

# ENJOY GOD FOREVER

*Written and Compiled by  
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***“Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous;  
And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!”***

**PSALM 32:11**

## QUIET TIME

Daily time alone with God is the most talked about, yet least practiced aspect of a Christian's life. We will never make time for God until we realize we can't live without it. The King of the Universe wants to reveal Himself and His love to us daily. He wants to help us succeed and fill us with His joy.

Alone, we can't distinguish God's way from the world's way - or when we see the difference, we often follow the world anyway. We fill our lives with more work, more things, more headaches, and have less time to spend enjoying God and preserving our sanity.

It is harder today than ever before to have a devotional life. Technology has enabled others to think for us. The need for solitude and quietness is crucial.

- 1- Begin with prayer. Ask for God's wisdom as you read Scripture. Ask for a clear mind so you can concentrate on God's Word.
- 2- Take notes on what you read. God speaks to us through His Word. Write things down so you can return to them later.
- 3- Choose a favorite verse from the passage. Use the truth from that verse to help you pray about something that might need attention in your life. This will help you meditate on it and pray about it throughout the day.

God loves to have us come to Him with our burdens and our business, but He also wants to hear words of love and worship, as well as expressions of adoration and thanksgiving.

## **DAY 1, JANUARY 2**

### **FOCUS ON JESUS**

***“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.”***

***HEBREWS 12:2***

The New Year is a fresh start, and we will have a profitable year if we focus forward. We should learn from past mistakes, forgive those who have offended us, and strive to discipline ourselves to focus on Jesus. Focusing on Jesus will be challenging at times because we will be tested by distractions that constantly tug at us for our time, attention, and emotions. Every day there is a different path set before us. Will we choose the path of righteousness or unrighteousness? Staying thankful for Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross should be a holy reminder that our complete loyalty should be to Him!

Surrender your fears, worries, or anything else that would drain you of your hope. Jesus knows all, He knows what we need, and the correct time we need to have it. Our spiritual focus should be to acknowledge that Jesus is in control. He is completely trustworthy and gave us the example of a sacrificial life. Jesus stayed focused on God’s will, paid the price for our salvation, and is worthy of our focus. Determine to not allow things to distract and rob you of a year of getting to know Jesus better and walk in His beautiful plans and purposes for your life.

***“Choose to view life through God’s eyes. This will not be easy because it doesn’t come naturally to us. We cannot do this on our own. We have to allow God to elevate our vantage point. Start by reading His Word, the Bible. Pray and ask God to transform your thinking. Let Him do what you cannot. Ask Him to give you an eternal, divine perspective.”***

***— Charles Swindoll (Pastor and Author)***

### **PRAYER**

Dear Lord Jesus, You are worthy of our focus, for You are the Holy One who lived a sinless life and reached out to us with the gift of eternal life. We acknowledge and confess our negative emotions to You and submit to the Holy Spirit’s influence. Help us, we pray, to stay on the path of righteousness laid out for us every day. We ask that we increase in maturity by continuously looking to the Lord Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. We choose to yield to the purposes of Jesus. Help our faith grow and rest in the fact that You are always trustworthy. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

## **DAY 2, JANUARY 3**

### **HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE**

***“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life.’”***

**JOHN 8:12**

I was alone on a road trip and out of nowhere came a heavy, assaulting rain. The darkness intensified and at times all I could see was the slight glimmer of a car’s lights in front of me. I drove slowly, prayed, and followed the light before me because that was the only thing I had to guide me through the overwhelming weather conditions. I was scared but determined that God was with me and giving me the needed portions of strength and grace along the way. Because there was no escape, I had to keep my eyes on the light and moved gradually forward. As a result of focusing on the light, I safely reached my destination.

Jesus is the spiritual Light of the world. This does not mean all darkness from the world has been removed. Jesus being *“the Light of the world”* means that the world has no other true light than Him. What it comes down to is this: will we live with Jesus or darkness? The meaning of John 8:12 tells us that the entire world needs Jesus as their light. He convicts us of the truth of our need for redemption and reaches out to us with His provision of salvation. As His children, we can depend on Him to help us when we are in a difficult situation. Trust in Jesus during the times when you feel overwhelmed and can barely see the solutions to your problems. Jesus will guide and help you.

***“The world was made for this light. This is not a foreign light. This is the light of the owner of the world. When this light comes, it not only makes sin plain as foreign and ugly, but it also makes everything good in the world shine with its full and true beauty. This world was made to be illumined by this light. This light of Christ is native to the world.”***

**— John Piper (Current Pastor and Author)**

### **PRAYER**

Dear Father, we praise You for sending Your Son Jesus to be the Light of the world. Without the Lord Jesus providing salvation for us we would be in eternal darkness. Thank You for guiding us with the light of truth. Help us to submit to our Savior in humility and walk in the light of Your grace and salvation. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 3, JANUARY 4**

**TRUSTING GOD GLORIFIES HIM**

*“And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, ‘Alas, my master! What shall we do’ So he answered, ‘Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’ And Elisha prayed, and said, ‘LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”*

**2 KINGS 6:15-17**

Elisha was a man of God and knew that He was in control of everything. God heard Elisha's prayer for his servant and Elisha's servant looked out the window and saw the hills filled with a heavenly army. There were horses and chariots of fire surrounding their town. Elisha's servant could now see that God was protecting His prophet, Elisha and himself. He did not need to be afraid of the human army surrounding the town. Elisha's servant went from the fear of being harmed, to faith in God's protection, because his eyes were opened to the truth that God was protecting both Elisha and him.

Trepidation, which is a nervous and fearful feeling, sinks in when we are afraid. It can be like a slow drip of fear and anxiety trying to engulf our soul. Like a leaking roof that must be repaired before it destroys the house beneath, worry must be dispelled by faith in God. God is bigger than the power of anxiety that tries to control and prevent us from living a full life. This is a tactic of Satan. Put your trust in God and not your negative emotions. As one calls someone quickly to repair a leaky roof, before more damage is done, quickly call on God before more damage is done to your soul. Cast your cares on Him and allow your heavenly Father to fight your battles for you. Think on this and apply it to your life when the cares of this world try to make your emotional roof cave in with worry.

**PRAYER**

Our Father, You are so good to us, to remind us that we do not have to make this journey on earth filled with worry. Please forgive me for the times I focused on my worries, rather than on Your power to overcome my troubles when I turn them over to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 4, JANUARY 5**  
**ENJOY GOD'S CREATION**

***“O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all.  
The earth is full of Your possessions.”***  
**PSALM 104:24**

We can spend the entire day with screens instead of fresh air and sunshine. We should be thankful for our homes and central air, but a breath of fresh air can help us enjoy God, who created all of nature. When we stop to reflect on God's creation, we may think we live in a completely civilized area, but God's handiwork surrounds us. Have you ever considered how many species of birds are living in your neighborhood, using your yard, and nesting in your trees? Do you ever stop to listen to nature, or watch the lightening in the sky during a storm? Sometimes we get too carried away in our own pursuits to take time to appreciate God's creations that can be found in our own backyard. Being aware of God's creation grows a larger understanding within us of what God has done for us. In a deeper sense, it also helps us remain in awe of God, and how amazing He really is. Let us take time to give thanks to God for His wonders that surround us, you may be surprised at what you may find in your own back yard.

