

ACT



40-day Journey

Psalms 86:11 - *Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.*

My Covenant

With God's help, I commit the next 40 days of my life to the ACT NYC Daily Journey. I also commit to the preparation and attendance of the Prayer-a-thon.

Your Name

Accountability Partner Name

Ecclesiastes 4:9 - Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

An Intimate Journey with Jesus...

This is not a journal about your life. If you've surrendered your heart to Jesus, you don't have your own life anymore. Your life is His. But Jesus loves you so much He wants you to live to the fullest. He longs for you to experience amazing love, delight in rich friendships, share in powerful wisdom, and relax in supreme peace. He wants you to know Him and the ultimate fulfillment only He brings. This journey is a tool that will help you know Jesus better through your own church family. Every experience must be filtered through Jesus' perspective. Learn to see with His eyes. Listen with His ears. Love with His heart. Grieve with His mercy. Serve with His hands. Your life is all about Jesus...

Day 1

Submitted by:



Robin Montgomery

Joshua 24:15 - And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, **choose** you this day whom ye **will** serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we **will** serve the Lord.

Let's have an English lesson. (I hate English, too, but hang in here with me for a minute.) Let's look at the two words that are underlined. Choose is an active verb in the present tense. Joshua is telling the Israelites to make a decision today. The word will is a verb that demonstrates their intended actions in the future. The Israelites were the chosen people of God by birth, but it was up to them to "choose" whether they would serve the Lord.

Now I accepted Christ as my savior a long time ago. I am His child. However, I've learned there are many times that I am faced with the decision of whether I will **choose** to serve Him in my daily life. Every time I choose God's way my future steps are on more solid ground, but every time I go against what I know is God's will my future walk with him is shaky.

You have decisions to make every day. When your friends encourage you to partake in alcohol or other substances will you choose to serve the Lord, or will you choose to be "social"? Will you agree with society that as long as two people "consent" sex outside of marriage is OK? Or will you choose to be pure? Will you let professors sway your beliefs because they say you are too narrow-minded? Or will you remember what God says about man's knowledge? Will you indulge in the latest gossip? Or will you testify for Christ? Will you see material things as success and security or will you choose to see them as God's blessings? In times of sickness or in times of great poverty will you doubt God or will you say what Job said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him." (Job 13:15) Will you choose to spend time with God in prayer and Bible study, or will you turn on the TV?

Every time you choose (present) to serve the Lord your relationship with Him will (future) grow more intimate. Every time you choose (present) to serve this world's gods your relationship with Him will (future) grow more distant. Now I challenge you. Choose you this day whom ye will serve: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Day 2

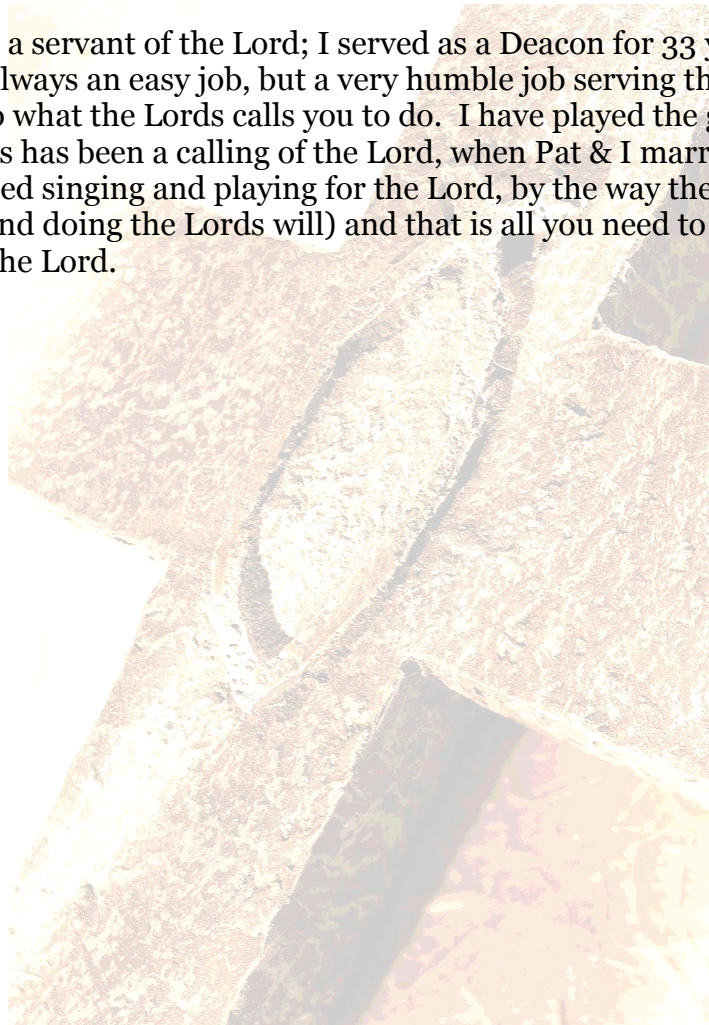
Submitted by:



Bob Ray

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

I just wanted to be a servant of the Lord; I served as a Deacon for 33 years at Valley Forge (it was not always an easy job, but a very humble job serving the Lord and serving the church) just do what the Lords calls you to do. I have played the guitar for many years and I feel this has been a calling of the Lord, when Pat & I married, we both loved music and continued singing and playing for the Lord, by the way the pay is great (just love for the Lord and doing the Lords will) and that is all you need to have a great relationship with the Lord.



Day 3

Submitted by:

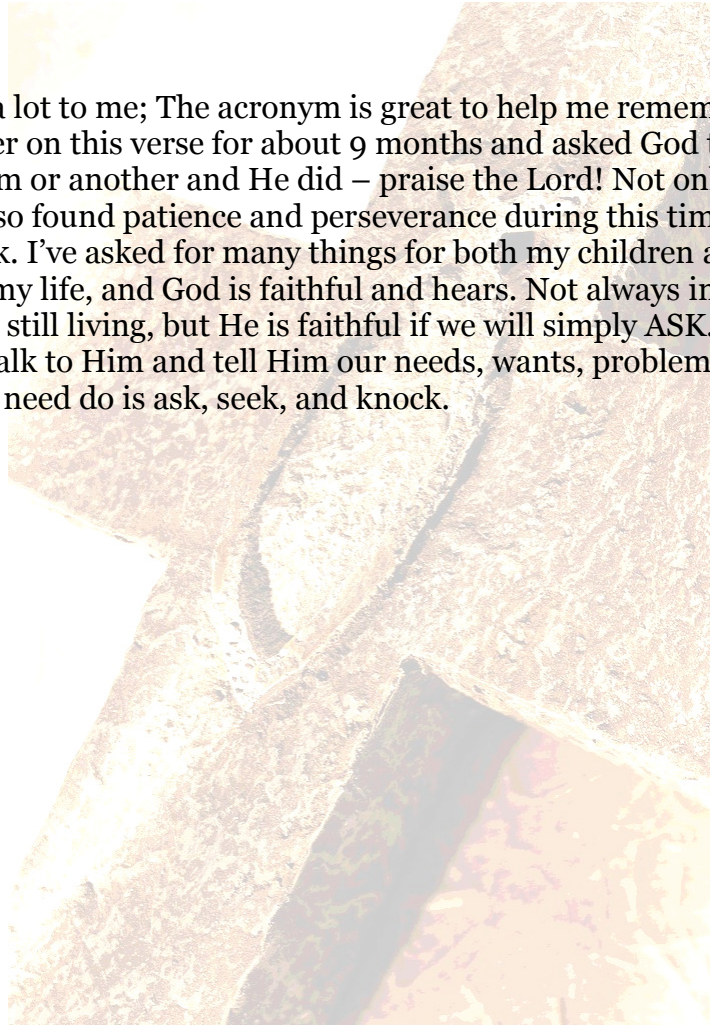


Kathy Harsh

Matthew 7:7 - Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

(ASK)

This verse means a lot to me; The acronym is great to help me remember all I need do is ask. I laid my finger on this verse for about 9 months and asked God to send healing to Lindsay in one form or another and He did – praise the Lord! Not only did I ask and it was given, but I also found patience and perseverance during this time. I knocked and continued to knock. I've asked for many things for both my children and many people that have been in my life, and God is faithful and hears. Not always in my time or maybe not even while I'm still living, but He is faithful if we will simply ASK. He wants us to ask – He wants us to talk to Him and tell Him our needs, wants, problems, and the good things too. All you need do is ask, seek, and knock.



