

# Program Transcripts

February 2026



IN  
**SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

# **SEARCH PROGRAMS**

**February 2026**

*Topics subject to change without notice*

## **FEBRUARY 1 – YOU CAN TRUST SCRIPTURE**

As a serious student of Scripture for more than fifty years, I have found the Scriptures to be utterly trustworthy. Since God is the author behind Scripture, we can count on the Scriptures to be accurate in all it teaches.

## **FEBRUARY 8 – GOD IS FAITHFUL**

God is good, and His steadfast love endures forever. You can count on God to keep His promises and to instruct us in the way that blesses everyone. God is trustworthy, and we need to put our trust in Him.

## **FEBRUARY 15 – HOMES FILLED WITH LOVE**

To have a home filled with love is certainly one of the greatest blessings of life. Love is a verb and it requires commitment by every member of the family. We will look at how we can build homes filled with love.

## **FEBRUARY 22 – EACH DAY WITH GOD**

Christianity is an everyday faith. It was never meant to be practiced only one day a week. It is a way of life.

## You Can Trust Scripture

The Bible clearly states that the source of Scripture is God Himself. 2 Timothy 3:16 to 17 says that, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." All Scripture includes both the Old and the New Testament. Now the Old Testament repeats more than 2600 times such expressions as "The Lord says," or "thus says the Lord," or "the word of God came saying..." Well the New Testament also recognizes the inspiration of scripture. When Scripture speaks, God is truly speaking.

Many think everything must be verified by science, as if scientific truth was the only way to know something. But written records verified by many witnesses in history and archaeology can also reveal the truthful facts. There are many facts recorded not only in Scripture but also in secular history and literature that reveal the Bible is trustworthy. Gary Habermas in his book, *The Historical Jesus*, reveals 129 facts about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus found in sources outside the New Testament. When historical records from many sources agree, we cannot take what is said lightly. Did you know the New Testament is the most attested book of all ancient literature?

Our reading today comes from 2 Peter chapter 1 verses 20 and 21. It's a brief reading but one that's very important to Peter. As it makes it clear about the bible.

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

This is an important lesson for us to know. Whatever is in scripture came through the Holy Spirit. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're so thankful that in Your wisdom You allowed us to have this eternal word in scripture so that we might know Your will and be able to please You. And Father we're thankful for all that the scripture does in our lives. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

God doesn't lie. The Bible doesn't state God is usually honest or mostly truthful. It says that lying is impossible for Him. Titus 1 and verse 2 calls Him "the God who cannot lie." Hebrews 6 and verse 18 says it is "impossible for God to lie." Numbers 23:19 hammers it home: "God is not a man, that He should lie." You see, God doesn't even want to be around those who lie. Revelation 21 and verse 8 reminds us, "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and sexually immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

When I think about, "Impossible for God to lie?" Think about that word impossible. You know it's not that God chooses not to lie because He's on His best behavior. You see lying is as foreign to God's very nature, as drying off is to a fish. A holy God and a falsehood simply cannot coexist in the same place, any more than light and darkness can share the same space. Psalm 5 and verse 4 says about God, "For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You." So when God speaks, whether from Moses or the prophets or the apostles, falsehood can't sneak in. Because our God cannot lie, the Bible gave us what He gave to us, will never deceive us with false information.

Psalm 19 verses 7 to 9 says that, "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether." When people fail to keep God's word, they generally begin hurting themselves.

James 1 verses 22 to 25 reminds us, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

It's not enough that God refuses to lie. He must also know what He's talking about. A sincere person can still be sincerely wrong. God, however, isn't blind or naive. Psalm 147:5 says that His understanding "has no limit." Romans 11:33 to 36 says, "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?' 'Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?'" I tell you God knows all things completely and perfectly. He would have to have unlimited knowledge to create our universe and life.

God also has a perfect knowledge of our hearts and thoughts. John 2 and verse 25 says about Jesus that He "needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man." Ah, God knows our thoughts, our intents, and our desires. Hebrews 4:13 reminds us, "And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account." We must give God the glory and the honor He deserves. If the all-knowing God is the ultimate Author behind every verse of scripture, then every historical detail, every doctrinal claim, every moral command is coming from the One who literally cannot be mistaken. Inerrancy isn't a theory that we dreamed up; it's what you get when omniscience puts its signature on a page.