**“We believe that to Christ belongs creative power — that ‘without Him was not any thing made which was made.’ We believe that from Him came all life at first. In Him life was as in its deep source. He is the fountain of life. We believe that no being comes into existence without His creative power, so none continues to exist without His sustaining energy. We believe that the history of the world is but the history of His influence, and that the center of the whole universe is the cross of Calvary.”**  
**— Alexander MacLaren (English Baptist Minister, 1826-1910)**

**PRAYER**

Dear Father in Heaven, we ask You to forgive us when we take for granted Your awesome creation that You have given us to enjoy. We praise You for Your handiwork! Help us to bask in the beauty of Your creation and worship You, for You alone are the Creator of all things. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 5, JANUARY 6**

**REMEMBER TO BE THANKFUL**

***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”***

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18**

Jesus was walking through a small village and saw standing far away a group of ten lepers keeping their distance from the public. They were considered unclean because leprosy was contagious, and no one wanted to be around them for fear of contracting the disease. The ten lepers spotted Jesus and called out to Him, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us.” They had heard who Jesus was and that He had the power to heal them. Jesus could have gone to them, lay His hands on them, and they would have been healed. But what He choose to do was call back to the lepers and say, “Go, show yourself to the priest.” The priest was qualified to diagnose if the men were clean or not. As the lepers went on their way to see the priest, they looked and saw that their sores were gone. Suddenly, one of the lepers stopped, turned around and went back and threw himself at Jesus feet and said, “Thank You.” Luke 17:17-19 tells us: *“Jesus answered and said, ‘Where there not ten cleansed, But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?’ And He said to him, ‘Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.’”*

**“Ten got healed, one got saved. It’s a wonderful story for the one; it’s a tragedy for the nine. It illustrates how ugly ingratitude is, being unthankful-how hard to understand that these people could so quickly forget the very one who was the source of their cleansing. We can understand that nine lepers who didn’t know God could be thankless. We can understand a world of thankless people. I cannot understand a thankless Christian when we understand what the Lord has done for us.”**

**– John MacArthur (Pastor and Author)**

## **PRAYER**

Dear Lord, You give us everything we need and we praise You for Your generosity toward us. We often forget to say, “Thank You” and we ask You to forgive us. We thank You now for the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, that He willingly gave Himself to redeem us from eternal separation from You. We ask You to help us to remember to give thanks every day for all You do for us. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

## DAY 6, JANUARY 7

### TAKE A BLESSING BREAK

*“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth”*

**PSALM 46:10**

As believers we need to practice the habit of talking to the Lord in prayer while the noisy world swirls around us. To help keep your focus, shield your mind from distractions. Then begin your prayer by remembering what God has done for you and others, and thank Him for His mercies. Fix your mind on a biblical truth and meditate on it. Next, silently speak to the Lord from your heart. This method is effective in hospital waiting rooms, airports, your car and many other places. When we remember the works of the Lord and meditate on the salvation He has achieved, it helps us to be still and rest in knowing that God is God. He always has your best interest in mind. Peace and worship to the Lord is birthed from focusing on the works of the Almighty God.

**“God’s people should not be fearful, nor fretful and impatient, or restless and tumultuous; but be quiet and easy, resigned to the will of God, and live in an assured expectation of the appearance of divine Providence in their layout. And know, own, and acknowledge that He is God, a sovereign Being that does whatsoever He pleases; that He is unchangeable in His nature, purposes, promises, and covenant; that He is omnipotent, able to help them and deliver them at the last extremity; that He is omniscient, knows their persons, cases, and troubles, and how and where to hide them till the storm is over; that He is the all wise God, and does all things after the counsel of His own will, and makes all things work together for good and that He is faithful to his word and promise, and will not suffer them to be over pressed and born down with troubles.” —John Gill (Theologian and Pastor; 1697-1771)**

### PRAYER

Dear Lord, I thank You for Your many blessings and that Your love surrounds me. I ask that You help me to form the habit of mental prayer during the times I can do so. I choose to focus on Your presence during these times and ignore the distractions that try to break my concentration. As I am still, I lay out my requests to You, my most gracious Heavenly Father. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 7, JANUARY 8**

**GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON YOU**

***“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day Jesus Christ.”***

***PHILIPPIANS 1:6***

Sometimes looking back on your life is good, and sometimes it is bad. We do not need to look back on our life and relive failures and feel ashamed, because the Lord has forgiven our confessed sin and does not hold it against us. We can accept His forgiveness and release any guilt to God that may be lingering. A good thing to do when you review your life is to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to understand how you are not practicing the character qualities that should be a vital part of your Christian life. He will enlighten you to comprehend what areas you need to mature in. Some Christian characteristics are to be sympathetic, loving, compassionate and humble.

**“The expression of Christian character is not good doing, but God-likeness. If the Spirit of God has transformed you within, you will exhibit Divine characteristics in your life, not good human characteristics. God’s life in us expresses itself as God’s life, not as human life trying to be godly.”**

**—Oswald Chambers (Evangelist and Author; 1874-1917)**

The Lord is gracious and loving to His children. When we are willing, He will stir us up by reminding us how we are to express Christlike characteristics in our thoughts and actions. Jesus was gracious, humble, loving, and compassionate. We may feel that we do not consistently display Christlike marks of maturity so we can ask God to help us in these areas. We must strongly desire to become pleasing to God and want to be like Jesus, His Son, who was the perfect balance of godly character. Jesus modeled each of these marks of maturity to perfection, although He was fully man living on the earth. God will give us hope beyond our immaturity and complete the good work He began in us.

## **PRAYER**

Father in Heaven, we thank You for Your faithfulness to us in exposing our lack of Christian character qualities. Our complete dependence is on You to help us develop the virtues You desire us to have. We confess that without godly virtues we cannot advance in maturity. We desperately need Your help with this uphill journey which may sometimes feel like it’s unending. Thank You that Your Holy Spirit will never forsake us and will provide endurance every step of the way. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

## DAY 8, JANUARY 9 BLESS YOUR ENEMIES

***“Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets. ‘But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.’”***

**LUKE 6:26-28**

Jesus told us to bless our enemies. We are going to have enemies, because we follow Jesus Christ and some of them will be “religious people” that will not tolerate a true disciple of Christ. The people who crucified Jesus were the religious leaders of the day, so do not be surprised if you find yourself being mistreated. Sometimes Satan will use those close to you to try to hurt and weaken your obedience to Christ. The good news is that this kind of treatment can be a pathway of blessing. Matthew 5:11-12 tells us: *“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*

**“The Christian will be sure to make enemies. It will be one of his objects to make none; but if doing what is right and believing what is true should cause him to lose every earthly friend, he will regard it as a small loss, since his great Friend in Heaven will be even more friendly and will reveal Himself to him more graciously than ever.”**

**—Alistair Begg (Current Pastor and Author)**

How we respond to our enemies depends on our faith and love. If we desire a win/lose outcome to our problem; we win, they lose, then we open the door for matters to only grow worse. God’s reputation and our Christian testimony may be damaged. But, if we approach our situation by faith and look for a win/win solution, so that we grow spiritually and our enemies get closer to repentance, then God is glorified. But, if our enemies resist our love and oppose the Lord, we have a guaranteed reward in Heaven that will honor Jesus Christ. Pray that the goodness of God will bring them to repentance and not into judgment, but into obedience.

### PRAYER

Dear Lord, help us to remember that it is an honor to suffer for doing good and we praise You for the example You showed us by blessing Your enemies. We come before You and ask that You would intervene in the lives of unbelievers and remove the spiritual blindness from their eyes so they would accept You as Savior. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 9, JANUARY 10**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT LOVES YOU**

***“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”***

***EPHESIANS 4:30***

The relationship between believers and the Holy Spirit is precious. We don't think a lot about the fact that the Holy Spirit deeply loves us. He wants to reveal Himself to us, but when we act independently from God's principles, we grieve the Holy Spirit. If we deliberately do something wrong, we drag Him into the mire of sin with us. We need to be aware that the Holy Spirit lives in us and honor Him by confessing our sin and receive cleansing by the blood of Jesus so our fellowship will be restored with the Spirit of God.

The answers to our prayers can be blocked by continuing a lifestyle of habitual sin. A good way to begin our day is to ask the Lord to reveal to us if there is any sin in our life that we are participating in that is grieving the Holy Spirit. There is a list of *“works of the flesh”* in Galatians 5:19. Here are some items for you to look over and examine yourself to see if you are grieving the Holy Spirit. The sinful hindrances are fornication, idolatry, hatred, contentions, jealousies, and outbursts of anger. Keep in mind that these sins can be actions and/or consuming thoughts, and all are necessary to confess and forsake. God is always faithful to forgive and let us start with a clean slate for the day.

