

Program Transcripts

June 2026



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY[®]

SEARCH PROGRAMS

June 2026

Topics subject to change without notice

JUNE 7 – DO YOU KNOW JESUS?

How well do you know the Jesus Christ revealed in the New Testament? Some think they know all about Him, but do they really know Him? In this lesson we're going to explore what it means to know the Son of God.

JUNE 14 – PRESUMPTION

People commonly take things for granted, presuming they know what will happen in the future or presuming everything will be okay. They are surprised when they find out God has different plans and different values.

JUNE 21 – THY WILL BE DONE

At the hardest moments of His life, the Lord Jesus prayed to the Father, "Thy will be done." We want to be able to say "Thy will be done," when we are facing uncertain times as well. We know God is always in control. We must trust Him.

JUNE 28 – WHAT NOW?

Hard times come to all of us. What do you do when life crashes in all around you? There is an answer in the word of God and help from your Father in heaven who loves you. Trust the Lord to give you comfort and strength.

Do You Know God?

How well do you know the Jesus Christ revealed in the New Testament? Hello, I'm Phil Sanders. And this is a Bible study, "In SEARCH of the Lord's Way." Some think they know Jesus, but do they really? Stay with us and find out.

Now, one way to know someone is to pay attention to what he says and does. The Bible reveals the words and the actions of the Lord Jesus. Scripture reveals what we most need to know, to believe, and to practice. Because of the Scriptures, we can know His will and how to please Him. Pleasing God is our passion.

Do you mind if I ask you some important questions? Today is a good day to evaluate your relationship with Jesus Christ. How well do you really know the Lord? Many know some facts about Jesus. They know He was born in Bethlehem, taught great moral lessons, died on the cross, and was resurrected on the third day. Many realize that He's coming again to judge the world. But how well do you know the heart of the Lord Jesus? Do you know His teaching, what He stood for, and what He called sin? Do you know what He valued, and what He loved, and what He despised? Do you call Him your friend? Does He think of you as His friend?

Some people imagine the Christ they want to exist rather than accept the Jesus Christ of the Bible. They want a Christ who is all grace and no repentance. They want a Christ who is like a genie in a bottle who expects nothing of them and then makes no restrictions on them. The Christ they want, however, is not the Christ revealed in the New Testament. We want to know Christ for who He really is. Do you know the Lord Jesus as well as you'd like? How committed are you to a better knowledge of Christ?

Our reading today comes from Hebrews chapter 2 verses 1 to 4. In the first chapter Jesus is described as the son of God. And so verse one of chapter 2 says.

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

That's a great, great statement of the word of God and it's power in our lives. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father help us never to drift away from the things that we have heard in word. Help us to be faithful and to serve You and to listen and never drift. Help us Heavenly Father to love You and to love others. In Jesus name, Amen.

Deuteronomy 29:29 says that, "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law." God's Word is a marvelous gift to help us understand. It provides God's wisdom, His efforts to save us, and His inexhaustible love for us. The Bible provides an unsurpassed moral law, helping to bring out the very best in us. The Lord Jesus said in John 6:63, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Jesus came to give us life, and the way we come to know about and enjoy that life is through His words.

The prophet Jeremiah reveals how important knowing God truly is. He said in Jeremiah 9:23 to 24, "Thus says the LORD, 'Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and

knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,' declares the LORD."

The more you study the Bible, the more you see the greatness and the wisdom of God! Paul proclaimed in Romans 11:33 to 36, "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? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."

People who neglect to study God's Word cheat themselves out of a great storehouse of wisdom and knowledge. People study what they love or what seems significant to them. And one day the most significant matter will be where our souls spend eternity. It won't matter what's in the bank, where we live, or what position we have. The only thing that will matter is our relationship with the Lord and whether we belong to Him. This book, the Bible, opens up the way to eternal life. For this reason, we must treasure it in our hearts.

Some Christians study a little but never get as deep into the Word as they ought. The writer of the book of Hebrews saw some Christians were drifting in their faith and lacking commitment—much like many today. He said in Hebrews 5:12 to 14, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil." Studying the Word helps us mature and gives us the wisdom to discern right from wrong.

Knowing Christ was more important to the apostle Paul than anything. And Paul defended himself against some Jewish Christians who criticized him by revealing his Jewish background. He said in Philippians 3 verses 3 to 6, "for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more (he says): circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless."

Now these were not small matters to a Jew. Being a Hebrew of Hebrews meant he retained his dedication to the Law, even though he grew up in a Greek city. He spoke Hebrew and was a student of the great Jewish teacher, Gamaliel. Paul was a Jew to his very core. Paul could boast a deep and spotless Jewish record; but this meant nothing to him. He wanted Christ!