A question we should ask is "How does the Lord Jesus view Scripture?" Well, Jesus treated the Bible as inerrant, that is without mistakes; and He knew the Scriptures better than anyone. I trust the One that God raised from the dead. The Lord Jesus said Scripture cannot be broken (John 10 verse 35). He silenced Satan three times with "It is written," treating every Old Testament quote as final authority. On another occasion Jesus told the Pharisees, "You nullify the word of God by your tradition," implying the written Word itself stands above human opinion and human tradition. On the road to Emmaus Jesus treated the entire Old Testament as a flawless roadmap pointing to Himself (Luke 24 and verse 27).

The Lord Jesus is God in human flesh. And if anyone ever had the right to say, "You know, Moses got a couple things wrong," it was the Lord. But instead Jesus doubled down on the total trustworthiness of the Scriptures that people already had, even the parts that skeptics love to mock, like Jonah in the big fish or Adam and Eve as real people. If Jesus is who He claimed to be, His view of Scripture settles the issue. You either accept His authority on the Bible or you reject His authority altogether. There's no neutral middle ground where you get to keep Jesus but reject inerrancy. When people sit in judgment of the truth of Scripture, they ignore the fact Scripture will be the criteria the Lord Jesus uses on Judgment Day!

Jesus quoted the Old Testament constantly and treated even the tense of a verb as decisive. You remember Jesus answered the Sadducees in Matthew 22:32, by quoting Exodus 3:6 where God identified Himself to Moses. God said, "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?" Well, Jesus made the point, "He is not God of the dead, but of the living." By quoting God saying "I am" instead of "I was" revealed the Sadducees were wrong; there is a resurrection of the dead. There is an afterlife. He said in Matthew 5 and verse 18 that not one tiniest pen stroke would disappear from the Law until everything was fulfilled. That's a staggering claim of precision if the manuscripts floating around first-century synagogues were riddled with serious mistakes. Yet Jesus staked His teaching on their accuracy. And how they were right.

God worked through real men—some educated like Paul, some fishermen like Peter, and some shepherds like Amos. He let their personalities and vocabularies show through. But all the while His Holy Spirit was superintending the process so that what they wrote was exactly what He wanted written. And it was down to the very words. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2 verses 12 to 13, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.”

Now this was in fulfillment of the promise of Jesus in John 16:12 to 13, “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.” Now God was behind everything that was to be written. Some folks say the word was corrupted by being passed down orally, but it was the Lord's will that what He said would be written down. You remember Jesus promised in Matthew 23:34 to send forth “scribes.” Well Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were all scribes. Matthew and John were not only scribes, they were eyewitnesses.

Luke explained how there were written accounts in Luke 1:1 to 4, “Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, (he said) it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.” Oh, God didn't leave us in the dark, trying to guess what His truth is! He revealed it for all time through the written word.

And what has survived to us today was not simply notes that some person made up. God was behind what would be His authoritative will. Peter, of course as I mentioned explains in 2 Peter 1:20 to 21, “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” The Spirit moved the men to write down what God willed. Many people want to make the Bible a human book, but the Spirit of God was behind all that was written.

Someone asks well, “Phil, what about all the contradictions in Scripture?” Well, a contradiction takes place when two opposing statements happen at the same time, about the same time about the same event. What many call contradictions are not really contradictions but a different emphasis on one point to the exclusion of another point of view? My friend, Eric Lyons of Apologetics Press has written three dynamic volumes of *The Anvil Rings* and he gives answers to alleged discrepancies in Scripture. And he does a good job. Gleason Archer in his *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* gives several reasons why people imagine a contradiction that is later shown not to be one. Yeah.

For instance, some see Jesus' prophecy about his upcoming death and resurrection in Matthew 12 and verse 40 as a contradiction to the facts. Jesus said, “For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” Well how could this be if Jesus was buried on Friday afternoon and rose early on Sunday? That's less than 40 hours not three full days and nights of 72 hours. For the Western mind, that's a problem, but not for the Eastern mind who calculated time differently. The Jews counted any part of a day as if it were the whole day. Though only a few hours on Friday would be counted as if were 24 hours. And though Jesus was twelve hours in the tomb on the first day of the week, that is from sun down to sun up, the Jews would have counted that as if it were a whole day. Well what is a thought to be a contradiction to the Western mind was never one to the Jews.