**“Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Spirit, for such things as God has promised.” —John Bunyan (Preacher and Author of *Pilgrim's Progress*)**

Psalm 25:8-9 mention being humble two times, and the character quality of humility is required to be effectively taught by God. Pride is the opposite of humility. The biblical definition of pride is preferring self-will to God's will. This type of pride can be overcome when we pray like Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Luke 22:41b-42 tells us that, *“He knelt down and prayed, saying, ‘Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.’”* Jesus humbled Himself to go to the cross and paid the ultimate sacrifice so that all who accept Him as Savior have everlasting life. Will you be willing to make a commitment to be humble and reverent in your approach to God and to His Word? If you are willing to make that commitment, you are invited to seal it with the following prayer:

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, thank You for the Holy Spirit to guide and comfort us. I confess the times that I have sinned and grieved the Holy Spirit that lives within me. May I stay in the truth of Your Word so I would develop a spiritual sensitivity to when I grieve the Spirit of God. Help me to be more aware of the words I speak that are not edifying the hearer. Help me to remember Psalm 66:18 that states; *“If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me.”* My desire is to serve You and pray prayers that are effective. Thank You for the gift of prayer in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 10, JANUARY 11**

**KEEP A STRONG PRAYER LIFE**

***“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart”***

***LUKE 18:1***

Why do we pray? We pray because God has given us the method of prayer to glorify Himself by meeting our needs. When He meets our needs, we can do His will and His work. An example of this is that God raises up a man, a woman, or a group of believers, to pray about a matter and through prayers He accomplishes His work. In the Old Testament it was God’s plan that David become king of Israel and that from David’s family the Redeemer would be born. God raised up Hannah to pray for a son, and that son, Samuel, anointed David to be king. God had a timetable for His people, the Jews, and had planned that they would be delivered from captivity when seventy years was completed. David came to understand this promise and immediately began to pray that the Lord would fulfill it, and God did. Asking for things in prayer humbles us and glorifies God.

**“Prayer is the means God has ordained to glorify Himself by sharing His love with His children, meeting their needs, and accomplishing His purposes through their lives and the lives of others.” — Warren W. Wiersbe (International Bible Teacher and Author)**

We will not understand completely the mysterious relationship between the eternal counsels of God, God’s promises, and the cries of God’s people, nor is it necessary that we understand. God has given us the privilege of prayer so that we might share in His great work of saving sinners and building His church.

## **PRAYER**

Lord, You are above all and in all! You love us unendingly and we want to thank You for Your grace and mercy to us. Without You bringing us to You by providing salvation, we would be eternally separated from Your goodness and light. Help us to pray continually with praise, confession, and our requests. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 11, JANUARY 12**

**GOD WORKS FOR YOUR GOOD**

***“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”***

**ROMANS 8:28-29**

When we read verse 28, it is easy to believe when the sun is shining, and our lives are running smoothly. But when a struggle surfaces and we find ourselves in the darkness of human suffering we may doubt the verse for two reasons. Paul states in Romans 8:28; “*we know*” but the truth is that many of us may not feel like we do know. Next the verse says, “*all things*” when we could only think of “*some things*.” The key word in the verse is “*good*.” We generally think of good as being related to happiness and success. These things are good, but God’s goodness goes beyond our limited vision. We have a preconceived idea of how life should be and realize there will be some bad things that will happen. But, when our circumstances exceed the “*bad things*” quota we had in mind, we may become discouraged and question God.

Romans 8:29 tells us that God is “*good*” and that we should be conformed to the image of Christ. Anything that causes us to become more Christlike is good. When we quit trying to escape suffering, God can give us an entirely new perspective on heartaches and tragedies. When we come to the end of ourselves, it is a good time to go deeper into our relationship with Christ. God is good, and some good things will happen even in the worst moments of life.

**“For the believer in Jesus, every trial of suffering is an opportunity to grow in the faith, to grow in our relationship with the Lord, and to see Him work in our lives in a uniquely personal way that demonstrates His compassion, His comfort, His tender mercies, His loving kindnesses, His grace, and His endless love. Only God knows what each of us needs to experience and learn to be ‘conformed to the image of his Son.’”**

**— T.A. McMahon (Director of The Berean Call)**

## **PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we praise You for allowing us to go through difficult times, because You know the perfect way to conform us to become more like Jesus. Help us to humble ourselves, yield and submit to You. We trust You to “cause all things to work together for good.” In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 12, JANUARY 13**

**WE HAVE EVERYTHING WE NEED**

***“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches  
in glory by Christ Jesus.”***

***PHILIPPIANS 4:19***

God told Elijah the prophet to tell King Ahab and Queen Jezebel that He was angry with them because they worshiped idols and influenced the people in their kingdom to follow their example. Ahab and Jezebel refused to repent, and because of their sin, Elijah told them that the Lord would send a terrible drought. The rain stopped, everything dried up, and they became enraged with Elijah. God stepped in and told Elijah to go to Brook Cherith so he would be protected from them. Elijah was safe, had a water supply and the Lord had ravens fly in morning and evening to bring Elijah food to eat.

Staying by the brook turned out to be a temporary situation for Elijah because the brook dried up and God told Elijah to go to the city of Zarephath. When Elijah arrived in the city, he saw a woman gathering sticks. He asked the woman, the Widow of Zarephath, for a drink of water and she kindly gave him some. Next Elijah asked her if she would bring him a little bread. She told Elijah that she only had enough oil and flour to make one last meal for her son and herself and then they would die. Elijah told the woman to go ahead and make some bread for him to eat and gave her a message from God that said: *“For thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.’”* (1 Kings 17:14). The widow of Zarephath believed God’s message and made the bread for Elijah, her son and herself. And according to the prophecy of God, as long as the drought lasted, she never ran out of oil and flour. God supplied their needs.

**“What a serene and quiet life might you lead if you would leave providing to the God of providence! With a little oil in the cruse, and a handful of meal in the barrel, Elijah outlived the famine, and you will do the same. If God cares for you, why need you care too?” — Charles Haddon Spurgeon (Baptist Preacher, 1834-1892)**

## **PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we thank You for the examples in the Bible that show us that You are always aware of the situations we are in. We trust You to meet our needs and may we be mindful to help others in their time of need. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 13, JANUARY 14**

**UNLOCK YOUR ACCESS TO DIVINE POWER**

*“His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue”*

**2 PETER 1:3**

I love to visit family, but most of them live a long distance away which means I must take a flight there. Taking a trip requires packing a suitcase and I do my best to pack the necessary items, but sometimes I forget something. Have you ever gone on a trip and forgot an important item, like the mate to a comfortable shoe you planned on wearing? You obviously could not wear shoes that didn't match, it would put you off balance. Christians experience a temporary trip on earth and God equips us with everything we need to please Him, by His divine power, but we need to access it. If we don't unlock our access to God's divine power our Christian walk will be off balance.

Often Christians struggle with sin that keeps them in a state of spiritual weakness and apathy. Christ followers have a free will and can choose whether or not to use the spiritual tools God has provided.

How do we access God's divine power? We must exert effort on our part to partake of the spiritual tools available for us to use. There are many spiritual tools, and some are His promises. One promise is: *“And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’”*

In 2 Corinthians 12:9, grace means favor and divine assistance. You can claim the promise by the grace of God granted to you at salvation. He gives you divine assistance to fulfill the God given plan in your life. Therefore, prior to calling for “works,” He points to the boundless reservoirs of grace already available in Christ. Grace is a resource from God that is spiritual favor and power that comes from a covenantal union with Christ and His never-failing promises. By faith in God's promises in His Word, we have everything we need that pertains to life and godliness.