Day 4

Submitted by:



Julius Waters

Luke 9:62 - And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Jesus wants us to be whole hearted in what we do for Him. But the distractions of life is what causes us to "look back." Sometimes it may be people, money, worry, and most of the time it's things! When we look back Satan gets us to lose focus on what we are doing, serving God. Satan will use things we never thought possible to distract us from Jesus.



Day 5

Submitted by:



Tim Odom

James 4:6 – But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud but giveth grace unto the humble.

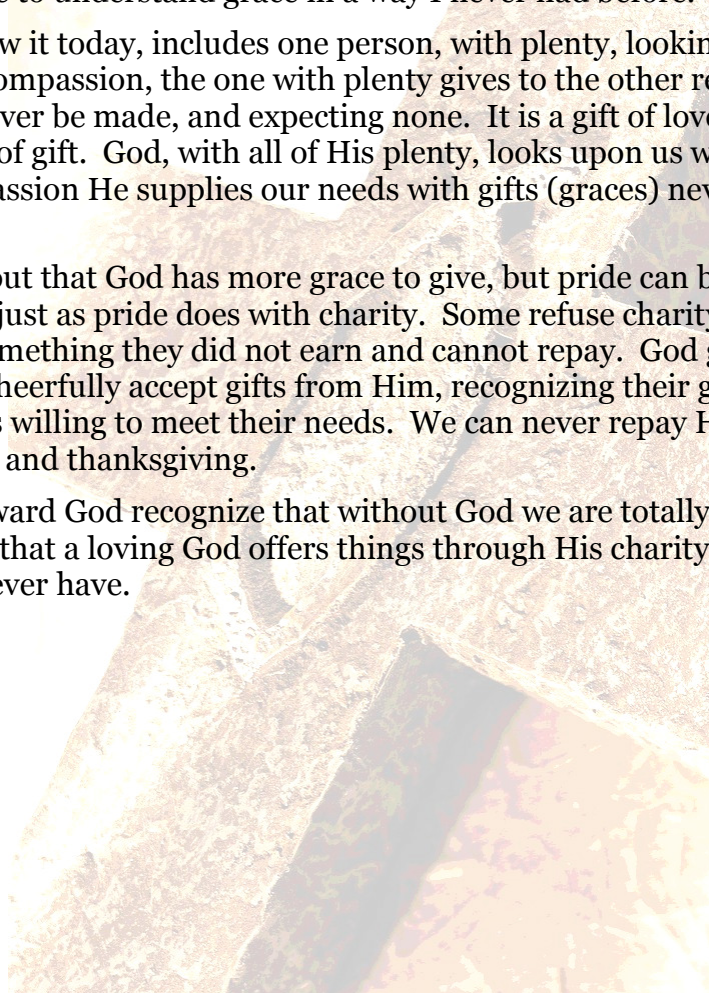
If grace were to be understood in one word, the word would be "Gift". The Greek word for grace is *charis*. In studying this word, I was struck of its similarity to the word charity, and I came to understand grace in a way I never had before.

Charity, as we know it today, includes one person, with plenty, looking upon another in need. Moved by compassion, the one with plenty gives to the other recognizing that no repayment could ever be made, and expecting none. It is a gift of love and compassion. Grace is that kind of gift. God, with all of His plenty, looks upon us with our need, and moved with compassion He supplies our needs with gifts (graces) never expecting any repayment.

This verse points out that God has more grace to give, but pride can be the impediment to our receiving it just as pride does with charity. Some refuse charity, they are too proud to accept something they did not earn and cannot repay. God gives freely to those that humbly and cheerfully accept gifts from Him, recognizing their good fortune that One so generous is willing to meet their needs. We can never repay Him, all we can do is express our love and thanksgiving.

As you journey toward God recognize that without God we are totally impoverished. Delight in the fact that a loving God offers things through His charity (grace) that we could otherwise never have.

Ain't God good!



Day 6

Submitted by:



Joy Scalf

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

This piece of scripture never gets old to me. I read it everyday and it always creates a new blessing within my spirit. How exciting and amazing it is to know that God has a plan and a specific purpose for each of our lives. I have went through so many times in my life that I have felt so insignificant and small and I had no clue what God wanted for my life. But through those times God always revealed His wonderful plans for me. He has at all times given me what I needed.....when I needed it..... IN HIS TIME!!!! Satan constantly attempts to lead us into believing we live in a hopeless world. We can easily become discouraged about our future when look around our world and see war, poverty, drugs, alcohol, broken homes, struggling finances, etc. Hopelessness and discouragement are two of Satan's biggest tools in our spiritual walk. Satan desires for God's children to walk in confusion. Satan doesn't want us to have the confidence in a hopeful future. But God says He has a plan for each of us, a plan that is going to prosper us, not harm, a plan that will give us a hope and a future. Society may be saying one thing, but God is saying another. Your life's circumstance may be pointing to discouragement or maybe even hopelessness, but God is pointing to plan that is going to prosper you and not harm you. You may not know what your future holds, but you know who holds the future. God is available to you and He desires to be helpful in your life whenever you need Him. You must choose to Trust Him and Believe that He will respond in times of being uncertain of what plans He has for your life.

Do you ever question: what does God want of me?, Who does God have for my helpmate?, What career choices do I need to make?, Why does that person's life seem to be going better than mine? Remember.....Satan is the author of confusion and God already has planned what He wants for your life. God is the LOVE of your life and He wants nothing but the best for you. Never forget each day to thank God in advance for what He already has planned for your life because "**Child of God**".....things are going to be GREAT!!!!!!

Day 7

Submitted by:



Jim Carr

2 Samuel 22:2-And he said, the Lord is my Rock, and my fortress, and my Deliverer.

In a world where nothing is stable and sometimes it seems that everything is crashing down, he is my stability, MY ROCK

When my enemy is pushing me and it feels like I am almost defeated, Jesus opens up the doors of his grace and he becomes MY FORTRESS.

Sometimes I feel all alone and the forces of hell come against me, and I have no where to run or hide, my Jesus, the captain of my salvation steps in just in time and becomes MY DELIVERER.



Day 8

Submitted by:



Larry Abel

1 CORINTHIANS 13:12 - For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

There are so many things in this life that is so hard to understand if we don't look to GOD. The "evil one" does everything in his power to weaken and discourage us when we don't understand things that happen that don't seem to be right. I am sure the devil attempts to have most, if not all, of us to question something in this life, most every day. 1 Corinthians 13, Verse 12 has certainly been a blessing and given me strength many times over the years. I have heard this verse quoted and taught on hundreds of times since I was a little boy.

My little Mom, who became ill with Alzheimer's disease about 15 years ago, has quoted this verse while testifying, practically, every time she stood over the years. Prior to the disease, Mom had a brilliant mind, was a Pastors wife for 30 years, but most of all was and is still full of the HOLY SPIRIT. The evil one has even tempted me by saying "if your GOD is so great, why is "your Mom, the most GODLY person you know in your life, not have a sound mind." What he don't say, though the mind may be gone, but the HOLY SPIRIT is still very much alive in her life. When this happens I do my best to hold to GOD'S word "For now we see through a glass, darkly;" and I know some day soon, thank GOD we will know it all. I feel GOD'S word has given me peace on Mom's condition and HIS WORD will always prevail for all of us. Even at 86 years old and not of sound mind, she blesses me, and many others every day of her life.

It is evident in this verse that GOD is telling us that this old mortal mind and body is not prepared to see and know everything in this life. We know now in part (a few things) but when we get to HEAVEN we will see through the glass clearly and for sure will know it all.

It's not if, but WHEN the old evil one attempts to confuse you, make you question or doubt anything Spiritual in your life, go to the WORD OF GOD and he will flee. He may aggravate us to death but he "aint" no match for our GOD.

I hope and PRAY that this little feeble attempt to share one of my Blessing's may touch and help even one of you. It has already touched me. GOD BLESS!!