Now while some things seem almost impossible to the modern reader, Jesus never questioned the creation of male and female, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, crossing the Red Sea, eating manna for forty years, the fall of the walls of Jericho, or Jonah's three days in the belly of the great fish, and many other miraculous events recorded in Scripture. They aren't simply Bible stories; they are true events. The New Testament records the resurrection of Jesus Christ and how that provides credible evidence. Yes that Jesus really did indeed rise bodily from the dead. The empty tomb, the grave clothes in the tomb, and the unwavering testimony of the eyewitness disciples are not easily dismissed. The God who raised Jesus can give us a Scripture that we can trust. We can trust it.

In day to day life, once you say the Bible has errors in some places, then it stops being a God-given authority and simply becomes one voice among many that people can manipulate to say whatever they wish. And when that happens, the average person doesn't feel free; he feels confused and lost. The Bible ceases to be a rock that you can stand on and becomes a shifting sand dune. The Bible was never meant to change with the spirit of the age. No. Christianity is designed to transform every human culture to fit the will of God. Let's follow Christ.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that we have a word that we can trust. That You have been truthful to us and that You've given us Your will so that we might understand what You want from us and so that we may be able to please You. Help us Heavenly Father to always do Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

Do you believe the God who raised Jesus from the dead is wise enough and honest enough to give His people a Book they can trust completely? If your answer is yes—and the resurrection itself is powerful evidence that the answer should be yes—then inerrancy isn't a leap of blind faith. It's the only conclusion that fits the character of the God of the bible. You see the Bible is God-breathed. And because it comes from a God who does not lie, cannot lie, and has no need to lie, we can read it with the same confidence that the apostles showed when they stood together and proclaimed in Acts 2:32, "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses."

God is utterly trustworthy. He is able to deliver His Word free from error—all of it, right down to the last letter. If God has spoken to us clearly and truly, are you willing to trust and obey it? You know wise people hear the words of Jesus and do them. Hebrews 5 verses 8 to 9 says that, "Although He was a Son, He (Jesus) learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation." If we're going to follow Jesus, then we must learn to trust and obey just as Jesus did.

To follow Jesus one must believe that He is the crucified Savior and the Lord who rose from the dead. They must believe His teaching and repent of their sins. They must be willing to confess the Lord Jesus before others and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. In baptism God washes away our sins (Acts 2 verse 38 and 22:16). And He does it through the blood of Jesus our Savior. We are clothed with Christ in baptism (Galatians 3:27). We are buried and raised with Christ to walk in newness of life (Romans 6 verses 3 to 7).



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the title and main subject of this lesson?**

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**What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?**

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**If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?**

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**Why is this message important?**

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**Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?**

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**How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?**

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## God Is Faithful

God is described by a very beautiful word in the Old Testament. It is sometimes translated “lovingkindness,” sometimes “steadfast love,” and sometimes “mercy.” It reveals God’s loyalty and His faithfulness to His covenant people. Now this word is used twenty-six times in Psalm 136 declaring God’s loyal love, and how it endures forever. God understands our weaknesses and yet He loves us.

It’s also used to reflect God’s mercy and His forgiveness. And even when people sin, God is compassionate and forgiving. David proclaimed in Psalm 103:8 to 14 that, “The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust.”

Our reading today comes from Proverbs chapter 3 verses 5 to 8. And they show us the wisdom of God and the need to trust in God.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones.

That’s a reading from God’s holy word and lots of wisdom. Let’s pray together. Heavenly Father we’re thankful that we can always come to You and trust You. To know that Your promises are true. To know that Your word will never mislead us. Help us always to love You for all the lovingkindness that You have given to us. In Jesus name, Amen.

After the flood, when Noah came out of the ark, God promised in Genesis 8:22, “While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease.” Thousands of years have passed, and you know what, this is still true.

You see God made a promise to Abraham and Sarah that they would bear a child in their old age, when childbearing didn’t happen well they began to wonder. Romans 4:18 to 21 says, “In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “so shall your descendants be.” Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.”

Hebrews 11:11 reveals, “By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.” Sarah did conceive, and Isaac was born to them. Moses many years later could say about the Lord God in Deuteronomy 7 verse 9, “Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments.” David could say in Psalm 36:5, “Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.” Psalm 100 verse 5 says, “For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” Psalm 30 verse 5 says, “For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.”

In Isaiah 54 verse 10, God told Zion when they had strayed for a time, "For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, And My covenant of peace will not be shaken," Says the LORD who has compassion on you.

The psalmist said about God's word in Psalm 119 verses 89 and 90, "Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it stands."