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, You are our perfect Father and we thank You for providing everything we need for our journey on earth! We ask for You to forgive us when we are wrapped up in the wrong mental attitudes that do not claim Your promises in the Scripture and keep us defeated. Please help us to increase our faith in Your provision by knowing and applying Your promises in the Bible. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 14, JANUARY 15**

**GOD DESIRES THAT WE LIVE IN PEACE**

***“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me.”***

***JOHN 14:1***

We must guard our hearts and not allow the daily news and world events to distress us. Troubling situations are a part of life, the word “troubled” in the Greek is compared to a body of water that is being stirred up or agitated. Jesus experienced troubling situations and taught us what to do when we experience them as well. Before the crucifixion, Jesus was troubled because of the upcoming betrayal He would experience from the disciple, Judas. John 13:21 states, *“When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.’”* He was speaking to the disciples and preparing to die on the cross. The disciples were wondering who would betray Jesus and turn Him over to those who would kill Him. Jesus had a reason to be troubled, for the historical event of the redemption of mankind was His next step. He knew the outcome and put His faith in God, His Father. Jesus willingly suffered and died and was victorious in His resurrection. While Jesus was experiencing this, He still assured the disciples that He would provide for their needs, and they did not have to be troubled but have faith in Him.

**“If God be our God, He will give us peace in trouble. When there is a storm without, He will make peace within. The world can create trouble in peace, but God can create peace in trouble.” – Thomas Watson (Puritan Preacher, 1620-1686)**

Jesus is faithful and we can trust Him when we are in need. Learn to lean on Him and give Him time to work according to what He knows is the best for us. He doesn't always immediately give us what we ask for, we need to learn to receive from God through faith and patience. Always believe He is working!

## **PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we praise You for Your example of trusting God, Your Father, for supplying what You needed to go through the unspeakable suffering of the crucifixion to pay for the sins of mankind. We claim Your promise to us and to trust You with our troubles and accept Your timetable for working things out in a way that glorifies You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 15, JANUARY 16**  
**HOPE IN GOD'S WORD**

***“Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.”***

***PSALM 55:22***

Grayson loved to load a backpack and go on long hikes and camp out. He and a friend took a complete summer to explore Australia and they were constantly on the move to see and experience more sights, food, and the culture of the country. Grayson gradually collected gifts to bring back to his family and his backpack was slowly increasing in weight. As time went on, he noticed that his back would get sore, and his shoulder started to radiate pain as well. Grayson tried to shrug off the pain and kept traveling on the rugged terrain. He tried everything he could think of to ease the pain that was growing and had to face up to the fact that he could no longer bear the weight of the backpack without enduring physical difficulties. Grayson realized that for his own good he must remove several things he was carrying from the backpack and mail them home. He had to relieve the weight of the burden, that was too heavy for him to carry, to get rid of the pain.

Sometimes we overestimate our ability and think we can handle our cares, anxieties, and difficulties that pile up and weigh us down. Then comes the breaking point, and if we are spiritually aware, we will realize that we must humble ourselves and place our troubles on God's shoulders. He will carry it for us, nothing is too much for God to bear. God wants us to trust Him with all our cares. In the small trials and the large tests, you will find peace by casting your burdens on the Lord. We are not made to carry our burdens, even though at times the enemy heaps negative thoughts and situations on us. We may try to make our way through it in the power of the flesh. This will not work effectively, we must take our cares to God and rest in His strength to help us through.

***“You may forget that you are at every moment totally dependent on God.”***  
**— C. S. Lewis (Author, 1898-1963)**

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we thank You for being our burden bearer. You are strong and all-powerful. We turn our burdens over to You in prayer and trust You to give us peace, wisdom, and guidance. Help us to faithfully stay in Your Word and obey You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 16, JANUARY 17**

**FORGIVE OTHERS BEFORE PRAYING**

***“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”***

**MARK 11:25**

We would not be able to have answers to our prayers if God dealt with us according to our sins. Every answer to prayer depends on believing in God’s forgiving grace. God pardons us and this opens the door to His favor and blessing. He has forgiven our confessed sins, and our prayers will be effective. God’s forgiving heart, that is displayed in His love to us, should transform us into having a forgiving heart as well. This is a result of the love of God that has grown in our hearts. If someone hurts us, we are to forgive them and not hold the offense against them, because God does not hold offenses against us.

***“If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.” Psalm 66:18***

We can ask to be guided by the Spirit of wisdom to expose any unforgiveness that we are carrying in our hearts. Although we may not feel like forgiving, we should lay our feelings aside and obey God. As we are honest with God, He will help us to diffuse anger and judgment. He won’t allow us to be offended again, at a sin we had previously forgiven. In order for God to answer our prayers, we must continuously practice the lifestyle of granting forgiveness and walking in love. This honors the truth in the Bible and gets answers to our prayers.

***“If an injury or injustice is done to us, we must seek first of all to maintain a Christlike disposition—to be kept from a desire to defend our rights or to punish the offender. Instead, we must seek to forgive as God in Christ has forgiven us, diffusing anger and judgment.” – Andrew Murray (Pastor and Author, 1827-1917)***

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, You know that at times forgiveness is difficult because of the repercussions from the offense we have experienced, but we choose to forgive in Jesus’ name. We ask that You always convict us so we would not develop a root of bitterness that would hinder us in our lives and be a bad example to those we influence. We ask that we have a Christlike disposition and not take revenge, but trust that to You, for You have said: *“Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.”* Romans 12:19. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 17, JANUARY 18**  
**GOD'S WORD IS ACTIVE**

***“But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one,  
so let him walk..”***

**1 CORINTHIANS 7:17**

God calls your name for you to come to Him so you can be a part of a separate people. His concern for you is in the here and now and for your life beyond the earth, which you will exist in forever. You choose your destination for eternity on the earth and do not have a second chance after your spirit leaves your body for good. God has made a way for you to escape eternal judgment, yes, to escape hell fire and never have to experience excruciating pain and darkness of the soul for eternity. Hell was never a place for humankind, it was originally created for the devil and his demons.

God, your Heavenly Father, knows how many hairs are on your head, all your thoughts and allows your every breath. He is God, He only does righteous things and because He is loving, He invites you to come to Him and experience everlasting life. It is important that you take seriously the decision to accept Christ as your Savior while you are here on earth. Because after this portion of your existence, you will not be able to change your destination based on good works, effort, or prayers of people still on the earth. It is a done deal, and this is a warning and an invitation. The Lord does not want you to be lost to hell's fire and He has made a way of escape through His Son, the perfect man, Jesus Christ. Jesus lived on the earth and was God in the flesh. He went through all the temptations humankind experiences and never sinned. Jesus willingly died for you in a very torturous and supernatural way, as only Jesus could do. He paid for all the sins of mankind, past, present, and future. We can do nothing to earn this gift, we only need to receive this free gift and the Spirit of Christ comes to live within us. Our sins are forgiven, and we have a guarantee of everlasting life in heaven. Will you come? Now is the time. Come to Jesus, have rest in your soul and get to know God as your true and good Father.

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. Guide my life and help me to do Your will. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 18, JANUARY 19**

**GLORIFY GOD BY DENYING YOURSELF**

***“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.’”***

**MATTHEW 16:24-25**

Christ in His humanity denied Himself and we are to follow His example and deny ourselves, if we are to be His disciples. How do we deny ourselves? We must obey the Word of God and not just listen. We are to live out the Word of God in our thoughts and actions. We view our lives as a gift that God has given us in order to submit to His purposes. This is a good thing because before the earth was made, He had a plan for your life. *“Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”* Ephesians 1:4. He leaves you the choice of whether you will submit to His best for you and follow that plan.

**“What does having the Lord of your life look like? You must radically orient your life to God. The most difficult thing you will ever have to do is deny self, take up God’s will, and follow Him. The most challenging part of your relationship with God is being God-centered. If you recorded a day in your life, you might find that your prayers, your attitudes, your thoughts, and your actions are intensely self-centered. You may not see things from God’s perspective; rather, you may try to explain to God what your perspective is. When He becomes the Lord of your life, He alone had the right to be: the Focus of your life; the Initiator in your life the Director of your life. This is what it means for Him to be Lord.” — Henry Blackaby (Author of *Experiencing God*)**

**PRAYER**

Dear Father, we thank You for always reaching out to us and I want to surrender my life to You and take up my cross daily as a willing sacrifice. I ask that Thy will, not mine, be done. I pray that my old self-life will remain firmly nailed to the cross as I submit to Your leading and guiding in all I say and do. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 19, JANUARY 20**  
**GOD'S WAITING ROOM**

***“But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”***  
**ISAIAH 40:31**

Waiting is a test that God allows us to experience to increase our patience and faith in Him. When we are in the waiting room that God designed for us, it is our assignment to wait well. Do not run ahead of God and try to make things happen, do not give up or let your faith dry up. Be faithful and continue to put your trust in God, even when you do not see how things are working out while spending time in the waiting room.