Day 9

Submitted by:

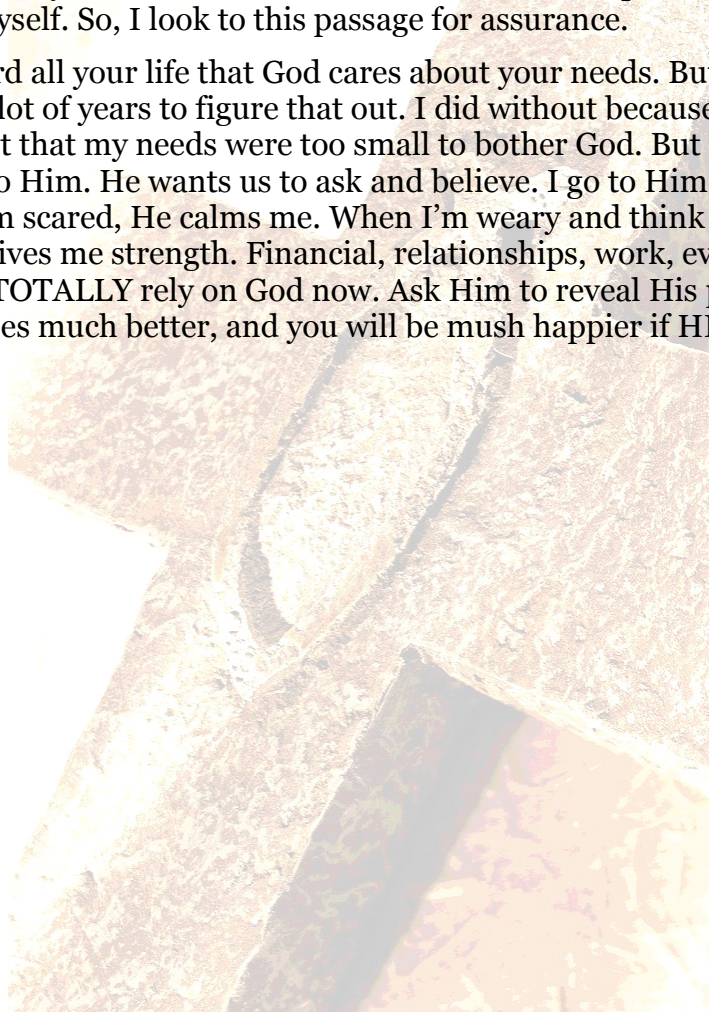


Debbie Odom

John 14: 13-14- And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

On one hand, I hate to reveal about myself that I love the “ask and receive” verses. On the other hand, I, like you, live in the real world, and have real problems that sometimes I cannot handle myself. So, I look to this passage for assurance.

I know you’ve heard all your life that God cares about your needs. But, He REALLY does. It took me a lot of years to figure that out. I did without because I lacked faith in Him, and I thought that my needs were too small to bother God. But He wants His children to come to Him. He wants us to ask and believe. I go to Him with ANYTHING. I go to God when I’m scared, He calms me. When I’m weary and think I cannot take another step, He gives me strength. Financial, relationships, work, everyday life; I rely on Him. Learn to TOTALLY rely on God now. Ask Him to reveal His plan for you, in everything. Life goes much better, and you will be much happier if HE is in control.



Day 10

Submitted by:



Peggy Nave

Isaiah 43:2- When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee, when though walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

When we go through rivers of difficulty, it will either cause us to drown or force us to grow stronger. When we go on our own strength we are more likely to drown. When we invite the Lord to go with us, He will protect us.



Submitted by:



Loren Harris

Romans 8:28- And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

As a fifteen year old boy, my faith in God was badly shaken. My mother had just come thru a battle with breast cancer and the very day the doctor told her that she was cancer free, she was hit head on by a drunk driver on the way home from the doctor. After receiving the call, Dad and I rushed to the hospital. As I stood by her as she lay in the emergency room, she looked up at me as we both cried and she recited this very verse.

Both of her legs were crushed to the point she lost both knee caps and was in a wheelchair for almost two years. I was so bitter at God. We were starting to travel and sing more and Dad was preaching a lot and I thought this was an answer to prayers, for I had always wanted to travel and sing. I thought , Why is God doing this to my family after we've been faithful to him? Here's how God works. A month after my mother's accident, my dad was asked to pastor a church in North Carolina. Since we weren't traveling, he preached for them and they elected him to become pastor. He was there almost fourteen years and the Lord really blessed him, the church and our family. If you are "the called", God will never put you on the shelf. He will always take care of you and your work will always carry his blessing. Things that look impossible to us are always possible to God. That's when he does his best work. If you are his child, you have a purpose in this life and God is always in control of that purpose.



Day 12

Submitted by:



Pastor Randy Johnson

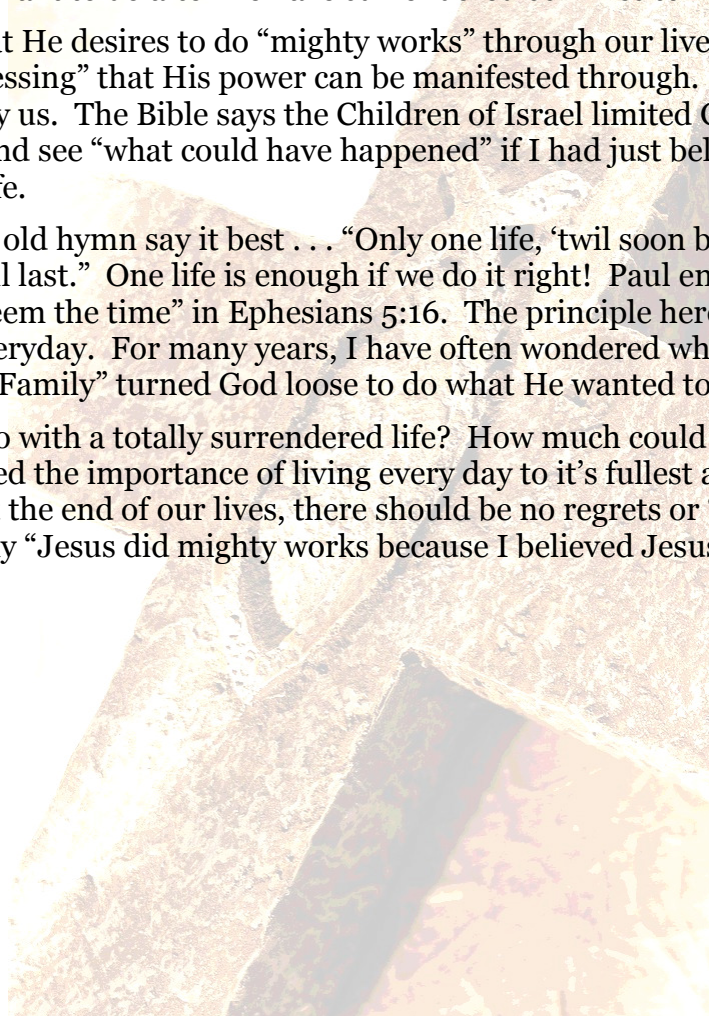
Matthew 13:58 - And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

What “mighty works” would Jesus like to do in your life? Of course, the greatest work He could ever do for a person is to pull them out of the miry clay and set them upon a solid rock! Being saved is the ultimate work of Jesus in a person’s life but what great things does Jesus want to do after we have surrendered our lives to Him?

This verse says that He desires to do “mighty works” through our lives. He wants us to be “channels of blessing” that His power can be manifested through. The only way He can be limited is by us. The Bible says the Children of Israel limited God. I would hate to get to Heaven and see “what could have happened” if I had just believed and turned God loose in my life.

The lyrics from an old hymn say it best . . . “Only one life, ‘twil soon be past; only what’s done for Christ will last.” One life is enough if we do it right! Paul encouraged Christians to “redeem the time” in Ephesians 5:16. The principle here is to maximize God’s potential everyday. For many years, I have often wondered what would happen if an entire “Church Family” turned God loose to do what He wanted to.

What could God do with a totally surrendered life? How much could He do with a Church that realized the importance of living every day to it’s fullest and believing God for everything? At the end of our lives, there should be no regrets or “almost” . . . may we all be able to say “Jesus did mighty works because I believed Jesus all the way and gave Him my all!



