleasing message of living in self-centred love. Rather than rest in Christ's righteousness, we will strive and boast about our achievements and success. The enemy is an excellent deceiver. Protect yourself by taking God's word to heart and shunning all evil.

### Read 2 Timothy 3: 1 – 9

Tick the areas in your character that you need help addressing.

- |                                    |                                  |                                      |                                     |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boastful  | <input type="checkbox"/> Proud   | <input type="checkbox"/> Harsh       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ungrateful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unholy    | <input type="checkbox"/> Greedy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Unforgiving | <input type="checkbox"/> Slanderous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impulsive | <input type="checkbox"/> Hateful | <input type="checkbox"/> Faithless   | <input type="checkbox"/> Obsessive  |

How are these contrary to the life God calls us to live?

Being lovers of ourselves.

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Being lovers of money.

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Living disobedient to our parents.

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

The enemy disguises what is dark as something from the light. Rather than rely on my heart and mind, I will go to God's word to find out what is good.

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My soul delights greatly in the Lord, for he has taken away my shame, clothed me with salvation and dressed me in a robe of his righteousness.

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The Lord treasures and delights in me and wants to share the depth of his heart with me as we walk through this life together.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....choosing to detach yourself from the world's impure practices and behaviours so you can fully engage with God.

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**For more, read 2 Timothy 4:1 – 8**

## 2 Timothy 4:2

*“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.”*

Commands given in scripture show us how God expects us to live in light of what Jesus has done for us. Believers will stand before the Lord and face judgment on how they invested the gifts, resources, and opportunities provided by the Father. Those faithful to God’s calling will receive eternal praise, while those who pursued self-indulgence will have their works burned up forever. A life of pleasing God is built on hearing the full gospel. We desperately need to hear the word that brings us godly sorrow, which can lead us to repentance. Choosing to avoid confronting messages has severe consequences. False teachings are dangerous as they please our flesh and permit us to rebel against God. We must welcome teachings that convict us from drifting from the narrow path, express disapproval over our ungodly behaviour, and urge us to accept the invitation to live in intimacy with God. It’s time for us to stop playing Church, get real about our faith, and allow God’s sword to separate us from the world.

### Read 2 Timothy 3: 1 – 9

What does it mean to have a form of godliness but deny its power?

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Put an ‘x’ on the line below to show your response to confronting messages.

*WELCOME*

*AVOID*

According to verses 6 – 8, list six ways to identify false teachers.

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.

How will knowing God's word help you identify false teaching?

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***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

God's word is a rock to build my life on, not a feather to tickle my ears.

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I will study the scriptures looking for transformation and not just inspiration.  
My heart is open to receiving conviction that leads to righteous living.

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I will seek to protect myself from false teachings by diligently reading God's  
word with the help of the Spirit of truth.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

*....opening your heart to the challenging messages in God's word.*

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***For more, read Titus 2:6 – 15***

## 1 Thessalonians 4:7

*“For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.”*

It is not hard to figure out how to live to please God, as scripture gives us clear instructions. The challenge occurs with our faith as we struggle to believe it's possible to live holy. The truth is that we can, God commands us to do it, and it pleases him. Our journey begins by first having our hearts adjusted. We must believe that we have been cleansed from all unrighteousness and that our past does not disqualify us. Then we must settle in our hearts that God will never ask us to do something we can achieve without his help. Our strength and wisdom will not lead us into holiness. Instead, we must do the simple act of taking Jesus by the hand and walking with him one step at a time. It is expected that we will make mistakes, stumble and fall over. When this happens, do not be afraid. Remember, the Lord is gentle and humble at heart. God, in his unmeasurable love and perfect faithfulness, will help you get back up. Walking with him, we gradually leave behind hurtful behaviours and thought patterns. With those out the way, abiding in purity becomes easier, receiving revelation becomes simpler, and having intimacy with God becomes a common daily experience.

### Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1 – 12

What do these verses reveal about living in holiness?

Verse 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 6 \_\_\_\_\_

According to Verse 8, what does it look like to reject God?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the next step of growth in your relationship with Jesus?

***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

It is God's plan for me to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. I will start living as God intended by creating an environment that allows transformation.

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The Lord has promised to take hold of my right hand. I will not be afraid, for I know he will help me step forward in the right direction.

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I will call out to God when my life seems hopeless and defeated. I need his help more than my words can express. I know he will hear me and be there for me.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....firmly taking hold of the Lord's hand as you confidently step forward into the life he has for you.