Joseph was sold by his brothers into slavery. They were jealous of him because their father favored him. The assistant to Pharaoh, Potiphar, bought Joseph and took him to Egypt. Joseph started out as a slave in Egypt and quickly advanced to oversee everything Potiphar owned. Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph of trying to seduce her and Potiphar put him in jail. While in jail, the warden put Joseph in charge of the prisoners. Some time passed and Pharaoh became displeased with his cupbearer and put him in jail. The cupbearer had a dream that Joseph interpreted for him. Joseph told the cupbearer that he would be released from jail and asked him to mention him to Pharaoh. When the cupbearer was freed, he forgot all about Joseph's request.

Two years passed while Joseph waited in jail, that would be plenty of time to grow bitter and mad at God, but he kept trusting Him. Pharaoh had a dream he wanted to know the meaning of, and the cupbearer told Pharaoh that Joseph interpreted his dream when he was in jail. After this Joseph exited the waiting room and was brought before Pharaoh. God gave him the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream. Joseph warned Pharaoh that there would be seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. Joseph instructed Pharaoh on how to prepare for it so that they would have enough food, not only for Egypt, but also for other countries. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of carrying out the plan and he was elevated to the second in command of Egypt.

**PRAYER**

Dear Father in Heaven, thank You for giving me the ability to learn what You want me to know in the waiting room. Please grow my patience and trust in You so I will become more like Your Son, Jesus. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 20, JANUARY 21**

**EVERYONE WILL BOW TO JESUS**

***“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”***

***PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11***

Jesus willingly took the form of a servant, He emptied Himself by taking on the role of being nothing more than a man. He did not empty Himself of His essence of God, but He gave up His privileges as God and assumed existence as a man. He remained completely God but limited Himself in a way that He could also be completely human. Jesus placed Himself in a low status and obeyed His Father even to the point of a horrific death on the cross, to redeem humankind. Then God elevated Jesus to a highly exalted status and gave Him a name that is above every name. At the name of Jesus every knee will bow to Him.

The followers of Christ, who are saved by grace through faith, will confess Jesus as their Savior and Lord with joy. They will enter into His heavenly reward. Others that were blinded by their foolish pride and ignored His free offer of salvation will also confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. *“For it is written ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’”* Romans 14:11. They will bow and confess Jesus is Lord, but because they never accepted Him as Savior, sadly they will not live for eternity in heaven. They will be excluded forever from the heavenly joy that was once freely offered to all, by their gracious Creator.

**“Worship is the proper response of all moral, sentient beings to God, ascribing all honor and worth to their Creator-God precisely because He is worthy, delightfully so.”**  
— D. A. Carson (Founder of “The Gospel Coalition”)

**PRAYER**

Our Father, we are in awe of You and Your love toward us in that while we were sinners Christ died for us. We ask that we continually live in a holy awareness that our lives are brief, and fleeting compared to eternity. Help us to keep our eyes on Jesus, the Word who became flesh and lived among us. May we have a continual Holy Spirit desire to please You and surrender ourselves to follow Your guidance. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

## **DAY 21, JANUARY 22 - OUR MISSION**

***“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”***

**MARK 16:15-16**

The Christian's mission is to help people follow Jesus. Obeying this mandate might be a new practice for you, yet carrying out the mission of Jesus is necessary. This is the means by which lost people are to be found. The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost. Jesus gave His disciples a great responsibility to go into all the world and proclaim His message about the Kingdom of God. This is a great example for us today. Those of us who follow Christ's teachings surrender to His authority by carrying out His mission.

Only when the Gospel message of Christ is preached in all the world, will there be a worldwide following of Christianity. The New Testament disciples went from city to city as a response to the command of Jesus. Those who believed were baptized, as a testimony to the power of God. The disciples preached that Jesus died for our sins, His death was in our place, and His payment for sin is fully acceptable by God. This is the good news for all who believe, they can be saved from their sins and receive everlasting life in heaven.

**“Here is the great secret of success. Work with all your might; but trust not in the least in your work. Pray with all your might for the blessing of God; but work, at the same time, with all diligence, with all patience, with all perseverance. Pray then, and work. Work and pray. And still again pray, and then work. And so on all the days of your life. The result will surely be, abundant blessing. Whether you see much fruit or little fruit, such kind of service will be blessed.”**

**— George Müller (Evangelist and Founder of several orphanages, 1807-1898)**

### **PRAYER**

Dear Lord, use me to get the Gospel out in the places You strategically place me. Thank You for Your amazing gift of salvation and for dying on the cross for the sins of the world. You have destroyed the works of the devil so that I can live in the freedom of Your grace and serve You. May You be glorified in all I do, as I go to give the good news of Your love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 22, JANUARY 23**  
**PRAISE GOD ON PURPOSE**

***“O LORD, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, For You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.”***

***ISAIAH 25:1***

God is continuously worthy of our praise. When we feel we are provided for financially and when we are sick at heart, and even when He seems silent. God is always loving and good although we may not be experiencing what we would define loving and good to be at times. We can lift ourselves out of “doubt land” and thinking, “where are You, God?” by praising Him on purpose. Praise Him for allowing you to understand the Gospel, repent and believe on Jesus for your salvation. Praise Him for being all-powerful, giving you breath and holding the universe together. Our lands are filled with crops, pastures with animals, and orchards with fruit. Fish are bountiful in our rivers, and we have access to clean drinking water. The Lord unendingly provides for our physical and spiritual needs!

**“God is always worthy of praise. And praise benefits us, too. When we praise God, we make room in our hearts and minds for Him to come in. Praise lifts our spirits and drives away the devil. So sing, dance, or lift your hands – do whatever you can to praise the Lord!” — Pastor Jack Wellman (Prison Ministries Planter)**

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we are weak, and You are strong. When the trials come that try to drain us of praising You, we ask You to remind us to praise You during difficulties. We are so blessed that You always love us unconditionally and are pure and perfect! Your power is beyond our comprehension, and You desire to have a close relationship with us. We humbly bow in praise for the great love of Your only Son, Jesus, and for His willing blood sacrifice for the salvation of those who believe on Him. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 23, JANUARY 24**  
**TAME YOUR TONGUE**

***“If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless.”***

**JAMES 1:26**

Faithful followers of God referred to as “*religious*” in James 1:26, is saying, that if you consider yourself to be a faithful follower, you will use self-control when you speak. Bridling your tongue means to control what comes out of your mouth by choosing what you will say and what you will not say. We may consider ourselves faithful, but what matters is how we actually live. God gives us freedom to choose our words. Some words build people up and some words tear them down. Do you remember a time when you needed someone to give you verbal affirmation and they did the opposite of affirming you? If we do not bridle our tongue, then our religion, or the things we say we believe, are not going to do us much good.