Day 13

Submitted by:



Buster Lyons

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

We do not and can not understand all things, yet if we truly trust in the Lord, he will give us the knowledge and wisdom to understand those things that we need to. He will also give us the peace and assurance to accept those things that we do not understand.

The more we learn to trust in the Lord for our understanding, the clearer and more meaningful our lives become.



Day 14

Submitted by:

Marcie Winston

Revelation 5: 4,5 – I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy...Behold then I saw a lamb.

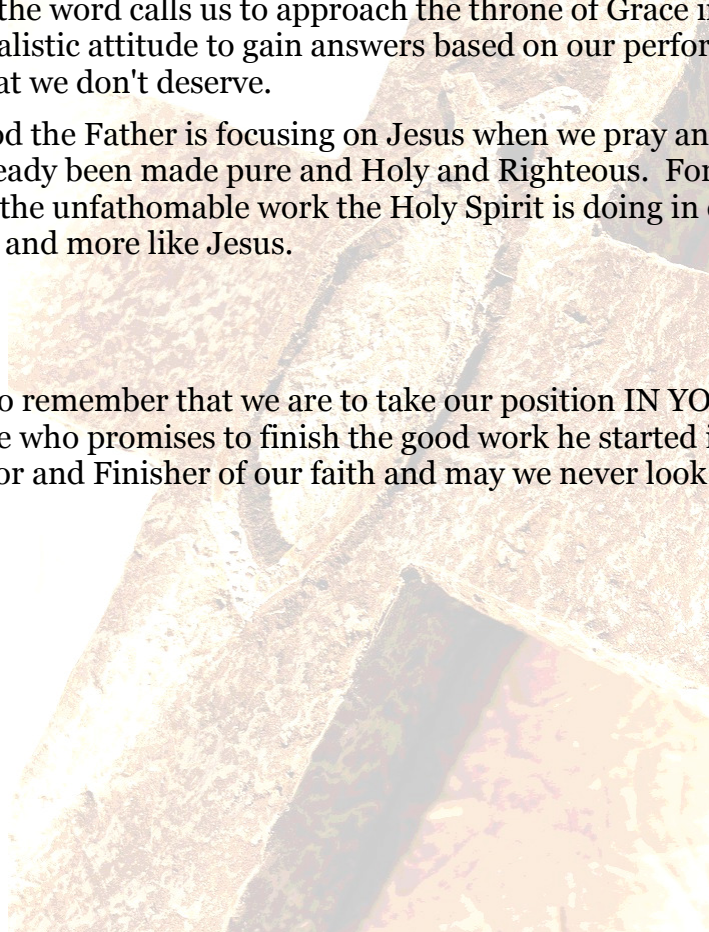
Teaching a recent Bible school class about how we should focus on Jesus instead of the storms of life made me realize the importance of that in every area of our life. There are times I don't do that even in my prayer life. It's in those times that I don't feel completely confident my prayer will be answered or even heard. Instead I focus on me and how many ways and times I fail God and fall short of a Holy pure lifestyle. Anytime I focus on me I get into trouble. I find myself all too often taking an inventory of my shortcomings instead of God's Promises which are all yes and Amen "In Christ Jesus" I fail to remember my Father God is mindful of our condition that we are but dust. I believe that's why the word calls us to approach the throne of Grace in prayer. We don't go there with a legalistic attitude to gain answers based on our performance, but to gain Grace which is what we don't deserve.

Be assured that God the Father is focusing on Jesus when we pray and seeing us IN HIM where we have already been made pure and Holy and Righteous. For only our Father completely knows the unfathomable work the Holy Spirit is doing in every believer's life to make him more and more like Jesus.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Help us each day to remember that we are to take our position IN YOU. Help us keep our eyes on the one who promises to finish the good work he started in us. Let us look unto you the Author and Finisher of our faith and may we never look in the mirror but at THE LAMB.

Amen



Day 15

Submitted by:



Ava Patterson

Philippians 4:13 – I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

That has always helped me times I feel I can't do what need be. God reminds of that verse. It has helped me all through the years.



Day 16

Submitted by:



Mildred "Cupe" Vaughan

Isaiah 45:22 – Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the Earth, for I am God and there is none else.

Cupe submitted a Cross she had made. You will find this cross hanging in the 20something class room.



Day 17

Submitted by:



Curtis Gentry

Matthew 6:34 – Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Planning for tomorrow is time well spent, worrying about tomorrow is time wasted. Careful planning is thinking ahead about goals, budgets, schedules, and relationships and trusting in God's guidance. Don't let worries about tomorrow affect your relationship with God today. With a humble heart, seek God's guidance when planning for tomorrow.



Day 18

Submitted by:



Cecil Hyder

2 Corinthians 12:9 – And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Apostle Paul was having many problems and asked that God would remove the thorn from his side but the Lord told him that His grace was sufficient. The Lord's grace is always sufficient and this has been very real to me in my life. The Lord has stood by me through it all even through the death of my wife.



Day 19

Submitted by:



Gina Johnson

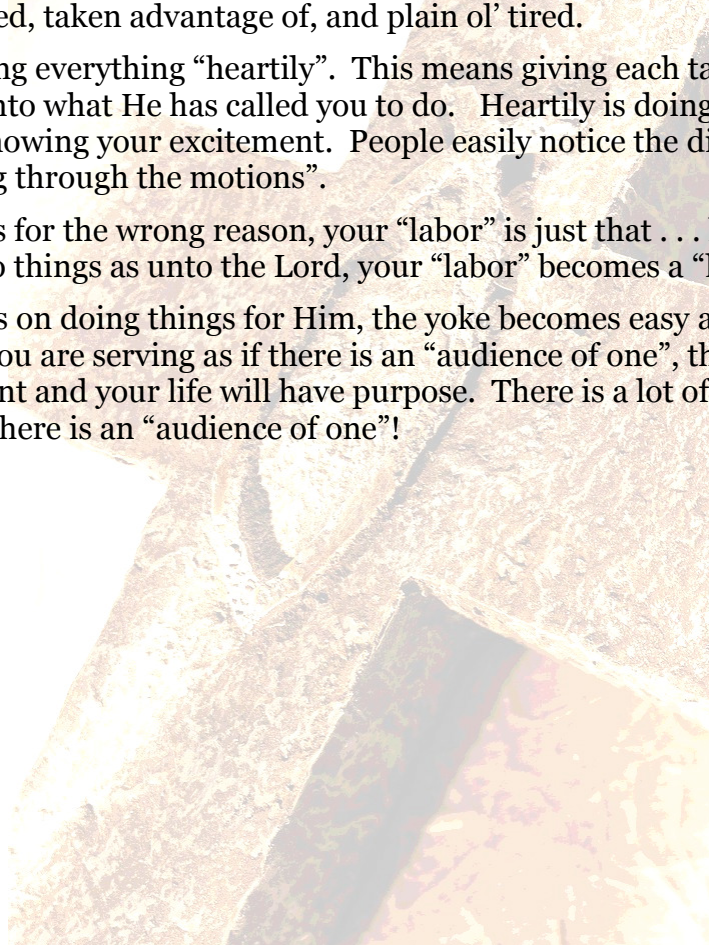
Colossians 3:23-24 - *And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; (24) knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*

The demands of being a Christian can be overwhelming at times. We get so busy that our focus is more on everything that needs to be done instead of God. If you are doing it for other people, to please other people, or to make yourself look good, you always end up feeling frustrated, taken advantage of, and plain ol' tired.

Paul speaks of doing everything "heartily". This means giving each task "your all" and pouring yourself into what He has called you to do. Heartily is doing things with enthusiasm and showing your excitement. People easily notice the difference between heartily and "going through the motions".

When doing things for the wrong reason, your "labor" is just that . . . labor. On the other hand, when you do things as unto the Lord, your "labor" becomes a "labor of love".

When your focus is on doing things for Him, the yoke becomes easy and the burden seems lighter. If you are serving as if there is an "audience of one", the result will be a feeling of fulfillment and your life will have purpose. There is a lot of satisfaction in doing things as if there is an "audience of one"!