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***For more, read 1 Timothy 6:11 – 21***

1 Timothy 6:11

*“But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.”*

We are God's people appointed to represent his character and shine forth his glory. It's time for us to flee from the wickedness that brings destruction and the emptiness that follows foolishness. Instead, let's take hold of a praiseworthy life before God by disciplining our hearts to love what is good and hate what is evil. Let's do the work of building ourselves up in the faith. Throw out unbelief and live as those who wholeheartedly trust in God. We can build our lives on his word, knowing he is faithful to his promises. Come and let's offer ourselves as living sacrifices by consistently loving and building up others. Let's learn what it means to stand strong and unshakeable during intense storms and severe suffering. Let's experience carrying around a soft and gentle heart that is sensitive to the needs of others. This life is a battleground, and the casualties are others not receiving the gift of salvation. Join in and fight the good fight of the faith. Fall in line with God's will and allow him to work through you to rescue his lost children. Step out of the ordinary and serve the one who made you.

**Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1 – 12**

Verse 9- How do we learn to love one another?

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Verse 11 – How does God want us to live?

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Verse 12 – What is the outcome of living as God intended?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

List three areas of your life that you want to commit to the Lord.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_



**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

My heart is open to receiving God's word and unfailing love. I have decided to entrust him with my life. All of me is now set apart for his kingdom and purpose.

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I joyfully lay down my life on my own accord. No one takes it from me.

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My life is not my own as it has been purchased at a great price. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives within me. The life I now live, I live by faith in God.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....forsaking your life so that you can live God's pleasing and perfect will.

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**For more, read Titus 3:1 – 11**

# Daily Fasting

Begin the new daily habit of fasting by temporarily putting aside something worldly and instead filling your soul with the things of God.

## Matthew 6:17 – 18

*“But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”*

We are responsible for cultivating our hunger. Feeding on and being satisfied with the things of the world will take away our appetite for God. We must turn away from what dominates our attention so that seeking the Lord remains desirable. Fasting changes the desires of our hearts from things below to things above. The Lord promises to draw near to us as we draw near to him. Fix your life on Jesus and away from the world, and your hunger for the Lord will thrive.

## Getting Started

Launching a new spiritual habit can be difficult. Have a plan and be prepared by practising some of the following points:

- Identify the worldly passions that hinder your communion with God.
- Put together a strategy for removing one of these distractions.
- Use the opportunity to fill your spirit, soul, and body with truth.
- Pick a day to fast food while ensuring you drink plenty of water.
- Address the desires of the flesh that get exposed through the fast.
- Continually turn to the Lord for strength through the Spirit while fasting.
- Avoid feeling guilty after failing to fast for the pre-determined time.

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***Help Others  
Know Jesus***

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A guide to help you sincerely draw near to  
God with full assurance of faith.

Chapter Eight

## Our Eternal Hope

The hope that we have through Jesus Christ is reliable, steadfast, and never failing. No one who has sincerely put their hope in the Lord has ever been put to shame. Hope is essential for our journey as it will ensure we remain connected through life's changes, trials, failures, and victories.

Hebrews 6:19

*“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,”*

James 1:18

*“He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.”*

Hebrews 4:12

*“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*

## Hold Jesus

Drifting away from Jesus and the lessons he has taught us is far too easy. Perseverance comes when we don't allow circumstances, experiences, and feelings to impact our faith. It's time to get firmly planted and established in our eternal hope to ensure we do not fall away.

## Passages Used in Each Study

#57 Hebrews 2:11                      *Bible Reading* - Hebrews 2:5 – 18  
*For more*                      - Hebrews 3:7 – 19

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#58 Hebrews 3:12                      *Bible Reading* - Hebrews 2:5 – 18  
*For more*                      - James 2:1- 13

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#59 Hebrews 6:8                      *Bible Reading* - Hebrews 6:1 – 12  
*For more*                      - Hebrews 9:11 – 22

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#60 Hebrews 9:14                      *Bible Reading* - Hebrews 6:1 – 12  
*For more*                      - James 2:14 – 26

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#61 Hebrews 10:23                      *Bible Reading* - Hebrews 10:19 – 39  
*For more*                      - Hebrews 11:1 – 40

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#62 Hebrews 11:6                      *Bible Reading* - Hebrews 10:19 – 39  
*For more*                      - James 3:13 – 18

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#63 Hebrews 12:11                      *Bible Reading* - Hebrews 12:4 – 12  
*For more*                      - Hebrews 12:18 – 29

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#64 Hebrews 12:29                      *Bible Reading* - Hebrews 12:4 – 12  
*For more*                      - James 4:1 – 12

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 Hebrews 2:11
 

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*“Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.”*