Paul said in Philippians 3:7 to 11, "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead." What are you willing to give up to know Jesus Christ? At the resurrection, you'll wish you had done like the apostle Paul and had given up everything to know Christ.

How can we know Jesus Christ? Well, you won't know Him by simply reasoning on your own. Some think they can know God by observing nature. Now I love the great outdoors, the woods, the lakes. One can learn a few things about God from nature. Romans 1:18 to 20 says: "For the wrath of God is revealed

from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

Nature teaches us the existence of an all-knowing, all powerful, all-wise God, who created the universe to bless us, but nature cannot teach us all we need to know about Him as a person or how to have eternal life. 1 Corinthians 1:21 says, “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.” God chose the gospel message to save us. We must know the Lord’s message to know the Lord.

The Bible says in Romans 10:14 to 17, “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?’ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ (or the word of God).” The more you study, the deeper your faith will be and the better you’ll know Christ.

John wrote in John 20:30 to 31, “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” While the Bible does not reveal everything that Jesus did or said, it is sufficient to lead us to faith and to eternal life.

Scripture praises the Bereans in Acts 17 verse 11. It says, “Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.” They wanted to know the truth about Jesus, so they examined the Scriptures to find the truth. They weren’t content merely to hear Paul; they checked Paul out. And we too must examine what we hear to determine if it’s true to God’s Word. Many just accept what some preacher or their church says. They don’t realize that this could lead to error or give them false hope. Scripture helps us see the difference between what God says and what people are saying. Even many who are religious and at church say things never found in Scripture.

You see, the devil loves to pretend he is religious, but he counterfeits Christianity. Paul dealt with people who were frauds. He explains in 2 Corinthians 11:13 to 15, “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.” Now these false apostles exploited the people, trying to get them to follow their deceitful ways and false teaching. My friend the devil is not your friend; he’ll do anything to keep you from knowing the truth of the gospel. Can you distinguish the real Jesus Christ from the fraudulent Satan? What some criticize in religion didn’t come from Jesus but from Satan.

The Lord Jesus exposed the devil in John 8:44. The Lord said, “He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” The devil tells people to buy into his lies. And many of these are lies about Jesus Christ. People who don’t study can easily fall for a half-truth. People fall for the lie, for instance, that “Faith alone saves.” John 3:36 says that, “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” It takes more than faith to please God. The grace of our Lord Jesus never works without love, repentance, or obedience. Never.

I hear people say, “once-saved always saved”; but the Scriptures deny this. Hebrews 3:12 to 13 says to Christians, “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.” Christians who live in sin and disobedience certainly can be hardened and fall away from God.

I hear people say, “well it doesn’t matter what you believe” but where do you read this in Scripture? Where? Some think you can believe anything and still be saved. Jesus, however, told the Jews in John 8:24, “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, (that is the Messiah the son of God) you will die in your sins.” Believing what Jesus says is just as important as believing in who Jesus is. Matthew 7:24 says the wise man hears the Lord’s words and does them.

Paul urged Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15 to “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.” We must know the Word well enough to separate the truth from error. We must handle the truth accurately and not be persuaded by people who don’t know the Bible or by what applied to Jews in the Old Testament but not applying to us as Christians in the New Testament. You know if we don’t study for ourselves, we may be deceived. The Lord expects us to search the Scriptures so that we might know the truth. Are you studying God’s Word daily? Oh my, it’s important that you do.

Let’s pray. Father we’re so grateful that You gave us Your word. That we may know Your will and what pleases You. Help us Heavenly Father to devote ourselves to following Your son Jesus. To listening to His words and to loving Him, loving You and loving others. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Some claim to know Christ but don’t really know Him. Scripture is actually what determines who knows Christ and who doesn’t. 1 John 2:3 to 6 says, “And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, ‘I have come to know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”

Knowing Christ means keeping His commandments. Obeying the Lord shows our love is full-grown for Christ. People who disobey but claim to know the Lord shame the name of the Lord. Loving the Lord means living as a Christian every day. It means turning away from sin and following the Lord with a whole heart. People who claim they know Christ but live lawless lives, sinful lives, will one day hear the Lord say, “I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.” Knowing Christ will matter at Judgment Day.

To become a Christian, trust in the Lord, repent of your sins, turn from what’s evil, and turn to what’s right, confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, and then to be baptized into Christ. That is in the name of Christ and to do in a way that the bible teaches. Romans 6 teaches us that baptism is a burial, an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ. And Acts 2:38 says it’s for the forgiveness of your sins. Now in baptism the Lord will wash away your sins. He will add you to the church. Oh nothing is more important than having a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

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

Why is this message important?