To tame the tongue, we must deal with our mind. We need to understand that what comes out of our mouth reflects what is in our heart and mind. The following are some guidelines to help you control your speech. 1. Ask God to give you an awareness of your words and their impression to the hearer. 2. Spend time with the Lord and ask forgiveness regarding language or words that you have spoken that are offensive. 3. Ask God to guide you to speak words that will honor Him and accomplish His purposes. Determine to “speak life” as Ephesians 4:29 says: *“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”*

***“The cure of an evil tongue must be done at the heart. The weights and wheels are there, and the clock strikes according to their motion. A guileful heart makes a guileful tongue and lips. It is the work-house where is the forge of deceits and slanders; and the tongue is only the outer shop where they are vended, and the door of it. Such ware as is made within, such, and no other, can come out.”***

**— Robert Leighton (Minister and Author, 1611-1684)**

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we are thankful that You love us enough to correct us so that we can live pleasing You. Please forgive us for misusing our speech and we commit to let our words go through Your holy filter before letting them escape from our mouth. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 24, JANUARY 25**

**HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS**

***“To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”***

**ISAIAH 61:3**

The spirit of heaviness is “a suffering spirit,” or a “spirit of despair.” These words paint a picture of someone with a heavy and sorrowful heart that is focusing on negative or unknown situations, rather than the goodness of God. In Psalm 142, David expressed deep sorrow and anguish because his former friend, King Saul, decided he would kill David because he was jealous of him. Saul knew David had been anointed to be King in his place. God had rejected Saul because of his rebellion against His instructions. David lived as a fugitive on the run from King Saul for more than a decade, and this wore him down.

David humbly appealed to his Father God to deliver him, God heard him and rescued David from a “spirit of heaviness.” In Psalm 40:1-2, David wrote, *“I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.”*

To break free from the “spirit of heaviness” humbly pray to God and wait, God is working while we wait. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any unconfessed sin, wrong motives, and anything that displeases God. To be restored, we should praise the Lord even if we do not feel like it and focus on worship and thanksgiving. When we worship, even if we are in despair, we take our gaze off the present situation and focus on God’s Word. Psalm 147:3 states: *“He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.”* God is our sustainer; He calms our hearts and restores our perspective. Surround yourself with believers in Christ that can offer you encouragement and fellowship.

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, thank You for providing the cure for the spirit of heaviness. Help us to live a life that is conscious of praising and focusing on You, our Father. May we be aware of anything in our life that is influencing our heaviness of spirit and turn it over to You in faith.

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 25, JANUARY 26**  
**SHOW GOD YOUR LOVE**

***“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.  
And His commandments are not burdensome.”***  
**1 JOHN 5:3**

A little boy was standing by a parked car getting ready to cross the street. His dad was watching him on the other side of the road. When the boy started to walk to his dad, he yelled, “Stop!” His dad’s greatest concern was for his child’s welfare, and he could see what his son could not see, an approaching car. If his son disobeyed his dad’s warning and started to cross the street, he could have been injured. He obeyed and did not step out until the way was cleared. When a child obeys their parents, it shows that they love and trust them. Believers should be confident that God loves them and should express their love and trust to God by obeying Him.

How do we love God? We show we love God by taking the Scripture seriously and putting it into practice. God’s instructions are not oppressive but come from the heart of a wise and loving Father. He knows the dire consequences of sin that He does not want us to experience. The guidelines our heavenly Father gives us in the Bible are made to benefit us. Obeying God’s commands is a necessary expression of love. Just as a child will obey their parents to show love, believers will obey their heavenly Father to show love for Him.

Having faith in Christ makes obedience to the commandment to love possible. Some of John’s readers may have been concerned about a list of expectations they thought were impossible to obey. However, John had already defined the fundamental commandments of Christianity as loving God and loving one another (1 John 4:21). Christ’s commands are not a burden, but a blessing for those who know God. Jesus said, *“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”* (Matthew 11:30).

***“True Obedience is the refusal to compromise in any regard our relationship with God regardless of the consequences.”***  
**– A.W. Tozer (Former Pastor and Author)**

**PRAYER**

Dear Father, thank You for loving us and overseeing our lives so You can protect us from making wrong choices and reaping the consequences. May our obedience to You increase as we follow Your truth in the Bible. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 26, JANUARY 27**  
**RAHAB'S FAITH IN ACTION**

***“Likewise, also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”***

**1 PETER 2:2**

Rahab had a reputation no woman would ever want; she was a prostitute. Yet she was also a woman who acted in courage and faith in God. She owned a house built on the outer walls of Jericho. Two Israelite spies, who were enemies of Jericho arrived there, and Rahab hid them on the roof of her house. This was an act of courage. The people in Jericho had heard about all of the miraculous signs the Lord had performed for His people, when they escaped Egypt. The residents of Jericho were terrified of the Israelites. The rulers of Jericho heard that spies had arrived and demanded they be turned over to them, but Rahab continued to conceal the spies at the risk of her life. She had become a follower of the one true God of the Israelite spies. Rahab acknowledged to the spies: *“And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.”* Joshua 2:11.

At this defining moment Rahab knew that the Israelites would conquer Jericho and asked the spies to spare her life and the lives of her family members when the assault came. The spies agreed to it as long as she would keep the secret, place her family in her house, and tie a scarlet ribbon in her window as a signal to the Israelite army to spare her home. At the appointed time, the army showed up and attacked Jericho, and only Rahab and her family were spared.

Rahab had courageous faith and the woman with the bad reputation was commended in Hebrews 11, the faith chapter. She was the only woman, besides Sarah, that has her name there. Eventually she was no longer identified as the harlot that hid the spies, but as the wife of Salmon, the mother of Boaz, and the ancestor of Jesus. If you have a past that brings you shame, do not despair. God has sufficient grace to transform a bad reputation to a beautiful one.

**PRAYER**

Our Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that You give us faith to accomplish what is Your will for our lives. We thank You for wisdom to know how to please You by staying in Your Word and obeying what is taught there. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## DAY 27, JANUARY 28 DELIGHT IN GOD

***“Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful but his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.”***

**PSALM 1:1-2**

The true follower of Christ gains understanding by pondering the Word of God. They give it serious and careful thought, correct things they are doing wrong and replace them with obeying God. An example of this is someone reading Psalms 101:3 that says, *“I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.”* As they turn it over in their mind the Holy Spirit will point out wicked things they have looked at that has opened the door for them to be a slave to covetousness, lust, jealousy and discontent. When the Christian repents and focuses on Psalm 101:3, and no longer looks at things that would cause sinful reactions, they are blessed. The sin pattern that has had control over them is breaking loose by the power of the Word and the Holy Spirit. The freedom from this sin pattern brings delight in the teachings of the Bible, for they are empowered by God. Obedience brings blessing.

To delight in God, we need to realize that we must keep our mind predominantly off ourselves, our problems, our failings, and become more aware of thinking scriptural thoughts that bring us closer to God. When we do not do this, we put a distance between ourselves and our fellowship with God. Our minds should have a God view rather than a worldview. A God view displays characteristics that exalt biblical teachings in our life.

***“As you read, pause frequently to meditate on the meaning of what you are reading. Absorb the Word into your system by dwelling on it, pondering it, going over it again and again in your mind, considering it from many different angles, until it becomes part of you.” – Nancy Leigh DeMoss (Christian Speaker and Author)***

### PRAYER

Dear Lord, You are so good to us, Your patience is unending! I commit to meditate on the Bible so I can become stronger in my walk with You and not live in defeat. Thank You for encouraging me to ponder Your Word so I can live an obedient and blessed life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 28, JANUARY 29**

**UNFORGIVENESS HAS A PRICE**

***“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”***

**MATTHEW 6:14-15**

A parable of Jesus in Matthew 18 tells us of a king who forgave his servant who owed him a great debt. But then the forgiven servant refused to forgive a fellow servant who owed a fraction of the debt he had with the king. The servant begged, but he had him thrown in prison until he paid the debt. His fellow servants observed this behavior and were grieved, so they reported the incident to the king. The repercussions for this are told in the following passage. Matthew 18:32-34: *“Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.”* This parable teaches us that refusing to forgive is hypocritical and will be disciplined by God. *“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”* Matthew 8:35.

The alternative to forgiveness is a heart grown hard with animosity; it is estrangement from one another, and in the worst case, violence. A world without forgiveness is a world of relational destruction, the opposite of the wholeness and fullness of life God intends for us.