We often feel forgotten by God when we can't see him at work. In these moments, we are invited to confide in the Lord by sharing our raw emotions of wanting to give up, disobey, and not serve anymore. God wants us to share the disappointment, anger, and hatred we hold against him. Opening ourselves allows him to fill our struggling hearts with his strength and peace. However, we are not called to stay in this place of doubt and confusion. We are to build ourselves in the holy faith by reminding ourselves of what Jesus has accomplished. Full assurance in the Lord comes by keeping these at the front of our minds and hearts. Jesus came into the world and pioneered salvation and a pathway for righteous living. Jesus represents mankind before God, who calls us legitimate family members of his household. Jesus took our place of condemnation and spiritual death, which forever breaks Satan's power over our lives. At this very moment, Jesus stands before the Father to intercede on our behalf.

### Read Hebrews 2:5 – 18

What do these verses reveal about Jesus Christ?

Verse 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 14 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Give an example of using the list above to build yourself up in the faith.

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***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

I am responsible for building my faith using the tools God has given me. I will encourage myself by fervently speaking God's word into my innermost being.

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The enemy is constantly working to sow seeds of lies into my mind to produce a harvest of discouragement and defeat.

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God's message will dwell among me richly as I teach myself his wisdom, sing his psalms, lift a heart of gratitude, and hold fast to his faithfulness.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

*....boldly declaring the reasons you believe God is faithful.*

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 Hebrews 3:12
 

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*“See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.”*

We enter and remain in God's rest by holding fast to our confidence in Jesus Christ. Jesus gives us rest from earning love, living in our limited capacity, and trying to fix our brokenness by granting us legal access to God's kingdom and heaven's resources. God is true to his word. He has displayed his faithfulness by freeing us from the dominion of darkness, cleansing us from all unrighteousness, filling us with his Holy Spirit, inviting us to partake in his divine nature, and providing for our needs. And yet, many believers are still striving to earn what God freely and generously offers us through faith. Scripture teaches us that refusing to release willful and blatant sin moves us from fellowship and intimacy to a place of rebellion as our hearts begin to harden. Continual disobedience and unbelief will then manifest a despising attitude in our minds against our Lord. Drifting becomes a regular occurrence as we grow increasingly blind to the truth. Rather than reign in life with Christ, we will go from one defeat to another. Strengthen your faith by ensuring you do not have a sinful, unbelieving heart.

### Read Hebrews 2:5 – 18

How does faith in God's provision help us to stop striving in these areas?

Seeking to be good enough.

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Trying to fix our brokenness.

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Earning God's promises.

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What does verse 18 reveal about Jesus Christ?

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In what way does God help us deal with temptation?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

God doesn't change, for he is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. It's the sin in my life that hardens my heart and moves me outside of his provision.

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I will open myself to the Lord by inviting him to search my heart and point out any rebellious way within me.

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Scripture teaches me to receive the Heavenly Father's approval, empowerment, and redemption. I will soften my heart and embrace what has been written.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....resting from trying to earn what God promises to provide for you through faith.

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**For more, read James 2:1 - 13**

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 Hebrews 6:8
 

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*“But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.”*

It's God's will for us to understand the elementary teachings about Christ so that we can grow in our faith and usefulness. We will never experience the deep truths of the faith without first laying down a foundation of the basics. Maturity is built on repenting from living according to the flesh, having the full assurance of faith, the continual process of sanctification, using spiritual gifts to fulfil our calling, being clothed with his righteousness, and living with the perspective of eternity. All that is required to grow in these areas is provided through God's word and Holy Spirit. We also mature by submitting to God's leadership through life's trials and tribulations. Often we turn away from what brings us hardship and challenges. However, God uses these moments to enlighten our hearts with the truth, inspire an attitude of victory, drive forward our purpose, demonstrate his power, and develop a faith that overrules unbelief. It is a mistake to run from life's inconvenience, as doing so will restrict us to a state of immaturity. With unchanged hearts, we will only ever produce the bitter, sour things of the earth.

### Read Hebrews 6:1 – 12

Put an 'X' on the line below to show how you respond to difficulty.

CONFRONT

AVOID

According to verse 7, what is the outcome of accepting God's provision?

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According to verse 8, what is the outcome of refusing God's provision?

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How will including God during life's hardships help you build a stronger faith?

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According to verse 10, what does God promise not to forget?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

I find encouragement in knowing the Lord rejoices in what I do for others.

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Though growth sometimes feels excruciatingly unbearable, I trust God is at work within me to develop a deeper faith.

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God cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while the trials I go through with the Lord will prepare me to produce fruit every season.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....asking God to help you grow in faith through life's hardships.