Day 20

Submitted by:



Melissa Carr

Matthew 6:33 – But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

(Seek or to Someone or Something)

I have always felt God's Kingdom is first in everything we do. Seek Him in every way of your life. Seek that close love and relationship with Him. Seek His heart so He can fill yours. What will He add to you? Peace? Love? Hope? Faith? He will give you Life Eternal. What more could we seek?



Day 21

Submitted by:



Sam Harrison

John 14:14 – If ye shall ask any thing in My name I will do it.

GOD CAN NOT FAIL.



Day 22

Submitted by:



Angie Waters

1 Corinthians 10:13 -There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

You may think that no one has been tempted the way you have been, but there is no temptation (or trials or tests) that someone else has not also been through. The temptations in your life are the same as what others have also had to face. Always remember that God will not let you down, that is, He is faithful. He will always provide a way out. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you are able to bear.



Day 23

Submitted by:



Eddie Woods

Psalm 46:10 - Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in earth.

A lot of times in our daily life we are so caught up in the rush of daily activities that we forget to take a time out and let God in. I like to take the time just sitting outside in the stillness of the early morning and listen to what God has in store for me during that day.



Day 24

Submitted by:



Stephen Harsh

Proverbs 6:16-19- These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Pride

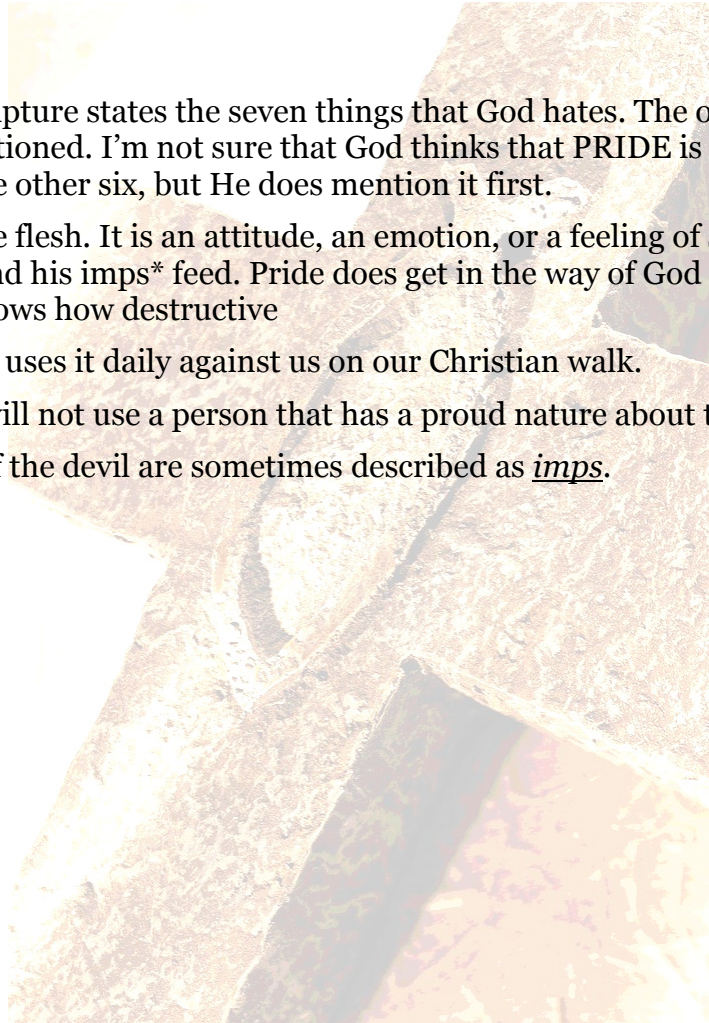
This section of scripture states the seven things that God hates. The one I focus on is the very first one mentioned. I'm not sure that God thinks that PRIDE is any more or less important than the other six, but He does mention it first.

Pride is a sin of the flesh. It is an attitude, an emotion, or a feeling of self worth that satan, (small s), and his imps* feed. Pride does get in the way of God working through man. The devil knows how destructive

PRIDE can be and uses it daily against us on our Christian walk.

God can not and will not use a person that has a proud nature about them self.

*The attendants of the devil are sometimes described as *imps*.



Day 25

Submitted by:



Melinda Gentry

Psalm 25:14 – *The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.*

This “secret” is God’s intimate friendship He desires to have with each one of us. Knowing He is there with me always past, present and future is amazement to my salvation and my eternal destination. “To fear Him” is reverence of Him and hold God in highest honor. When I understood His constant presence and His want to be my friend and my acceptance of this complete relationship in my life my perspective on everything changed. The more I reverence Him and fear Him the more this friendship with Him grows.



Day 26

Submitted by:



Carl Roberson

Psalm 51:10 – Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

I am confronted with so many fiery darts from that roaring lion the devil, that I don't always respond the way I should. When I find myself thinking, saying or doing the things that don't always become a Christian. I soon realize I need help. This is when a right spirit needs to be renewed. In prayer only God can create and renew my thinking, saying or doing to the state I need to be. Only a loving God knows me and loves me will do this.



Day 27

Submitted by:

The family of Mittie Belle Johnson



Galatians 6:9 - And let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.



Day 28

Submitted by:

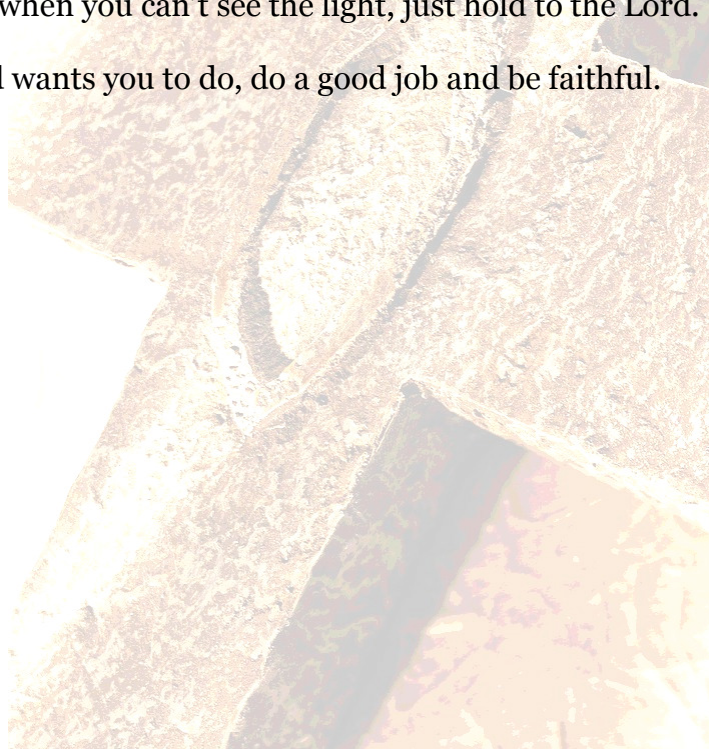


Pat Ray

Matthew 28:20 - Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever, I have commanded you and lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world.

This verse has meant much to me since I gave my heart to the Lord when I was very young. I really wanted to be like a Home Missionary, Ms. Gertrude Hale; with the Baptist Home Mission Board in Elizabethton was a great example to me. She came to our church and you could see the Lord all over her, her face just shown when she talked about Jesus. Even though I did not take that path in life, I have always tried to help with children, (Bible School, Little Choir, playing the piano, teaching in different classes, etc. The more "Mature" I get (not old, ha ha) I want to get closer to the Lord, even through many trials, but my goal is to continue on the walk and make Heaven my home. Don't ever give up, even when you can't see the light, just hold to the Lord.

Whatever the Lord wants you to do, do a good job and be faithful.



Day 29

Submitted by:



Cindy Harris

Psalm 149:1 - Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.