When Jeremiah was broken-hearted over the destruction of Jerusalem he wrote the book of Lamentations, weeping over the devastation the people of Judah brought upon themselves by their sins. In spite of this Jeremiah wrote of hope and assurance in Lamentations 3:21 to 25. He says, "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.' Oh the LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him."

In the New Testament, God's faithfulness is demonstrated through various actions: providing for all people, and rewarding those who do His will, offering believers a way through temptation, and fulfilling His promises. So let's look at some of these promises.

You remember the Lord Jesus promised in Matthew 7:7 to 11, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or what person is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? So if you, despite being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"

Do you question whether we can know the will of God? Jesus spoke about this in John 7:17, he said, "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is of God, or I am speaking from Myself." Pick up your New Testament, read it, study it, and apply it to your life. And you'll see that what the Lord says is truly from God. Oh this is a practical challenge I know. Do what God wants you to do and you'll see it is truly His teaching.

Romans 8 and verse 28 says, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Not every experience is good; many things, in fact, are painful and difficult. God's love has a wonderful way of taking life's most unhappy problems and then using them for good. You know we think God must show His power to prevent every problem if His love is loyal. But when the all-powerful God is able to make eternal good out of those hurts, has He loved us any less. Paul said in Romans 8 and verse 18, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." The tests of today shape and mold our lives for an eternal life in heaven.

1 Peter is a book dealing with the challenges of his time in Rome with a world that didn't understand or appreciate Christianity. He wanted to prepare them for the challenges ahead. Now speaking about our salvation, Peter said in 1 Peter 1:6 to 7, "In this (salvation, he says) you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." God's allowing us to be tested is to ready us, prepare us, for something far greater and more blessed than we can know in this life.

When Paul was in chains in Rome and didn't know whether he would live or die, he was willing to accept whatever happened. Paul said in Philippians 1:21 to 24, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is

gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.”

God's wisdom ensures that He knows what's genuinely best for us. He always selects both “the best end” and “the best means” to accomplish it, with God's glory and with your transformation into Christ's likeness as His ultimate aim. He wants you to be like Him. Your immediate circumstances may seem senseless, but God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him.

1 Peter 4 and verse 19 says, “Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.”

God's love provides the emotional foundation for trust. Calvary is the undeniable demonstration of God's love. He loved you enough to give His Son when you were weak, ungodly, sinful, and even His enemy; and now in Christ He loves you more and more as His child. Having given such a priceless gift, that is His Son, He will also provide what we need and what will bless us. We must learn to be thankful for all things.

We all face difficult days and we wonder if God loves us, how could we face such heartache if He loves us? Some think if we suffer, then God ceases that love. Folks that's not true. Love doesn't remove every challenge or barrier, but God's loyal love does provide a presence and an assurance. That's always there. Romans 8 was written with the understanding that God's people would face great persecution in Rome in days to come. The inspired words that Paul writes gave the people hope and comfort, and it should comfort us as well.

Romans 8:35 to 39 says, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” (then he says) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

We should understand that even in the trials of life, God is at work for our good. James encourages us in James 1:2 to 4, “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet (various) trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness (patience) have its full effect that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” Rather than complain and whine about all our difficulties, let's see what good God can make of them and how He can help us become better people.

God's faithfulness is also demonstrated in times of temptation. 1 Corinthians 10:13 assures us that, “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.” The Lord knows that we all face temptation. Jesus himself faced temptation; and because He was tempted, He can help us when we are tempted. Hebrews 4 verses 15 to 16 says, “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

As Christians we may still fall weak to temptation and sin. The love of God doesn't quit on us. We do not have a cheap grace that asks nothing from us. 1 John 1 and verse 9 reminds us that, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Now we have to be honest with ourselves and with God and confess our wrongs. We must also repent.

If we're penitent, like the prodigal son who came home, forgiveness is still waiting for us. We must turn from our sins and come back to God. 2 Peter 3 and verse 9 says, "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." When we confess our sins, repent of them, and ask God's forgiveness as Christians, He will surely forgive us. You can count on His faithfulness.

Hebrews 10:23 to 25 encourages us, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." Oh the Lord wants His people to encourage each other, to gather for worship with one another. And being together helps us keep faith and hope alive. Just as God is faithful to us, God desires that we be faithful to Him.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father help us always to be faithful to You just as You have been faithful to us. To love You and serve You every day of our lives. In Jesus name, Amen.