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

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Presumption

The Bible treats presumption as a serious offense. We're presumptuous when we are kind of defiant and disregard God's authority and His commands. In religious matters, presumption involves risking the breaking of God's commandments and then still expecting His love and grace. Now rather than listen to God, we do things the way we want or the way we were taught by others. And so we become presumptuous. Presumptuous sins must be distinguished from sins of ignorance or weakness; they are committed knowingly, deliberately, rebelliously, and sometimes repeatedly.

People become presumptuous when they imagine using their talents is more important than God's laws. When churches put pleasing people over the express teaching of the word of God, they become presumptuous. Presumption describes a condition where someone expects God's mercy and salvation without respecting His ways. It's presumptuous to expect pardon without repentance or obedience. Some believe that God will accept them no matter what they do, so they do what they desire rather than listening to God.

We've all seen people cut in line, run red lights, or assume someone's identity. You may have had some unauthorized person use the information on your debit card to buy something. They presumed that they could do as they please rather than respect what is right. People also take for granted they can sin against God, but God always knows.

Our reading today comes from Psalm 19 verses 9 to 13. And they talk about how we should respond to God. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward. Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me; Then I will be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.

That's Psalm 19. A wonderful psalm of David. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that Your word gives us such clear, clear understanding of what You would have us to do and to be. Father help us never to be presumptuous or to take for granted the things that we have in You and in Christ Jesus. Help us always to be obedient to Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

Psalm 19:13 says, "... keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me; Then I will be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression." Presumptuous sins are great transgressions. They can rule over you, if you let them. You can become arrogant or develop selfish ambition and forsake God. Pride often clouds judgment and leads people to ignore or forsake the ways of God. There are numerous examples of pride and presumption in Scripture. You remember after the flood, the family of Noah were commanded in Genesis 9 and verse 7 to "be fruitful and multiply; populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it." Well instead the people remained together.

And in Genesis 11 and in verse 4 they said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." They defied God, so God confused their language and scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

In Leviticus chapters 8 and 9, Aaron and his sons did just as the Lord commanded. That's mentioned ten times. But Leviticus 10 verses 1 and 2 says, "Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange (or unauthorized) fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD." Nadab and Abihu acted

on their own initiative and offered strange or unauthorized fire before the Lord. And they were punished on the spot. God expects people to worship as He commands and not offer strange worship.

Now after Samuel anointed Saul as king of Israel, he told Saul, "go down before me to Gilgal; and behold, I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings. You shall wait seven days until I come to you and show you what you should do" (1 Sam. 10 verse 8). Well, Saul, however, did not fully do what Samuel told him to do. He waited seven days, the appointed time; but Samuel took his time coming to Gilgal. Consequently, the people were scattering from their new king. So Saul said, "Bring to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings." And Saul offered the burnt offering on his own authority. Samuel said to Saul in 1 Samuel 13:13, "You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you, for now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not endure."

On a later occasion, when Saul presumptuously failed to obey the Lord and fully destroy the Amalekites, Samuel told Saul in 1 Samuel 15:22 to 23, "Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king."

In 2 Samuel 6 David tried to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem on an ox cart. Now, the oxen stumbled and Uzzah reached out to steady the ark, then God's anger burned against him, striking him dead for his "irreverence" (2 Samuel 6 and verse 7). Now this appears harsh; Uzzah was trying to protect a sacred object. But Uzzah was never to touch the ark and he knew that. David used an oxcart to carry the Ark, when the Scriptures clearly demand the Kohathites were to carry the ark on the poles. What David did then was presumptuous by the oxcart; he thought he had a better way to carry the ark. And he didn't listen to what God wanted.

Later King Ahaz in 2 Kings 16 decided to add a copy of the pagan altar that he saw in Damascus to the temple in Jerusalem for the people to use instead of the Lord's bronze altar. He didn't do what was right in the sight of the Lord.

In 2 Chronicles 26:16, we have the situation where King Uzziah grew proud and acted corruptly. He was unfaithful to the Lord his God, "for he enter the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense." Now as a son of David, he was of the tribe of Judah not a Levite priest. And because he acted presumptuously, God made him a leper and cut him off from the house of the Lord.

False prophets arose in the Old Testament and spoke presumptuously. Moses warned in Deuteronomy 18 verse 20, "But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die." He explains in verse 22, "When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."