Have you ever noticed that when someone is singing they are usually happy? I see that first hand being married to a singer and having two kids that constantly sing. Loren is happiest when he is singing and when the kids are happy they will constantly be singing. Singing makes me happy and I just started singing a few years ago. God loves to hear his children sing. It's "music to his ears" for he has put the song in our hearts. He wants his children to praise him in song during worship but I think he loves to hear us sing when there is no one else around but He and I. The next time you sing to Him see if it doesn't make everything else just seem unimportant. All He wants is our praise whether it be with other "saints" in a worship service or in our cars driving down the road. If we are Christians, then the song of Redemption in our hearts has been put there by Him and He only wants to hear us sing His praise. "Cause His favorite song of all, is the song of the Redeemed. When lost sinners now made clean, lift their voices loud and strong. When those purchased by His blood, lift to Him a song of love. There's nothing more He'd rather hear nor so pleasing to His ear, as His favorite song of all". Keep Singing!



Day 30

Submitted by:



Mike White

Romans 8:28 – And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Matthew 6:33 – But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

Long ago I learned that GOD is at work in all aspects of my life. Often I wouldn't understand a circumstance that had come along in my life...but later I would see that all was well. Early on I learned the phrase Christ incidence instead of coincidence. I realize things don't just happen coincidentally but GOD is in control of all things. We can never see a complete picture but GOD is omniscient (All Knowing). Now I don't only have GOD's word (historical facts) and personal testimonies of others, I have 16 years of experiences to draw from. I can honestly say "When Keeping God First" all things indeed work out good.



Day 31

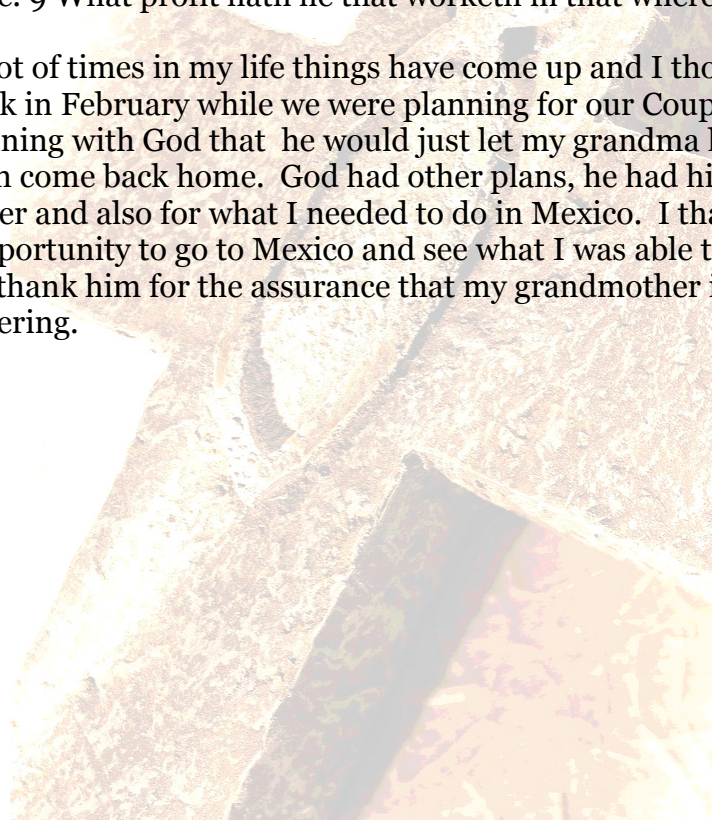
Submitted by:



Joy Woods

Ecclesiastes 3:1-9 - 1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: 2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; 3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; 7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; 8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. 9 What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?

There has been a lot of times in my life things have come up and I thought I could do it on my own. Back in February while we were planning for our Couples Mexico Mission Trip, I keep bargaining with God that he would just let my grandma live until I could go to Mexico and then come back home. God had other plans, he had his own timeline set for my grandmother and also for what I needed to do in Mexico. I thank God that he allowed me the opportunity to go to Mexico and see what I was able to see and do for him. Above all, I thank him for the assurance that my grandmother is heaven with him and no longer suffering.



Day 32

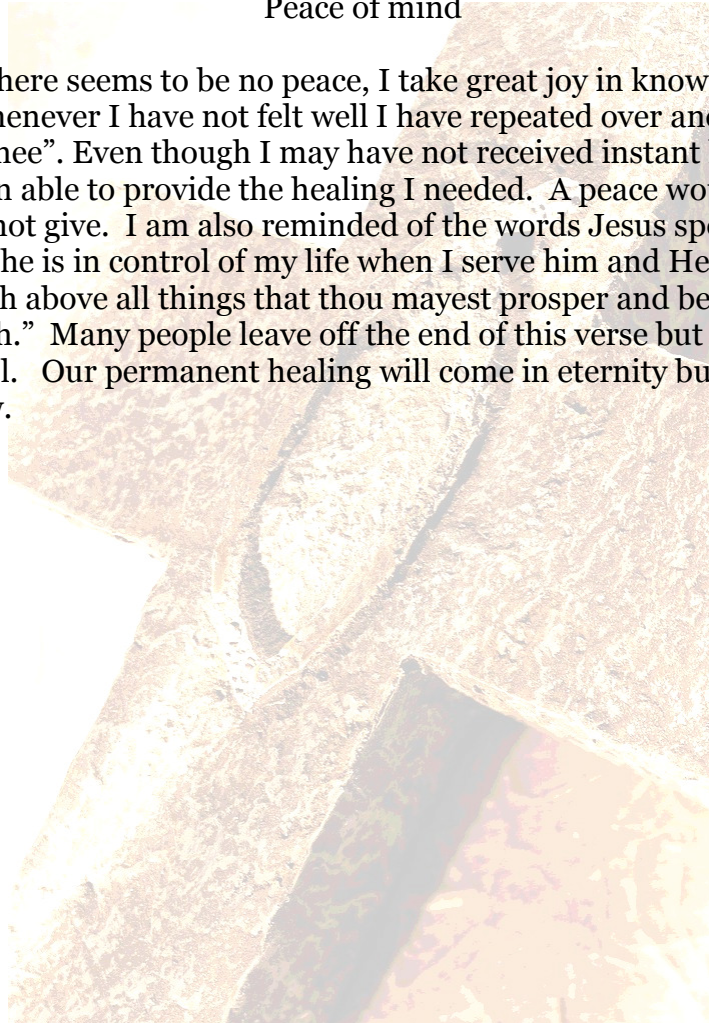
Submitted by:

Anthony Johnson

Exodus 15:26 - And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

Peace of mind

In a world where there seems to be no peace, I take great joy in knowing that I serve the only true God. Whenever I have not felt well I have repeated over and over “ I am the God that healeth thee”. Even though I may have not received instant healing I knew that God was more than able to provide the healing I needed. A peace would come over me like the world cannot give. I am also reminded of the words Jesus spoke “Peace be still”. Just knowing that he is in control of my life when I serve him and He desires the best for me “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” Many people leave off the end of this verse but God is interested in our soul most of all. Our permanent healing will come in eternity but we can have peace of mind now.



Day 33

Submitted by:



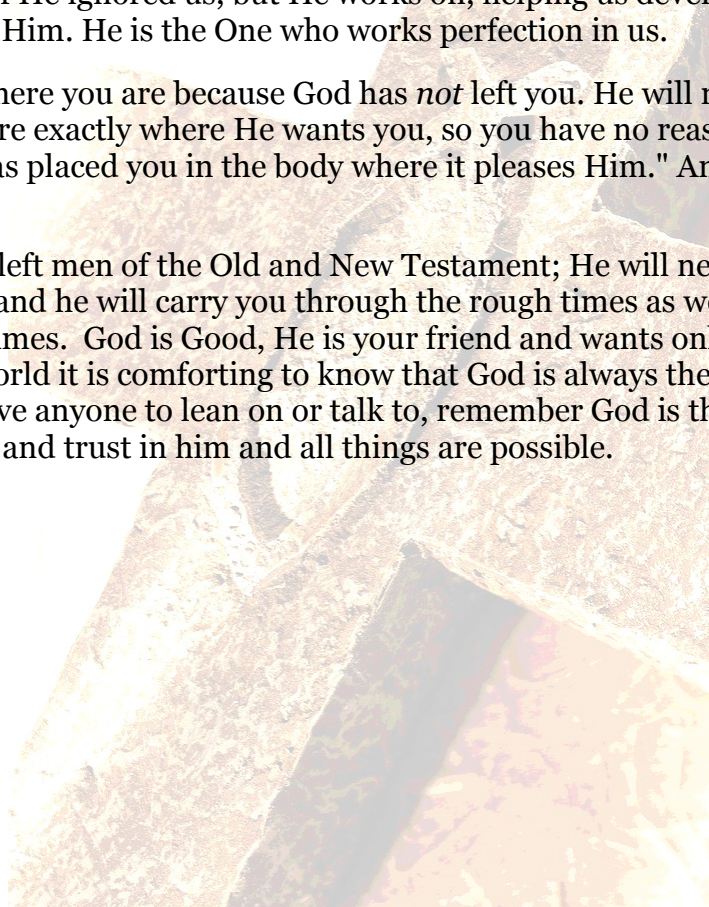
Gail Lyons

Hebrews 13:5 "I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you."