Whether we live for the Lord matters. The Lord expects His people to act in faith and love, using their abilities to produce fruit. In Matthew 25, the Lord Jesus tells of the judgment of the three servants on whether they were faithful servants. Two servants produced, but one didn't. The Lord blessed the two faithful servants but He cast out the lazy one. You remember the Lord said to in Matthew 25:20 to 21 that, "The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' I tell you that's what I want to hear from my Master, and I want you to hear that too! Are you faithful?"

The apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 4 verses 6 to 8, "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing." Oh I hope that you too have stayed faithful and have the hope of heaven.

Believing in Jesus Christ, the Son of God is a lifelong pursuit. Repentance is also a lifelong pursuit. We must confess the Lord Jesus, that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10 verses 9 and 10). Then we must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins according to Acts 2:38. My friend be saved today!



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the title and main subject of this lesson?**

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**What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?**

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**If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?**

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**Why is this message important?**

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**Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?**

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## Homes Filled with Love

As Christian husbands and wives, we should do what is right, even when doing what is right is hard. Jesus set the example. In 1 Peter 2:21 to 23 it says, "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly." Jesus loved us even when we were unlovely and sinful. He died for us, even when we were helpless and ungodly. And we too should trust in God.

All marriages go through rough spots and challenges. I know sweet Jackie and I have had our share of parenting responsibilities, financial challenges, and health problems. I'm certainly not the perfect husband, and Jackie has had to put up with all my weaknesses. But through it all, we've never forgotten the commitment that we made to each other in the presence of God and witnesses. Both of us vowed to love and respect each other. And when we turn to Scripture, love and respect are the key to happiness in Scripture.

Our reading today comes from Ephesians chapter 5 verses 22 to 27. And there God gives His inspired instructions to husband and wives.

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

That's a reading from God's holy word. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You have given us the way for homes to be filled with love and respect for each other. And help us Heavenly Father to love You and to love those who are in our family from our hearts and to respect them. In Jesus name, Amen.

The Scriptures teach that the husband is the head of his wife, and she is to be subject to him. Now in our day, when equality seems to be so important, some imagine it's unfair that God gave authority to husbands over their wives. Well this authority, however, never gives men the right to abuse or dominate their wives. Any man who treats the woman he married unkindly is breaking God's laws. He not only is disobeying God, he's also deceiving himself. Only a fool believes abusing his wife will be a benefit to him. Wise husbands know that the better they treat their wives, the more their wives will respond with love and respect.

When husbands fail to love their wives, their wives react with behavior that shows a lack of respect. When husbands sense a lack of respect from their wives, they often act in ways that are unloving. So these feelings of being disrespected or unloved tear apart the marriage. But when husbands show love and wives show respect and love, the marriage prospers and develops. You can make your marriage brighter and better, husbands, if you can learn to demonstrate Christian love to your wife.

If a disrespected husband will love his wife anyway, and if a wife who feels unloved will love and respect her husband anyway, they can restore their damaged marriage. A wise husband pays attention to his wife. He's able to see what she needs to be happy. Every woman needs to feel that her husband is close to her and cares about her. Many husbands keep their distance from their wives, and then their

wives feel unloved. Wives need husbands who will open up enough to share their thoughts and feelings. She feels unwanted or unneeded when he closes up and shuts her out of his life. When he keeps his life secret from her, she feels that he doesn't love her enough to trust her. Wives need to know their husbands are loyal to the marriage, that he's not looking elsewhere. She also needs to know that he sees her as the most important person in his life (except for God). She needs to know that he cherishes and honors her.

The most important thing a husband can do is love his wife. 1 Corinthians 13:4 to 8 says that, "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." Love may start with a warm feeling, but we have to learn how to love our wives; and wives have to learn how to love their husbands. Some folks are harder to love than others, and love will require lots of patience and kindness.

Love demands that we set "ourself" aside. I can't love someone else if selfishness and self-centeredness is the way that I live. Love rules out envy, arrogance and rudeness. It learns to let small things slide and not be irritated all the time. Love puts up with many demands, believes and hopes the best for others, and endures. Love is the determination to put the best interests of another before our own, regardless of the cost. Jesus loved the church like that, and He asks husbands to love their wives that same way.

Now loving your wife involves taking the time to be close to her and to listen. The happiest couples spend time with each other, talking and listening to each other. Husbands and wives should spend a good while each day in meaningful conversation. Turn the tv off, get away from the computer, and talk face to face. A wise husband will take the time to share his life with the woman that he loves. He wants to know about her and is willing to invest his life in her by listening. To fail to pay attention to your wife is to say to her that you don't care what she has to say. Such behavior is abusive not loving.