Now many people call themselves prophets today, but they are often speaking out of their own imagination not from God. This isn't new. Jeremiah 23:16 says: Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; They speak a vision of their own imagination, Not from the mouth of the LORD." God didn't speak to these prophets or send them. Now according to verse 26 they "prophesy falsehood, even these prophets of the deception of their own heart."

Now people might say well, "Phil, you're using Old Testament examples; we're not under the Old Testament anymore." Well, I realize that we're under the new covenant, but Paul said to the church at

Rome in Romans 15:4, "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." Now while we aren't under the old covenant of Israel, we can learn the ways of God by studying the Old Testament.

The Lord Jesus cleansed the temple of the money changers and those who sold animals for sacrifices. The Lord said to those who were selling doves in John 2 and verse 16, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business." Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 presumed that they could lie about their gift and test the Spirit of the Lord, but both of them fell down and breathed their last, their last breath. The church at Corinth became puffed up over the man who had become sexually immoral with his father's wife in 1 Corinthians 5, but the apostle Paul judged the man's sins and delivered him over to Satan. Diotrophes in the book of 3 John loved to be first among the brethren and would not listen to the apostle John. He was domineering with others and John said that he would deal with him when he came to the church.

Jezebel in Revelation 2 called herself a prophetess but led and taught people to be sexually immoral and eat things sacrificed to idols; and the church tolerated her. The Lord said in Revelation 2:21 to 23, "I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds." The Lord sees and knows what's happening in the churches.

People sometimes presume they can live in the grace of God and don't need to repent of their sins. This will cause many to be rejected on the Day of Judgment and lost eternally. Hebrews 10:26 to 27 says, "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries." It's foolish, my friend to presume that you have the grace of God when you aren't willing to live under the rule of God. People are often presumptuously keeping traditions that come from men not God. They think somethings has been believed and practiced for many generations and so it must be all right with God. And they're deceived; you see, time doesn't change God's laws. Here are some examples:

It's presumptuous to give religious leaders titles like "Reverend" or "Father." Jesus said in Matthew 23:9, "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven." God is reverend (Psalm 111:9 KJV); men are men and they not gods.

It's presumptuous to worship in song with instruments. There are no commands, examples, or an inference the early church ever worshiped with instruments of music. Hebrews 13:15 says, "Through Him then (that is Jesus), let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name." Now we can read in the New Testament of singing and speaking but not of playing instruments of music.

It's presumptuous for women to assume leadership roles in the worship or the leadership of the church. Everyone lives under the rule of the Lord Jesus. 1 Corinthians 14:34 says that, "The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says." Now Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14:37 that the things he writes are the Lord's commandment." Paul also said in 1 Timothy 2:11 to 12 that, "A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet."

It's presumptuous to believe that all churches are alike. Why they have different names, they believe different doctrines, they practice different things. Jesus calls those who call themselves Christians to deny themselves and take up their crosses daily, and follow Him. Cultural churches that ignore Scripture are being presumptuous. Romans 12 and verse 2 says, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

It's presumptuous to substitute sprinkling or pouring for immersion in baptism. The word baptize (baptidzo) means to cause to dip, to immerse in water. If the Lord had wanted sprinkling, he would have used the word rhandidzo; and if He wanted us to pour water, He would have used the word cheo. Baptize is a specific word that means to put under the water. Being buried with Christ in baptism is different than sprinkling or pouring.

And it's presumptuous to baptize an infant who cannot believe and has never sinned. Philip baptized both men and women when they believed, not infants or small children (Acts 8 verse 12). The words men and women refer to people who are at least someone who has reached their teen years. They were old enough to believe. They were old enough to repent. We have no record in the New Testament of infant baptism. This practice gave rise to the false teaching that children are born in sin. They are not born sinners. Jesus said in Matthew 19 and verse 14, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Nothing about baptism mentioned. But let them come to Him so He could pray for them. I tell you little children already belong to the Lord.

Now it's foolish to presume that you have eternal life when you aren't willing to hear or obey the Lord Jesus. Jesus said, "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful for Your love for the joy that we have in Christ Jesus. Help us never to take for granted Your blessing and Your love and Your grace. But help us always to listen and to be obedient. In Jesus name, Amen.

James wrote, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.' Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.' But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin."

We must never presume that we have a long life, that we'll be successful, or that we're not accountable to God. God is in control of all things. Psalm 90 and verse 12 advises us, "So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom." The Lord Jesus is coming again, but we don't know when. The Lord said in Matthew 24:35 and 6, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."