We cannot be perfect apart from others. The Bible links perfection with human relationships. Christ urges us to be as perfect as our Father in heaven and ties the process to how we treat each other. The Kingdom of God is about eternal, peaceful relationships. We cannot withdraw from people and still develop the necessary relationship skills, just as God never leaves us but continues to work with us. Life would be easier for Him if He ignored us, but He works on, helping us develop our relationships with Him. He is the One who works perfection in us.

Be content with where you are because God has *not* left you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. You are exactly where He wants you, so you have no reason to be discontent. God has placed you in the body where it pleases Him." And that should be enough for us.

Just as God never left men of the Old and New Testament; He will never leave you. Put your trust in Him and he will carry you through the rough times as well as rejoice with you in the happy times. God is Good, He is your friend and wants only the best for you. In this fast pace world it is comforting to know that God is always there. When you don't think you have anyone to lean on or talk to, remember God is there for you. Learn to believe, depend and trust in him and all things are possible.



Day 34

Submitted by:



Tim Colbough

Matthew 19:23-30 -23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. 25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? 26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible

Amanda and I were attending a revival at a church several years ago and were coming in right when the service was about to begin. Since we were late, we sat near the back of the church. As the choir was singing, I noticed a fellow classmate from high school. I began to remember him in school and the type of lifestyle he led and how nervous and afraid I felt around him. Memories of him fighting and partying with the roughest kids in school were etched in my mind. I looked over to Amanda and told her that Lester, the roughest boy in high school was sitting in front of us. After the choir sang, the preacher commented on the number of pastors that were attending the service. He asked them to stand up to be recognized. Guess who stood up, you got it, Lester. I turned to Amanda and jokingly said, Amanda, I am convinced that God does exist. IF a man like Lester can be saved, anybody can.

All jokes aside, the devil works to convince us that our sins are so bad that God wouldn't want us on his side. If the devil sees us getting close to God, he will remind us of our past. The devil uses our past to control us. However, I'm so amazed of the mercy that God shows each and every one of us everyday. Individuals like Lester or anyone of us can have the darkest past but the love of Jesus can overcome any sin or any obstacle. We have to just ask for him to come into our lives. Just ask, that's all it takes!

My favorite song sums up my life with Jesus. Thank You, sung by Catie Carr, reminds me how much I must Thank God for everything that he has done for me and for loving me each and everyday. When the world may forsake us, God will never leave our side. The peace of Jesus in our lives is something that we should thank him for each day.

Day 35

Submitted by:

Josh & Kara McGee

We are all faced with many decisions every day. We must decide who to hang out with, whether or not to look at a certain thing on the Internet, who to date, whether or not to stretch the truth or to be completely honest, etc. We may think that our decisions aren't that important, but sometimes they can have a lasting impact...good or bad. We encourage you to review the questions below and allow the Lord to guide you when faced with decisions in your life.

Is it true?

Does it honor God?

Is this right or wrong?

Will this purify my soul?

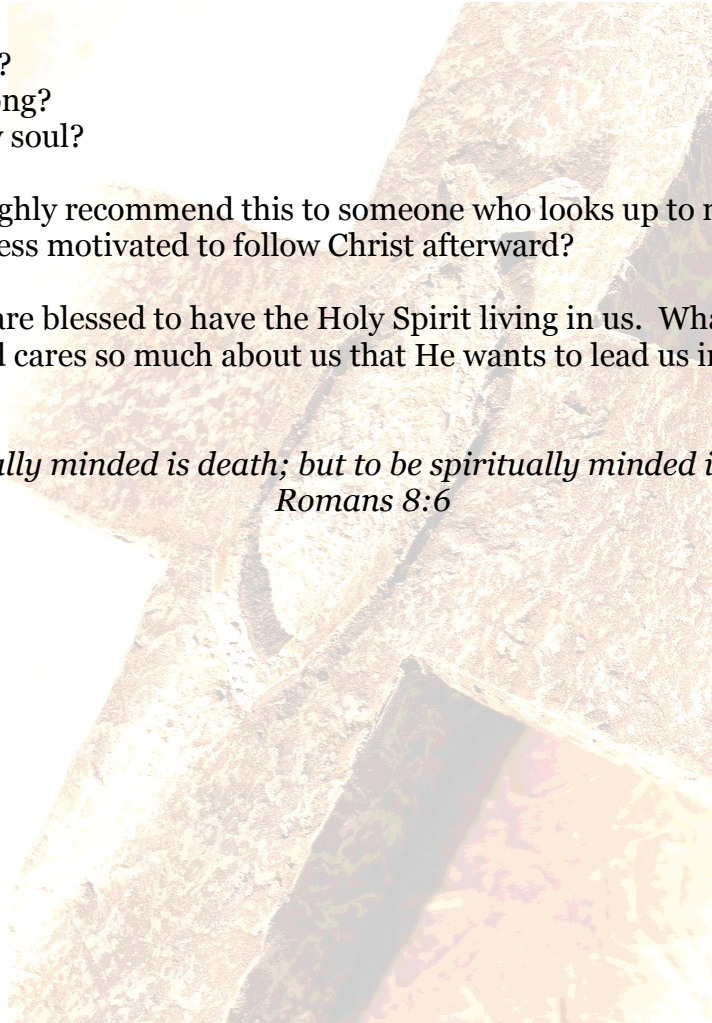
Will it renew me?

Will I be able to highly recommend this to someone who looks up to me?

Will I be more or less motivated to follow Christ afterward?

As Christians, we are blessed to have the Holy Spirit living in us. What a wonderful thing that the Lord cares so much about us that He wants to lead us in the way that is best for us!

*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
Romans 8:6*



Day 36

Submitted by:

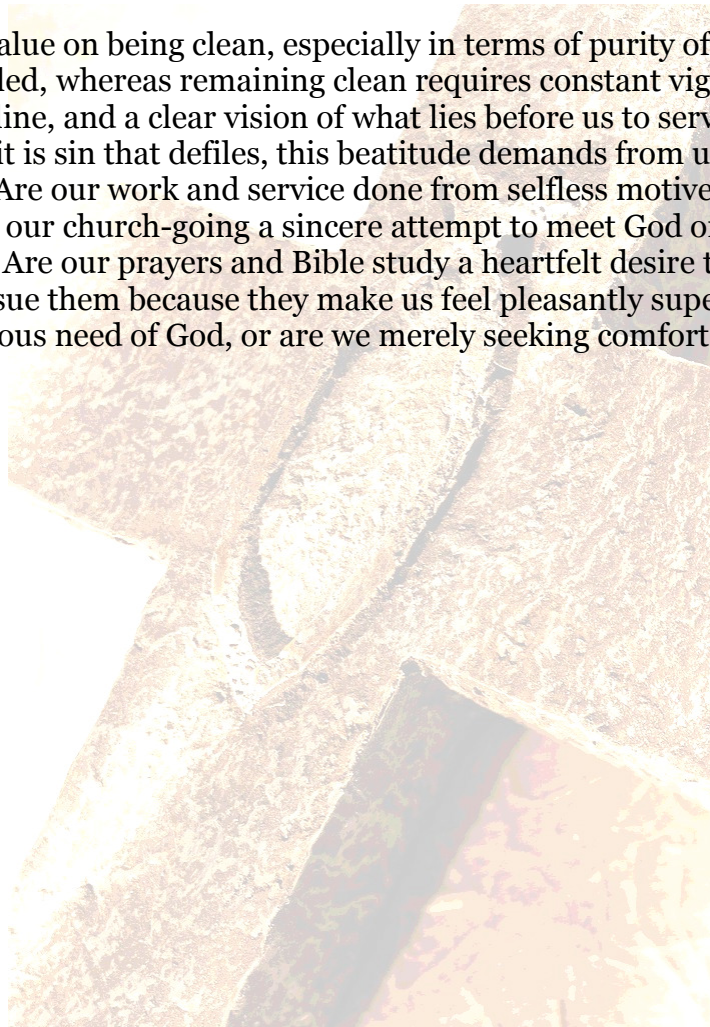


Jeff Lyons

Matthew 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

The pure in heart are those who with all their being seek to remain free of every form of the defilement of sin. The fruit of this is the blessing of spiritual discernment.