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**For more, read Hebrews 9:11 – 22**

Hebrews 9:14

*“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”*

Jesus is our high priest who does everything for our benefit. Open your ears to the truth and allow the reality of his perfect and complete work to be blasted into the depth of your soul. For our sake, Jesus ascended into the heavenly tabernacle to place his blood on the mercy seat, forever cleansing our consciousness from the guilt of our disobedience. Our Father has chosen to have compassion on us by treading our sins underfoot and hurling our iniquities into the depth of the sea. Truly, as far as the east is to the west, our sinful nature has been removed from us. Previously we lived with condemned minds weighted down by our failures, whereas now we are invited to live constantly aware of our rightful place before God. It's time to stop looking at our actions and instead put our hope in God by regarding ourselves as his holy and redeemed people. By faith and through his blood, we are fit to produce fruit that glorifies his name.

**Read Hebrews 6:1 – 12**

Put an 'X' on the line below to show the state of your conscience.

*RIGHTEOUS*

*CONDEMNED*

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Put an 'X' on the line below to show the focus of your attention.

*JESUS' WORK*

*PAST MISTAKE*

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How does understanding the cross address your guilty conscience?

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How does God see you now that sin has been atoned?

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***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

The blood of Christ gives me the confidence to approach the throne of God. Everything that once kept me from his presence has been removed.

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God has washed away my iniquity and cleansed me from my sin. He has released me from my guilty conscience and blessed me with his peace and rest.

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Rather than condemn myself, I will fill my conscience with things that are pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

*....letting God cleanse your conscience of the guilt from past mistakes as you focus on your redemption in Jesus Christ.*

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***For more, read James 2:14 – 26***

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 Hebrews 10:23
 

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*“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”*

Knowing the truth about the blood of Christ gives us the confidence to approach the Father. Entering into God’s presence to have intimate fellowship with him is as simple as speaking to him from the heart while believing you are his precious child. The mistake we often make is complicating it with other requirements, such as needing to feel spiritual while having an impressive list of good works. Access to the Father is open regardless of your emotions and actions. Unfortunately, many things seek to destroy our faith and our full assurance of hope in God. The grip of our social environment is constantly trying to pull our attention away. Instead of simply accepting and believing the words of Christ, we often build our understanding on philosophy, the way that seems right to us, and worldly wisdom. Furthermore, we have an adversary who has made it his goal to prevent us from drawing near the Father by bringing us discouragement, oppression, confusion, and deceit. Become steadfast and put your trust in God. Hold fast to your hope by standing relentlessly in your faith.

### Read Hebrews 10:19 – 39

According to these verses, what gives us the confidence to approach God?

Verse 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 21 \_\_\_\_\_

According to verse 22, list two things that happen as we draw near to God.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

According to these verses, what are we encouraged to keep doing?

Verse 24 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 25 \_\_\_\_\_



***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

I will not allow myself to settle somewhere lower than the heavenly place God has established me to dwell. I will fervently enter into my inheritance.

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I, by his great love, can come into his throne room. In reverence, I bow down towards his holy temple. God will welcome me in his abundant loving devotion.

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God promises to draw near to me as I draw near to him.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....inviting God to help you hold unswervingly to hope in Jesus as you trust his word above your experiences, feelings, and understanding.

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***For more, read Hebrews 11:1 - 40***

Hebrews 11:6

*“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

Faith is following the ways of God with confidence. We must learn how to build ourselves up in the faith, as God’s ways contradict our instincts, knowledge, opinion, and sound reasoning. We will never walk God’s path if we continually rely on what we can perceive and understand. Trusting the Lord also opens the door for him to work through us in extraordinary ways. Through faith, we see God bring the unseen into the seen and the nonexistent into the existent. By faith, we understand God created all things and holds all the authority. By faith, we stand before the Lord holy, righteous, and unashamed. By faith, we draw near to the Father’s presence to have an intimate relationship. By faith, we offer praise that is fit for a King. By faith, we reject the fleeting pleasures of sin. By faith, we stand firm in God’s word regardless of our thoughts, situations, experiences, and feelings. God is most pleased when we become like little children and step forward with certainty that he is faithful to his promises.

**Read Hebrews 10:19 – 39**

What does it mean to preserve in your faith?

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How will faith in God help you stand firm during difficult hardship?

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According to verse 34, what perspective helps us joyfully face persecution?

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How can you trust God loves you even when you don’t feel or see it?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

By faith, I will fix my eyes beyond this temporary perishing world and instead live with an eternal perspective.

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By faith, I will persevere through heartbreak, disappointment, betrayal, failure, rejection, and setbacks. God is redeeming my hardship to refine my character.