Now if we don't know when it going to take place; it's best to be prepared for His coming now! God wants you to be saved and to know the truth. Believe in the Lord Jesus and believe in the gospel—the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Repent of your sins, and turn from sin to follow Jesus. Confess your faith and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, just as Acts 2:38 teaches. Baptism is when our sins are truly washed away (Acts 22:16) and when we're planted or united with Christ (Romans 6:3 to 7).

Date: _____

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Thy Will Be Done

A necessary lesson of life is that God is God, and we're human. God rules our lives, and we should live according to His will. When the Lord Jesus came into this world He understood that He was here to do the will of His Father in heaven. And we too must do His will. Every facet of our lives belongs to God our Father. The problems of this life arise when men ignore His will. We must learn to live a life that proclaims, "Thy will be done."

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray in the Sermon on the Mount, He said, "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'" (Matthew 6:9 to 10). What if the will of God were done on earth like it is in heaven? What if people were willing to set their sins aside and give their lives to the will of God? What if all the evil in this world vanished, and people set their hearts on righteousness?

Selfishness, greed, lust, and pride has caused our lives, and our homes, and our society untold pain and ruin. We desperately need God's will in our lives. "Thy will be done" is not only a prayer; it's a way of life.

Our reading today comes from the gospel according to Mark chapter 14 verses 32 to 36. And it talks about Jesus when He is at Gethsemane and praying to the Father.

They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed." And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. And He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch." And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."

That was the prayer of Jesus. What You will. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we pray that Your will might be done on earth as it is in heaven. That it will be done at all times and help us to love You with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. In Jesus name, Amen.

"Thy will be done." Jesus must have found it both difficult and yet fulfilling to pray that the Father's will be done. While Jesus hated the thought of trials, a scourging, and an agonizing death, He knew it was necessary to fulfill His purpose in life. While He hated the thought of bearing the punishment for the sins of the world, He loved the world and wanted it to be saved from sin.

Now this situation seems to be absurd or contradictory and yet it's in fact true. The Bible explains in 2 Corinthians 5 and verse 21 says, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." I think of 1 Peter 2 and verse 24 which says that, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed." The holy Lord Jesus bore our sins at the cross so that we could become holy. Jesus saw Himself as an offering for our sins, an act of love fully within the will of God.

Hebrews 12 and verse 2 says that the Lord Jesus "for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." He despised the pain and the shame but He loved the outcome of what He did on the cross. He looked to the joy set before Him, the joy of men finding forgiveness in His sacrifice. He didn't want to die, but His desire for our eternal salvation was greater than His desire to live in the flesh. He rejoiced in the eternal not the temporary, and He was glad to do the Father's will.

Doing the Father's will was not a new concept or behavior to Jesus. From the time that He was born, He realized that He had come into this world to do the Father's will. At age 12, Jesus was in the Temple

doing His Father's business. When the devil tempted Him at age 30, Jesus said in Matthew 4 and verse 10, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

In John, chapter 4, Jesus passed through Samaria. Stopping at a well near the town of Sychar, Jesus sent his disciples into town for some food while He rested. At the well Jesus had a remarkable conversation with a woman who had been married five times and was living with a man. When she learned Jesus was the Messiah, she ran into town and told all the men of the town and the disciples then returned with the food. They had been sent in earlier.

John 4:31 to 34 says: Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples were saying to one another well, "No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work." You see, the Lord Jesus lived to do the will of His Father in heaven.

In John 5 and verse 30 Jesus explained, "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." You see, Jesus regarded the will of the Father as the perfect standard of right and wrong. He didn't want to vary from the Father's will in any way, so He listened to the Father. He made judgments of right and wrong only as the will of the Father instructed. He did not act on His own initiative.

In Jesus' heart and mind, keeping the will of the Father was how He remained in a right relationship with His Father. Yes. The Lord said to His disciples in John 15:9 to 10 on the night before He was betrayed, "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." Now abiding in the Father's will was an act of love and devotion. Keeping the Lord's commandments is how we demonstrate our love to the Lord and remain true in our love for Him.

In 1 John 2 verses 3 to 5 says, "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected." Now our love for God moves us to be obedient to His will and to keep His commandments.

When Jesus was told that His family was outside the house and they wanted to speak to Him, the Lord Jesus asked in Matthew 12:48 to 50, well, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother." Now Jesus claimed a close kinship to anyone who does the will of His Father in heaven. That's what Jesus lived for and what He wants us to live for. For Jesus, obeying the Father was not legalism. It was love.

Now disobedience isn't loving. As Jesus was finishing the Sermon on the Mount, He said in Matthew 7:21 to 23 that, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

The Lord knew people would claim to have a close relationship with Him, even though they lived lawlessly by their own rules. They wanted the blessing of Christianity but didn't surrender to the will of the Father in heaven. The Lord Jesus never knew them. He never had a relationship with them. They

never belonged to Him, because they lived on their own lawless terms and would not obey the will of the Father. You can't live by your own will and expect to please the Lord. No.