James said in James 1:19 to 20, "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires." Much of the anger in our homes would go away if people would take the time to listen and to understand the people they love. Listen to your spouse; let her finish her sentences. Don't act rashly or hastily. Try to understand her point of view. It's easy to make assumptions about what some matter, and a whenever the reality is really very different than what you think it is. That's why you need to ask and listen.

Treat her with kindness. 1 Peter 3 and verse 7 says: "Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." Some men have the awful attitude, thinking because they are the head of the wife that this position of authority gives them the right to dominate or abuse their wives. Any man who treats his wife like a doormat is violating the will of God. Abusive power is a marriage killer. Husbands, treat your wife kindly, tell your wife how important and valuable she is to you. Watch for the loving smile on her face when you do!

King Lemuel in Proverbs 31:10 to 11 said, "An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain." Notice how the wise husband trusts his wife's judgments and realizes how fortunate he is to have her. It's foolishness for a man to expect his wife to love him and meet all his needs, while he treats her unkindly. Husbands, love your wives.

Jesus taught, "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7 and verse 12). I'm amazed how good and kind people can

be to those outside the family but treat their own families with disrespect. If we could see how we treat our families, we might be shocked. If we had a recording of our words or a video of our actions, we might see ourselves the way our families see us. Some folks never consider how difficult they make their family's lives. That's why, every now and then, it's good for all of us to take a long look at how we have treated our families. Empathy is the ability to see things through the eyes of another and to feel what he or she is feeling. Sometimes we look at ourselves through other's eyes. And when we do that, what will we see? Will we like what we see?

A wise husband will also be the spiritual leader in his home. It's spiritually important for couples to spend time together singing, praying, and reading the Bible. There's great value in a husband and wife privately praying together every day. Prayer allows husbands and wives to take their burdens together to God the Father. It allows them to express in each other's presence and in the presence of God their concerns and their needs.

When two people pray with each other, they develop a spiritual intimacy and unity that builds their relationship. Christian marriages, where God is the center of the home, where love and where patience and forgiveness are present, and where God's laws are obeyed, almost never end in divorce. God's ways are not only right ways; they are the best ways. When people truly live out their faith, the way God intended, they find their marriages to be the happiest and most loving. Husbands, do your best to make your home what God would have it to be. Be the spiritual leader in your home. God's way is truly, truly, a way of blessing.

Peter said in 1 Peter 3:1 to 6: "Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives—when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair, the wearing of gold, or the putting on of clothing—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening." Sarah is an ideal for Christian wives to follow. As an apostle Peter was inspired of God and as an elder, Peter himself was married. He knew the great blessing of having a good wife.

Solomon said much about wives in the book of Proverbs. Solomon, of course, had 700 wives and 300 concubines. And while I don't recommend that, I know Solomon had been given the wisdom of God; and we can learn from God through him. Solomon said in Proverbs 12 verse 4, "An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who shames him is as rotteness in his bones." In Proverbs 18:22 Solomon said that, "He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD"; but in 19:13 he said, "a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping." Just like a dripping faucet, a quarrelsome wife is a constant irritation. Proverbs 19:14 says that, "Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD." A man who has a godly and wise wife is doubly blessed. King Lemuel, not Solomon, in Proverbs 31 gave a marvelous insight into a virtuous woman. He said in Proverb 31:30, "Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised" (that's Proverbs 31 verse 30).

What kind of wife does God wish women to be? Paul says wives should show respect for their husbands. Many women find it hard to respect men. Some have stereotyped men as crude or juvenile, unworthy of respect. Masculinity, as a whole, has been under attack in our culture. Some actually think we don't need men at all; but humanity couldn't function or reproduce itself without men. Many men work very hard and sacrifice a great deal to provide for their wives and families. Many men spend hours

caring for their wives and children every day. Many men are sensitive and understanding when they need to be and firm when they need to be. Men who love their wives and live the Christian life of honesty, integrity and purity will be men worthy of respect. Some men, sadly, live without integrity or purity. They treat their wives harshly. And I think how tragic! Wives, however, should still respect their husbands.

Why do say that? How can a wife respect her husband when he doesn't deserve it? Well, she gives him respect, both because of who he is and because of who she is. She gives her husband respect, because she belongs to God and it's God's will. We must do what is right regardless of what others do. And just as I'd tell a husband to love a wife that is hard to love, I'd tell a wife to respect her husband even when he is hard to respect. Paul said in Ephesians 5:33, "Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband."