**“Forgiveness must be immediate, whether or not a person asks for it. Trust must be rebuilt over time. Trust requires a track record. If someone hurts you repeatedly, you are commanded by God to forgive them instantly, but you are not expected to trust them immediately, and you are not expected to continue allowing them to hurt you.”**

**–Rick Warren (Pastor and Author)**

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, help me to be more merciful with those who stumble and humbly appeal to those who refuse to forgive. Please give me a sense of balance so that I may know, celebrate, and proclaim your mercy. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 29, JANUARY 30**  
**1 SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

***“For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”***

***HEBREWS 5:13-14***

After birth, physical growth happens naturally when the baby gets enough nourishment. The baby begins with drinking mother’s milk, or formula. Gradually the little one is introduced to soft foods and is spoon fed and then advances to solid foods when they can manage them. The baby matures to wanting to feed itself and goes through the process of learning to use the utensil and bring food to their own mouth. Although it is messy, it is a necessary step for them to develop the skill of feeding themselves for the rest of their lives. No one would want to spoon feed a thirty-year-old - that would be embarrassing.

It is fine to begin your spiritual life as a baby because it is all new to you. What Paul was stressing, in the above verse, is that the Hebrews were choosing to *stay* “spiritual babies.” They didn’t lack information having to do with righteousness, but they did not apply the truth to their experience. Without this working principle one cannot mature in the faith. They stay spiritually stunted because they never advance from “the milk of the Word.” They lack the desire to spiritually feed themselves on the “meat of the Word.”

The mature Christian referred to in Hebrews 5:14, is able to handle solid food and discern good from evil. They are not in danger of being deceived by false doctrine, or by the claims of hypocrites. Therefore, they won’t be misguided by the subtleties of Satan. They are convinced that their spiritual growth depends on the proper use of godly wisdom found in the Scripture. Knowing and practicing biblical principles activates the grace already given to them by God.

***“From unskilled to skilled, from oblivious and uncomprehending to discerning - a process happens. It is an integral part of the way of God. It is how He writes His laws into our hearts.” – John W. Ritenbaugh (Former Pastor)***

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we praise You for loving us so much that You are always working with us to become more like You through the sanctification process. Help us to be clean in our hearts so our thoughts, words, and actions will be pleasing to You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 30, JANUARY 31**  
**CLINGING TO HOPE**

***“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”***

**ROMANS 15:13**

Let's be hopeful and not discouraged when circumstances seem hopeless, stressful, and sad. When we have the Holy Spirit of God living in us, we have the power to not allow despair to dictate our moods or outlook on life. Christians should not imitate the patterns of thinking that unbelievers experience, but instead center their thoughts on the biblical expectation of hope, peace, and joy. This can only happen when we regularly read the Bible and apply its truth. Center your thoughts on the Word and work out the truth in your life through obedience. This is done by meditating on what God says rather than being swayed by negativity, it is not to be unrealistic, but to think like the Bible instructs us.

All hope is not lost. According to Romans 15:13 above, God is the God of hope! The word hope in the Bible is from the Greek word *“Elpis”* which is defined as: *a desire of some good with an expectation of obtaining it.* For the Christian, it is the faith and assurance that God is Who He says He is, will always be faithful and true to His nature. Joy is a happiness that is experienced in our very being. It springs from the big picture taking in the fact that we will live eternally in a heavenly paradise, after death. Joy motivates our actions, service, and worship.

Christ died to provide peace, the perfect tranquility that is birthed from abiding in God. When we have the peace of God there is a wholeness of mind and spirit, and a heart completely at rest. It does not have anything to do with external surroundings. Peace is not the absence of trouble; it is the presence of God. We can practice the presence of God by keeping in mind that God is with us as we go about our day, the more we think on that the more we grow in that godly habit.

**“There are no hopeless situations – only people who have grown hopeless.**

**There really are biblical solutions for all of life's struggles!”**

**–June Hunt (Founder of Hope for the Heart Counseling Ministry)**

**PRAYER**

Our Father, we are so grateful that You give us hope, joy and peace. You are the only source of this blessing. Help us to learn to live in this divine provision. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 31, FEBRUARY 1**

**CONSISTENT PRAYER IS NECESSARY**

***“So the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.’”***

***ACTS 9:11***

The Lord used the Apostle Paul, a man who had temptations and struggles like we experience and formed him into an example of what Christ could do for someone who referred to himself as the “chief of sinners.” Paul’s conversion took place on the road to Damascus where the risen Christ appeared to him in a heavenly vision. After this encounter, Paul was converted to Christianity, but had been blinded by the heavenly light. Jesus instructed Ananias to go to Paul and place his hands on him to restore his sight and told Ananias that, “he [Paul] was praying.” Prayer became the central aspect of Paul’s life. The heavenly vision that brought him to his knees, ruled his life from that moment on. Paul’s example of humility and complete dependence on God was exhibited in his intense and successful prayer life. This is a biblical pattern we can learn from and practice in our everyday life.

***“I [Paul] do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.”***

***Ephesians 1:16***

**“Paul’s requests for prayer are no less instructive than his own prayers for the saints. They show that he does not count prayer a special prerogative of an apostle; he invites the humblest and simplest believer to claim his right. They prove that he doesn’t think only the new converts or weak Christians need prayer; he himself, as a member of the body, is dependent upon his brethren and their prayers.”**

**– Andrew Murray (Pastor and Author, 1828-1917)**

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, I humbly bow in adoration as I praise You for Your divine love. I commit to completely yield to Your way of holiness and growth by acknowledging that Christ is always with me. May I have a divine awareness of Your power and pray always and in every circumstance. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

## DAY 32, FEBRUARY 2

### BE PREPARED FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

*“Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching.”*

**LUKE 12:37**

Will you be ready when Jesus comes? He tells us that He will come at an unexpected time, so we don't need to calculate dates and try to figure it out. Believe that you won't know when, but that you are to live in expectancy and be watching. When a woman is expecting a baby, she doesn't know the exact moment when the baby will be born, but lives in anticipation that it will happen. Meanwhile she readies herself by accumulating a supply of articles the baby will need. For the Christian to be watching for Jesus' return is to get ready by making their spiritual life front and center in their mind, rather than thinking there is plenty of time to obey God.

Jesus equipped us with what we need to know to get ready for His second coming. Being ready is a mindset and a lifestyle. We are to pattern our life according to the Word of God. In biblical times, there were no clocks or electricity. The Master of the house could arrive home at any time of the night; punctuality had no meaning in that era. The servant was expected to stay up until his Master arrived. He also had to keep the lamps from burning out, which required replacing the oil on time and keeping the wicks trimmed. It was thought to be disgraceful if the Master returned from his journey and no one was there to take care of his needs or worse he was locked out of his house. The good servant took unequivocal care of his Master and remained watchful for his return.

Christians should remain watchful for Christ's return by staying spiritually sensitive by reading, obeying, and acting on what the Bible teaches. God's children are to be serving the Lord in the capacities for which He has spiritually gifted them and do His will continuously. When Christians do that, they are ready for the Lord's return so they will not be ashamed, but rejoice at His coming. Faithfulness and obedience will be rewarded on judgement day when Jesus makes an accounting of how His people served Him.

### PRAYER

Dear Lord, help us to stay spiritually alert and live to please You until we meet You in heaven or when we are on the earth, when You return in the rapture. Thank You for reminding us to put You first in our lives so we will not be ashamed when we see You face to face. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 33, FEBRUARY 3**  
**WALK IN JESUS' STEPS**

***“But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”***

**1 JOHN 2:5-6**

What is the proof that someone is truly a Christian, a child of God, who has asked for the forgiveness of their sins and accepted Christ as their Savior? The proof is that they show a lifestyle of having the Holy Spirit living in them and that they are in a state of changing to reflect God's character in their behavior. Obedience is the natural outcome of salvation. Believer's lives are to be typified by a growing desire to obey the teachings in the Scripture out of appreciation for Christ and all He has done for us. If we notice an overall desire growing in us that produces a pattern of obedience, don't doubt your salvation. Our relationship with God is apparent by how we live - we walk like Jesus walked.