You can't draw close to God while you turn your back on what the Father teaches. You obey God by obeying what He teaches, not by saying you love Him while living the way you desire. A person who lives in lawlessness says to the Lord, "Not Your will be done but mine." He lives by his own rules and ignores God's law. He hasn't set his mind on the Father's will but on pleasing himself.

A person who plays by his own will thinks he is the exception. He thinks his sins aren't as bad as other people's sins. He does as he pleases and then presumes the Lord will consider that as obedience to His will. He counts on his own works, not God's will, to assure him a place in heaven. The Lord's rejection will surprise him.

And rather than play by our own rules, we should strive to follow the will of the Lord. It will not only bless us, it'll also bless everyone around us. The Bible says in Romans 12 and verse 2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." Now doing God's will shows everyone the value of the Lord's way! It is good and acceptable and perfect.

Now Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy will be done." Have you thought about how radically different and better our world would be if people truly did the will of God? God's will for our lives is no small matter. If people did the will of God, crime would disappear, the moral climate of this country would drastically change, and people would be more loving and less selfish. We'd keep the golden rule. The Lord Jesus taught in Matthew 7 verse 12, "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

If we did God's will on earth, as it is in heaven, God's Word would have a place of priority in our lives and decisions. We'd be asking the question, "What does God's Word have to say about this matter or that?" We'd realize that the God who created us knows us better than we know ourselves and teaches us what is best. We'd make our life choices and think of right and wrong on the basis of God's teaching not our opinions or our culture.

If we did God's will on earth, we'd begin to pray as a people again. We'd realize that nothing good can happen without God's blessing and favor. We'd seek His face. Well what does that mean, "seek His face"? It means we'd look to God for help and for the answers of life. When Solomon became king, he asked God for wisdom to know how to lead the people of Israel. And he worried about what might happen if Israel forsook the Lord and faced famine or were defeated in battle. Solomon asked God to be willing to forgive His people.

And the Lord God answered Solomon's prayer with this promise found in 2 Chronicles 7:13 to 14, "If...My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land." God wants to draw close to His people, and when they pray to Him with humble hearts, turning from wickedness, God will hear and heal them.

If God's will were truly done on earth, we'd stop hearing God's name being taken in vain and we'd stop hearing filthy talk. Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." Words are important; and our speech would be gracious, seasoned with salt, as we ought to speak.

If God's will were done on earth, we'd set our hearts on things that bless rather than concentrate on things that corrupt. The Bible says in Philippians 4 and verse 8, "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." When our minds concentrate on the good, we'll see good all around us; and we'll become better people. 1 Corinthians 15 and verse 33 says, "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company ruins good morals.'" When what is bad fills our minds, evil fills our lives.

If God's will were done on earth, we'd think more about the Lord and about heaven. Colossians 3:1 to 4 says, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

Where are you going with your life? Do you show by your life that the will of God is good and acceptable and perfect? Or are you calling Jesus "Lord," while following your own will?

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father help us to look to You and to what You wish and desire and will for our lives. Rather than to be selfish and only think of what we want. Father help us to love You and to do Your will always. In Jesus name, Amen.

Let's read from John chapter 3 beginning in verse 1 and going to verse 5. Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Now Jesus was emphatic about it and said in verse seven, "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" Some think that when it comes to salvation, the will of God is flexible and doesn't matter, but this is false. Being born of water and the Spirit is a reference to baptism. And baptism is a must to be saved.

John 1:11 to 13 says that, "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." Now you cannot be saved by substituting a sinner's prayer for God's will. God is God, and we're human. We can't edit or overrule the will of God. If we're saved by God's grace, it will only be by His will.

What is God's will for us to be saved? Well, upon hearing the gospel of Jesus, we must believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God. We must repent of our sins and turn to righteousness. We must confess our faith in Christ and be baptized. Now baptism is that new birth in water and the Spirit. Baptism is an immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ so that our sins will be forgiven. And when we're baptized, God washes away our sins (Acts 22 and verse 16). I pray that you, today, will do the will of God.

Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

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

Why is this message important?

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

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

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What Now?

A Christian friend of mine suffered viral meningitis some years ago. And he was confined to bed for fifteen weeks. He couldn't tolerate light or sound, so he spent most of his time alone. He couldn't read but a few pages of his Bible at a time. About all he could do was think and pray. It was an exceptionally difficult experience, since he felt his active life come to a halt. But through it all, he learned some valuable lessons and grew spiritually in ways that he never imagined. I hope you don't have to suffer as he did. But, if life comes crashing down, you can learn some valuable lessons of life.