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we pray that we can be good husbands and wives. That we can love each other, that we can respect each other, that we can grow in love with each other. And Father help us to keep our homes together in Your sight. Because we love You and we want Your blessing. In Jesus name, Amen

If you want a better marriage, start looking at yourself. How are you treating your spouse? Why not analyze and evaluate yourself? You can improve your marriage best by starting with yourself, rather than pointing the finger at your mate. Let's clean up our own lives before we focus on the faults of our spouses. Women, do you show respect to your husband? Men, do you show love to your wife? Men are you meeting your wife's needs for love and attention, and women are you honoring your husband by meeting his needs?

We can't change our spouses by making unreasonable demands, but we can change ourselves. And when we make changes for the better in ourselves, our spouses will appreciate those changes and will want to change for the better as well. Improving our marriages begins with improving our hearts. Nothing makes a better, more giving and more loving heart, than entering into a loving relationship with God. When the love of God is in your heart, you will become a more loving and respectful person to your family.

Does the love of God live in you? Are you a committed Christian? To become a Christian you must love and have faith in the Lord. And it has to be in your heart and it has to be real. When you love the Lord Jesus Christ and you love God that means turning away from the sinful and hurtful ways of the world and embracing the loving and righteous ways of Christ. We call that repentance, a change of heart that leads to a change of life. And upon your repentance and a confession of your faith, the Lord asks you to be baptized in His name, immersed in water for the forgiveness of your sins. Now in baptism you'll be united with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection according to Romans 6:3 to 7. The Lord will wash away your sins and He will add you to His church. You'll be in the family of God. I hope you'll come to Christ today.



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?**

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**If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?**

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**Why is this message important?**

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**How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?**

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## Every Day with God

The Lord Jesus said to all in Luke 9:23 to 25, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" Christianity was never meant to be temporary, occasional, or weekly faith. It was meant to be an everyday religion and everyday faith that requires a person to deny himself and take up his cross, yes, every single day. Following Jesus is a complete commitment to Christ, just as He completely committed Himself to us. He denied Himself and bore a cross, and He has a cross for us.

And what we do each day determines the direction of our lives. People who are healthy physically practice healthy habits daily. They exercise, drink plenty of water, take their vitamins, and watch what they eat. They realize their daily habits matter, so they discipline themselves in order to maintain good health. Well, in the same way, Christians must discipline themselves to keep themselves spiritually healthy. Each day we must decide to walk with and serve the Lord. Each day we must deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him.

Our reading today comes from Hebrews 3:12 to 15 and gives us bit of a warning that we need to take seriously.

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME."

That's a great, great challenge to us to everyday keep our faith strong. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that You encourage us to do what is right everyday. To keep our hearts soft. To love You. To never fail You. To stay close to You and faithful. In Jesus name, Amen.

What can we do today to serve the Lord? How can we walk with Him in the light and become more like Him? You have to decide today what you're gonna do. There is no reason to put off what you can do. Start small and grow in faith and love and hope. You can do this by walking every day with God. Every day we first need to let God speak to us through His written word. That's how God speaks today. Hebrews 1:1 to 2 says that, "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world." Today, we listen to the Lord Jesus Christ. Stop listening to people who call themselves prophets. Instead open the Scriptures for yourselves.

Paul instructed Timothy in 2 Timothy 2 and verse 15, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." We must know what God's word actually says. Psalm 119:105 teaches us that God's "word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." When churches only had a single copy of Scripture Paul urged Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching." We need God's written word for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness so that we can become complete as servants of God.

Psalm 1 verses 1 to 3 says, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers." I tell you if we want to prosper as God's people, we must meditate on God's word every day.

Now to follow God, we must second, every day pray to our Father. 1 Thessalonians 5:16 to 18 says, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." I tell you a day without prayer is a day of weakness. God can help you, bless you, guide you, and protect you; but if you ignore or neglect Him, you'll rob yourself of all the good He could do for you. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:7 to 8, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Trust in the Lord each day to answer your prayers.

Jesus in Luke 18 verses 1 to 8 told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' For a while he (that is the judge) refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.' " And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

James 5:16 to 18 reminds us, "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Now Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit."