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By faith, God is replacing my weakness and inability with his empowering grace. God is honoured and glorified in all I do when I live from his power.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....asking God to help you persevere in faith so that you may live for him.

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## Hebrews 12:11

*“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”*

God deeply cares about us and our struggle against sin. He hates seeing us trapped in darkness. Out of his passionate love for us, God intervenes in our lives and gives us the guidance we desperately need. He does that by putting us under his discipline. In God's furnace, our weakness gets exposed, addictions are brought to the surface, and our immaturity is displayed. How we respond is crucial, as we have the option to deny what is revealed. However, this will result in us leaving the other side of the fire unchanged. Alternatively, we can take responsibility for the impurities in our hearts and submit to God's correction. Adjust your perspective and see God's discipline for what it truly is. You are being set free from the wickedness that destroys everything it touches. You are being trained for a calling far beyond your comprehension. And you are being prepared for a lasting, enduring, and steadfast relationship with your Creator. We must teach ourselves to love and desire more of God's discipline.

### Read Hebrews 12:4 – 12

According to verse 6, who does the Lord discipline?

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According to verses 10 and 11, what is the outcome of discipline?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean to submit to correction?

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Write down two areas where you need the Lord's discipline.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

***Reflect and respond to these thoughts....***

God's discipline is establishing his ways in my life. He is stripping away everything hindering me from walking in the full expression of his magnificent glory.

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I will endure discipline by understanding that this purifying season positions me for a vibrant, thriving, and effective life of sharing in God's holiness.

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God's way of purifying my life is to shake me so that everything not from him falls. The experience will be unpleasant, but not more than what I can handle.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

*....appreciating God's discipline while earnestly calling out for more.*

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***For more, read Hebrews 12:18 – 29***

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 Hebrews 12:29
 

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*“for our “God is a consuming fire.””*

Our King is fair in judgement, glorious in splendour, unmatched in wisdom, and magnificent in power. Watchfully he rules and cares for his kingdom by working through all circumstances to bring forward his purpose. Our Creator is the owner, designer, builder, and occupant of everything. His hands formed us, his wisdom laid the earth's foundation, and the stars and moon came to be by his breath. Our Father is an encourager to the disheartened, compassionate to the lost, giver to the poor, pleased of the obedient, and rewarder to the diligent. He rebukes the arrogant, humbles the prideful, and silences the mocker. Our Redeemer is a destroyer of barriers, liberator of the oppressed, healer of the wounded, and saviour of the wretched. He is a rescuer to those who have made every mistake, believed every lie, and lost all hope. And our God is a consuming fire who jealously longs for a faithful covenant relationship with us. Come, and let's throw away the sin that tangles us, the idols that control us, and the concerns that distract us. Let's then receive the Kingdom of God with thanksgiving and worship the Lord acceptably with reverence and awe due to his name.

### Read Hebrews 12:4 – 12

In what way has God held these titles in your life?

God the King

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God the Creator

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God the Father

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God the Rescuer

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How will meditating on the awesomeness of God help you commit to him?

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**Reflect and respond to these thoughts....**

The Lord confides in those who fear him. He shares the secrets of his heart with those who follow him with reverence and obedience.

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God wants me to reject every kind of evil and purify my life of everything that contaminates body and spirit.

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There is nothing more important than intimately knowing God. I will draw close to God by washing my hands of sin and purifying my heart of selfishness.

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**WRITE A PRAYER....**

....submitting your heart to the Lord so that you can grow in your relationship with him.

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**For more, read James 4:1 – 12**

# Daily Declare Scripture

Begin the new daily habit of intentionally and boldly proclaiming God's word over your life to build yourself up in the holy faith.

Psalms 42:11

*“Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.”*

There are times in our journey when hearing and believing the word of God requires no effort. Other times it seems foreign and ineffective. Do not become discouraged in these moments. Rather, learn to take God's word and stir up your soul. God's word is a seed that gets planted in the heart. As you keep watering that seed of truth, it will begin to grow and manifest. Eventually, it will automatically become your perspective.

## Getting Started

Launching a new spiritual habit can be difficult. Have a plan and be prepared by practising some of the following points:

- Collect scriptures that speak about your life as a child of God.
- Speak the truth found in scripture into the depth of your soul.
- Command your downcast soul to put its hope in your faithful God.
- Develop the habit of pulling yourself out of discouragement and fear.
- Continually plant scriptures in your heart until they become your reality.
- Avoid allowing your thoughts to spiral out of control.
- Train yourself to live by faith and not by sight, feelings, and experience.



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***Trust The  
Living God***

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