The events of one day can change our lives forever. We can find ourselves like Israel in Egypt. As long as Joseph was alive, the children of Israel were favored and blessed. But a new king arose over Egypt that did not know Joseph, and life was never the same. The Egyptians feared an uprising, so they appointed taskmasters over Israel "to afflict them with hard labor" (Exodus 1 verse 11). Now you might have some new event that leaves you hurting and trapped in a life that you don't want. It could be the loss of your health (as my friend had), the loss of a job, the loss of your freedom in prison, or the loss of a member of your family. And your life can crash in a single day and never be the same.

Our reading comes from the book of Habakkuk in the Old Testament. Habakkuk chapter 3 verses 17 to 19. And There Habakkuk is talking about how he's going to face a very difficult time.

Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord GOD is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' feet, And makes me walk on my high places.

God is still good to us even when the worse things happen. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful for Your love. That You can be with us through good times and bad times. Help us always to love You, to love others and to do Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

Everyone faces hard times. And the difference in whether we do well afterwards is in how we react to those problems and what we do next. Sometimes people get caught up into their problems and fail to grow as they should. They may turn to harmful habits or grow bitter because of what took place. And when they do that life is difficult for them and it's hard. People may abandon their faith, but others grow stronger and better even when times are tuff. So people seem to find strength in the midst of their troubles and with time grow full of faith, courage and joy in the Lord. One such person was the apostle Paul. He was a prisoner in Rome, he had been chained, and facing the death penalty. Paul could still say, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I will say rejoice!" (Philippians 4 and verse 4). And I think, what faith he had!

Now Paul knew that he would never face a problem alone. He found joy in the Lord Jesus, because He had a strong relationship with the Lord; and no matter what happened to him, that close friendship would continue. Paul said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1 verse 21). And even if the physical things around him were going bad, his love for Christ remained intact. Living was Christ, and dying was gain. If he died, he knew he would be "with Christ, for that is very much better" (verse 23 says). He had the joy of Christ in this life and the presence of Christ in the hereafter. And this sustained him through it all.

Now suffering is bitter, yes, but God is able to use the painful things of life for good. We must never discount the ability of God to use those harsh, harsh things for our best interests. We often assume that the best thing is the removal of everything that is unpleasant, but sometimes our hurts shape and equip us for a greater service in the kingdom of God than we ever imagined. Paul said in Romans 8:28, "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.” Now not all things are good, no, but God can cause it to work for good.

James by inspiration also wrote an encouraging message in James 1:2 to 4. He said, “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” Rather than complaining about difficulties, realize that God may be using them for your growth as a person and helping you find the ability to endure. Suffering challenges us, but it also helps us to become mature, lacking in nothing. Suffering tests our faith, not to destroy but to build it up. Just as one must exercise his body to strengthen it, so we must exercise our faith.

Now, Jesus was able to endure so much suffering because He stayed close to His Father. Mark 1:35 says, “And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.” Luke 4 and verse 16 reminds us that while it was his custom to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, He was going to go there because He wanted to be close to God. And Luke 5 and verse 16 says, “But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.” In Luke 6:12 it says we find that “He spent the whole night in prayer to God.” And when Jesus was crucified, the first words out of His mouth, was “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23 and verse 34).

As He was dying on the cross, Jesus said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit” (Luke 23:46). Jesus loved His Father and obeyed Him to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2 verse 8). And we must understand: God's love for us and suffering as one of His children are not incompatible. Jesus did not get angry with the Father at Gethsemane or on the cross. Jesus understood the importance of what He was doing; but, my friend, that didn't make the nails hurt any less. It didn't take away the sting of his fellow-Jews mocking Him. It didn't erase the humiliation of the cross, the men gambling over his clothes, or the agony of bearing the sins of the world. The cross of Christ reveals suffering and love are compatible. They can agree.

Because Jesus suffered in obedience, God highly exalted Him, “and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2 verses 9 to 11). Now the Lord of glory was first the crucified Savior; the cross came before the crown. So we too must humble ourselves in obedience to the Lord. We need that mindset of being a servant. When we're at our lowest, we find God is at His best to help us through those trying and difficult times. The tough times bring about a new and better you.