To walk with God each day, third recall God's goodness and give thanks. James 1:17 says that, "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." You know what if we spent our time counting our blessings rather than complaining, we would be much happier people. Philippians 4 and verse 8 says, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." People who have no room in their hearts for good things often turn away from God, oh yes.

Every day give thanks. When you think of all the good God has done for you, it will lead you to want to do good and to abstain from evil. Romans 2 and verse 4 reminds us, "Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?" The more you count blessings, the more you will love God and want to please Him.

To walk with God each day, fourth, worship regularly with the people of God. Christians need each other's faith and example. Proverbs 27 and verse 17 says that, "Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another." Through the years, the people of God have been a great source of love and fellowship. And so Hebrews 10:23 to 25 says, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Sadly, many people who call themselves Christian or wear a cross aren't followers of Jesus in their hearts. Others follow the world and believe false doctrines. We must let our light shine, even if others don't. Faithful and godly people who are true Christians are a blessing to everyone. And God wants His people to strengthen one another. We need one another. And so let's draw close to God and to the faithful

and we should encourage those who are weak and need to grow. And help them to become what they ought to be.

Each day, we must, fifth, say something good for God. Yes. A good word about God will go a long way for those who need to know Him. 1 Peter 3 and verse 15 says, "but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence." There are people who are searching for truth and for God. And your example and a good word for God could make a difference to some lost soul. Colossians 4:5 to 6 reminds us, "Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

Christians must be soul winners for Jesus by their words and their behavior. Christ gave us our marching orders in Matthew 28:19 to 20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." The gospel remains the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1 verse 16). And we must also think of those who wander from the truth. James 5 verses 19 to 20 says, "My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins."

Oh we must teach and preach the word of God. We must also defend what we know to be true and show the errors of false teaching. Jude 3 says, "Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints." When people teach what is false, it can cost them their souls. Galatians 1:8 to 9 says, "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!"

Now to live each day with God, we must, sixth, do good for others. Galatians 6:9 to 10 says, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we don't give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." The people of God bless others with their lives.

The Lord Jesus said to those who follow Him in Matthew 25:34 to 40, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

To live each day with God, we must, seventh, give ourselves to God. Romans 12:1 to 2 says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." When we live righteous lives, we show the world what God wills. God's way is good, acceptable, and perfect. And nothing else compares. People bless others, when they first give themselves to God. 2 Corinthians 8 verses 1 to 5 there we're told about the Corinthians who gave beyond their ability. Or the Macedonians rather who gave beyond their ability to others, because they first gave themselves to God.

Paul quotes the Lord Jesus in Acts 20 and verse 35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Now God loves those who give generously of themselves to bless other people. Yes. 2 Cor. 9:6 to 8 says that, "He who sows sparingly (you know what some people are, are sparingly they) will also reap sparingly, (yes) and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (and so he says) So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly (no) or of necessity; (no) for God loves a cheerful giver. (yes) And God is able (2 Corinthians 9 verse 8) to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." Let's give ourselves to God. Let's give ourselves to God every single day. Let's say a good word, let's help others, let's be the people that God would have us to be. Who study His word and to pray to Him without ceasing. Let's be the kind of people who show our love for God by everyday by focusing upon what He has done for us. And how we should live for Him.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful for all the good that You have done for us. And help us every day to put You first, to live for You and to love You with all our heart and soul. In Jesus name, Amen.

If the Lord asks you to deny yourself and take up your cross daily, when will you begin? Why not today? Many people speak of their past accomplishments in Jesus Christ, as if Christianity were something that one does once and then can quit. I've known people who were baptized many years ago but haven't served the Lord since. They began a walk with the Lord but drifted back into the world. If you've never become a Christian, take up your cross today. If you drifted away from your commitment, then why not take up your cross right now and begin starting and doing what's right?

Hebrews 2 verses 1 to 3 says, "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect so a great salvation?" When people drift away from God, they put their souls in danger. They'll not be able to escape the result of the daily choices they make, unless they repent. God means what He says.

God's grace is abundant, but it requires response. We can't earn our salvation, no, but we must respond to God's gifts. We respond first by placing our trust in Jesus Christ, repenting of our sins that offend Him, confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Baptism is the time when our old man of sin dies, when we're freed from sin, and when we're born again, and when God grants us newness of life (that's John 3 and verse 5 and Romans 6:3 to 7). Christians sin even after they're baptized into Christ, yes. And so when Christians sin, they need to confess their sins, repent, and pray to God for forgiveness. My friend get right with God today!



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