God places great value on being clean, especially in terms of purity of heart. Also, we can easily become defiled, whereas remaining clean requires constant vigilance, a determined discipline, and a clear vision of what lies before us to serve as a prod to keep us on track. Since it is sin that defiles, this beatitude demands from us the most exacting self-examination. Are our work and service done from selfless motives or from a desire for self-display? Is our church-going a sincere attempt to meet God or merely fulfilling a respectable habit? Are our prayers and Bible study a heartfelt desire to commune with God, or do we pursue them because they make us feel pleasantly superior? Is our life lived with a conscious need of God, or are we merely seeking comfort in our piety?



Day 37

Submitted by:



Ingrid Deloach

Matthew 25:40

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Lots of times, this verse is used in the context of mission trips and doing good deeds. Many people say that if you help those that need help you are actually helping Jesus. However, this verse can also take on a whole different meaning.

One day, a college student enrolled in a psychology class at a Baptist Seminary walked into her class to find the professor handing every student a blank piece of paper. He instructed each of the students to draw a picture of the person that they disliked the most. He told them to take their time and use details. The girl just knew that the professor was going to tell them a simple way to deal with the complicated person on her paper.

After everyone had their drawings completed, he pinned them to the front wall of the auditorium and allowed the students to throw darts at the face of the person they had admitted to disliking. Each student threw the darts. With each dart thrown, a certain amount of their anger and frustration was released.

Once the students felt they had gotten the best of the drawings, the professor turned each picture around so the back of the paper was visible. A picture of Jesus was printed on the reverse side. After each student precisely placed each and every dart so that it would do the most damage to the disliked person, the darts had made gashes and holes in the very face of the One they were called to serve. His face was ripped to shreds in each and every instance.

Even though everyone may not be the person that we want them to be, they are still loved by God. He loves each and every one of us with a love that cannot be compared to any other. His desire is for us to love each other with that same kind of love. Every dart that we may fire at someone we do not agree with, do not like, or just simply cannot stand; we fire straight at our Lord. He feels the hurt and pain that we cause others through our fleshly desires.

A Christian who truly loves God will also love His people. If you are struggling with loving someone, ask God to help you see them through His eyes. My God has a way of giving you 25/40 vision “...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

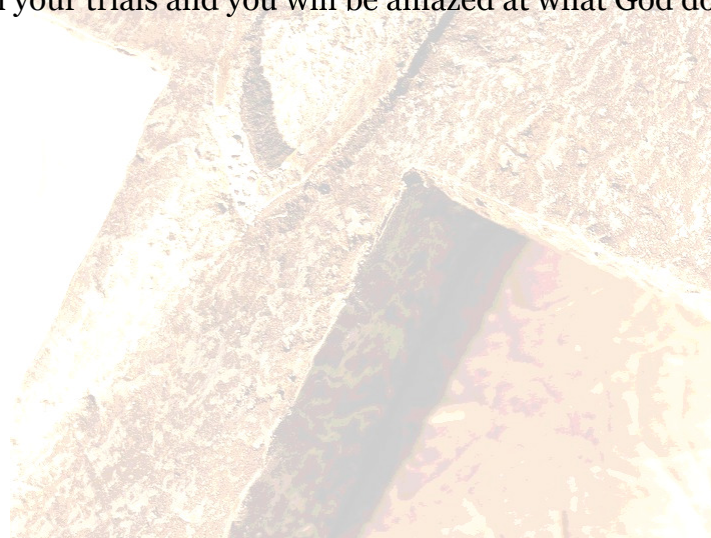
Day 38

Submitted by:

Cindy Johnson

James 1:2-4 "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

I was raised in a Christian home and had heard the word of God preached all my life. Yet, when faced with a tragedy at age 34 it took me sometime to apply everything I had learned in God's word. It was time for me to put it into practice. I thought I knew the Lord but my walk with Him was more shallow than I realized before the death of our baby. I realize now that this was a test of my faith and this was something God had allowed in order to "grow" me spiritually. He allows trials to come our way to teach us to persevere as this verse says and to make us more like Him. It's in our weakness that we draw closer to Him and he's able to reveal himself to us in ways like we have never experienced before. We become pliable in His hands as we yield to his will for our lives. Remember when a trial comes your way to allow God to do his greatest work in you; realizing that he wants to renew, restore, refine and revive you by his spirit. When we are weak he is strong! He sustains us; under-girds us and upholds us when we can't do it on our own. He is faithful and he is able to bring us through any trial that we face! He knows what is best for us and is working for our good. Make the choice to be better and not bitter when your are faced with a storm. Allow him to "grow" you spiritually through your trials and you will be amazed at what God does in you and through you.



Day 39

Submitted by:

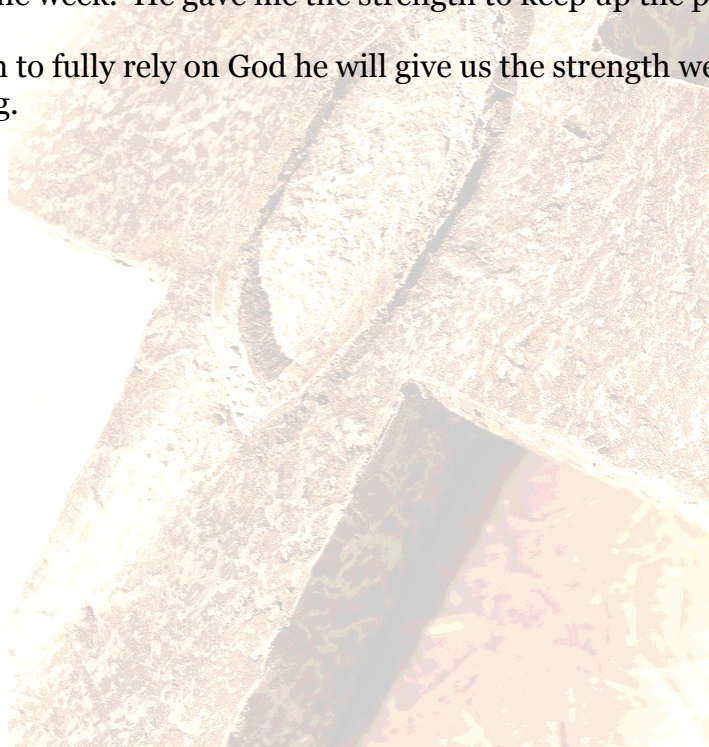


Amanda Colbough

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

I have been raised in church all of my life and this year when I felt the need to direct Bible School, I turned to the Lord and said, "You have got to give me the strength to withstand this enormous task." "I have never conducted, planned, or scheduled anything like this before." I truly trusted in the Lord to give me what I needed throughout the week of VBS and the previous months during the planning. I could feel Him lifting me each night and giving me what I needed for the next day. I would sit and the computer and the schedules, workers, and etc. would just come to me. I knew that the Lord was going to be in this Bible School because I was leaning on him to guide and direct. VBS was so rewarding and uplifting for me and I give God the credit for all of the outcomes during the week. He gave me the strength to keep up the pace.

If we will just learn to fully rely on God he will give us the strength we need to make it through everything.



Day 40

Submitted by:



Chip Montgomery

Romans 10: 9 -That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead thou, shalt be saved.

There's a great promise here. No matter what you have done, who you are, what income status you have, God will save you if you will confess Jesus. God doesn't ask us to understand how he raised Jesus from the dead, just believe it. By believing God we elevate our level of trust, when our trust in God is increased all things are possible.