It's so easy to focus on our suffering and miss what God is able to do to make better people out of us. It may take time on our backs in illness or in distress for us to see our need for God. When my friend, Patrick Peters of Clinton Oklahoma, could do nothing else, he prayed. He prayed like he had never prayed before—constantly. He was and is a strong Christian, but this close association with God brought about some powerful changes in his life for the better. God can do great things in our lives too. He can help us grow into better people through our struggles. And He gives us the opportunity to grow.

When life crashes in on us, it gives us first a time for re-creation (that is not recreation of fun but an opportunity to re-create ourselves and become a new person). We may lose some precious things in a low point, but we get the opportunity to recreate ourselves, to make ourselves better. We have time to sharpen our saws rather than work ourselves to death. We can evaluate our lives and see what we're doing or not doing. A good pause enables us to see ourselves as we truly are. We may not like what we see and may wish to start a different path that matters. Sometimes it's the hurts of life that wake us up to how we have lived futile and empty lives.

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:16 to 18, "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." Don't we all need renewing once in a while? Don't we all need to be reminded of the things that matter? Don't we all wish we had another chance to make things right and do things right? Seeing the eternal resets our whole way of thinking.

Second, we need to re-prioritize. Now a funeral reminds us what ought to come first in our lives. Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 7:1 to 4, "A good name is better than a good ointment, And the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth. It is better to go to a house of mourning Than to go to a house of feasting, Because that is the end of every man, And the living takes it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, For when a face is sad a heart may be happy. The mind of the wise is in the house of mourning, While the mind of fools is in the house of pleasure." We can learn from our sorrows.

Third, a difficult experience can help us re-define ourselves. It's easy to get so caught up in the urgent things of life that we miss the important things. My times of trouble may remind me that I haven't the Christian I ought to be, the husband I wish I had been, or the father my children need. Perhaps I have buried a talent that I should be using for God's work. Or it could be that this suffering is equipping me for a whole new ministry that I never imagined. Suffering can be an enormous learning period, where the lessons taught far out-weigh the disappointments. God may be working on you.

Paul spoke of his own suffering in 2 Corinthians 1:3 to 4 and how afflictions equipped him to help others in their suffering. He said, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

Suffering teaches us compassion and understanding for others. Because we have walked a road of sorrow, we can help guide others who have to walk down that same road of hurt and loss. While the experience itself is hard, it equips us with hearts that can reach out to help others and give them the hope they need in life.

Fourth, our troubles help us re-connect with God and with our loved ones. Nothing brings people closer together than a tragic event. Nothing gets our attention like sorrow and suffering. When we hurt is when we need each other the most. Sadly, some live without God or the comfort of their families. Tragically, some never enter a church door until they must go to a funeral of a loved one. Now it's hard enough to hurt, but no one needs to hurt alone. Let your sorrows lead to prayer and Bible study. Re-connect with God. Start going back to worship at church; Christians find comfort in God and can help you find that same comfort. Don't suffer alone.

I recently learned that 60 percent of the American public had never read a whole book, and only six percent will read a whole book this year. How long, my friend, has it been since you read one of the 66 books of the Bible? The Bible can nourish our souls and give us the strength to face the hardest moments of our lives. It can point us to help, to hope, to peace, and to life, when everything seems to be crashing in around us. The greatest need of your life and mine is still what it has always been—and that's God Himself! Don't give up on what God can do in your life. Let him be in your heart. And be obedient to His will. Give yourself to Him, take up that cross and follow Him.

Here is a promise of God that I know is true. Peter said in 1 Peter 5:6 to 10, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil,

prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.” God sometimes lets us suffer, but that isn’t the whole story. He hasn’t abandoned us. He is preparing us for greater service.

Let’s pray. Father we’re thankful that even in the hardest of times You are able to take things that are so uncomfortable and help us to become better people. Help us to trust in You, to love You, to love others and to do Your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

Isaiah 40:28 to 31 says, “Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.” We often pray for the Lord to take away our pain. Perhaps it’s better to pray for strength and help.

God sees things that we can’t see, knows things that we can’t know. He sees our future and may today be preparing us for something important later in our lives. Don’t give up on God. He hasn’t given up on you. He will perfect, strengthen, confirm, and establish you. He’ll give you the wings of eagles to soar. He’ll give you the ability to go on when others have quit. Trust in God, just as Jesus did. Stay close to Him. You can do great things in your life. And when God re-creates us in the image of His Son, He enables us to reach our full potential. You may think your life has crashed, but it just may be the beginning of something more wonderful than you ever imagined.

Are you close to God? Are you a Christian? Do you have hope in Christ? You can become a child of God by believing in the Lord Jesus, repenting of your sins, confessing His name before others, and by being baptized. If you’re a wayward Christian, why not come back to the Lord today and live in love and faith.

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