Jesus lived on the truth of God's Word. His character has many attributes, and we will look at two of them. Jesus loves, we are to love. Love is action, it does not mean to allow others to use you, but to have a concern for others that is shown by helping, encouraging, and fellowshiping in an atmosphere of safety. Don't hate your enemies but forgive them in your heart. It sets you free from carrying a burden of sin. When we hate we are blinding ourselves. Jesus is pure and expects us to live pure lives as well. This is displayed in our conversations, what we view, who we interact with and how we think. Purity is freedom from anything that contaminates us, when we line our lives up with the Bible, we are not contaminated.

***“Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes.”***  
**– Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Author of *The Cost of Discipleship*,; 1906-1945)**

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we are grateful to You for living the example of an obedient life. You obeyed to the point of sacrificing Yourself for us to have eternal life with You. We ask that You help us grow in maturity and stay in the Scriptures, obey them, and walk like you walked on the earth. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 34, FEBRUARY 4**  
**FOLLOW GOD'S LEADING**

***“Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me  
in the land of uprightness.”***  
**PSALM 143:10**

My dad was a craftsman and a builder. The town he was from is dotted with homes, doctor offices, laundromats, and restaurants that he designed and built. He was talented in that way, and sometimes he would meet someone, who wanted to hire him, for coffee. The client would describe what they were looking for and sometimes my dad would design it on a napkin as they spoke, and from that plan make a blueprint. Then he was off buying the necessary supplies and hired who he needed to help make someone's dream come true.

God knows what He wants for our life and has the blueprint drawn up. He is guiding us and planting seeds in our heart like a gardener. He waters the seeds and overlooks their progress. The seeds form and give us the desire to know and do what He has planned for us. Whatever God has made you for, He has equipped you to be able to do it. There will be suffering in the process because suffering produces perseverance and character. You will need these characteristics to accomplish what God created you for.

Here are some ways to follow God's plan for your life. 1) Be in prayer. Devote every area of your life to God daily. 2) Actively read the Word. It's one thing to listen to a sermon and another thing to devote each day to read the Bible. It will give you a better understanding of God's calling on your life as the Holy Spirit speaks through the Word. 3) Follow the directions God puts on your heart. Allow God to guide your steps. Obey whatever He puts in your heart, and it will come to pass. 4) Seek a godly community. It's easier to act in ways that honor Him in your life when you have Christian support, and accountability and godly counsel.

**“God's commands are designed to guide you to life's very best. You will not obey Him, if you do not believe Him and trust Him. You cannot believe Him if you do not love Him. You cannot love Him unless you know Him.”**  
**– Henry Blackaby (Author of *Experiencing God*)**

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we praise You for loving and designing us to be able to serve You. Thank You for the plans You have prepared for us and may we stay dedicated to carry out those plans for Your glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 35, FEBRUARY 5**

**INTERCEDE FOR YOUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS**

*“That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.”*

**EPHESIANS 3:16**

The great thing about prayer is that God listens to the prayers of His children, and anybody can pray. There is no special gift or training needed. Some people are better than others but did not begin their prayer lives that way, they matured in their prayer life by consistency. Then they grew into being a prayer warrior. We need to be intentional in our prayers rather than praying just to be able to say we prayed, like we fulfilled a spiritual duty. We can make a positive difference in the lives of people when we faithfully pray for them.

**“The Spirit of prayer will not only show you the true meaning and purpose of prayer; He will also lift you in all your helplessness up to the very heart of God where you will be warmed by His love, so that you can begin to pray according to His will, asking for nothing except those things which are in harmony with His plans and purposes.”**

**– Ole Hallesby (Lutheran Theologian, 1879-1961)**

The above verse, Ephesians 6:1, is a petition that the Apostle Paul prayed to our Father God and asked that He would strengthen the saints so they would not weaken and give up during the tribulations they were going through. Paul lifted up his fellow Christian brothers and sisters with great sincerity and asked that the Lord would mature them in their faith, and that they would grow in grace and conformity with the riches of God’s super-abundant glory and His perfect will. He asks that they may be strengthened with all-power in the inner man by the might and virtue of the Holy Spirit. These are scriptural requests that have stood the test of time that we can use when we pray for others.

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, thank You for reminding us that we are to pray for our fellow Christians around the world and for giving us prayers in the Scripture that we can use. We ask that we yield to You to be developed into effective intercessory prayers. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

## DAY 36, FEBRUARY 6

### SUBMIT TO GOD

***“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”***

**JAMES 4:7-8**

Soldiers are under the authority of their commander, and we are to submit to the authority of God. It is in our best interest to submit to Him. He keeps us away from the world path that leads to destruction. If we choose to no longer submit to God, He sees it as being unfaithful to Him. Pursuing things that appeal to our flesh, is to fall into a trap of Satan. It is a sign that we are double-minded. James 1:8 says, *“He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”* Double-minded is defined as being divided between God and the world. The person occasionally believes in God but does not trust Him when difficulties come, it is hypocritical. For the believer, trials are to increase their dependence on God, rather than being preoccupied with earthly pleasures.

When we realize that we have gotten off course with God’s path, we can ask for forgiveness and submit to God again. We must resist the devil and be aware of becoming enticed by his schemes that appeals to our flesh. It is a set up to take you down, if you take the bait. Being tempted is not sinning, giving into the temptation results in sinning. Resistance means to actively pull away, it demands we always counter his lies by reviewing the truth about God’s goodness, love, and power. He flees from those who remain in the presence of submission to the truth of God’s Word.

***“As Christians, we are involved in a battle. Our arch-enemy is Satan who ‘walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour’ (1 Peter 5:8). The way in which he devours unwary people is by tempting them to sin – by convincing them that sin is a more rewarding master than Christ. He therefore disguises himself and his agents, and he makes the pleasures of sin appear very appealing to us. And Satan does not just attack us from the front where we can clearly see him coming; he attacks from every side.” – Jim Elliff (Pastor and Author)***

### PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank You for drawing our attention to the truth that we must be single minded and totally committed to You. We declare that Your ways are perfect. Help us to recognize Satan’s schemes, resist him and counter the lies with the truth in the Bible.

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 37, FEBRUARY 7**

**JESUS IS THE LIVING BREAD**

***“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”***

**JOHN 6:51**

Bread is a satisfying food; it comes in many forms. It can be made with a variety of flours. Some cultures main source of food is bread. Jesus is referring to spiritual bread that only He can provide. He is interested in meeting our needs as long as we keep them in the proper priority. He is saying that in the most important way, He can satisfy our deepest needs and longings. He can make us feel “full” and overflowing with blessing.

When the Israelites were in the wilderness manna, a form of bread, was miraculously supplied from heaven on a daily basis to sustain their physical needs, but manna could not meet their spiritual needs. Jesus stated that *“if anyone eats of this bread they will live forever.”* He said that manna was sent as a temporary relief from physical hunger, but God has sent down a living bread, which gives life to the world. In the above statement of Jesus, He is contrasting earthly (manna) and heavenly bread. “Eating” heavenly bread is a figure of speech that means to put your faith in Him. It is a once and for all act of repenting of sin and accepting Christ as your Savior. Belief in Christ as Savior means trusting Him and doing what He says. He will feed His followers in a spiritual way continuously and eternally.

**“The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less.”**

**– Tim Keller (Pastor and Author)**

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we acknowledge that only You can feed us spiritually. We praise You for Your blood sacrifice and providing salvation for us that we can benefit from now and in eternity. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 38, FEBRUARY 8**

**CALEB'S ATTITUDE OF FAITH**

***“But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.”***

**NUMBERS 14:24**

The Joshua and Caleb story in the Old Testament contrasts receiving blessings when we trust God and take on the assignment He gives us, with the result of living in the defeat of fear. They were two Israelite men whose stories give us an example of faithful dedication to the Lord. Both experienced the deliverance from slavery in Egypt by going through the parted Red Sea and entering the wilderness with Moses. Forty years of living in the wilderness had passed and they were selected along with ten other men to spy out the Promised Land that God said they could possess. The explorers returned after forty days and then gave a report. They affirmed that the land did flow with milk and honey. But they went on to say that the people there were powerful, and the cities were large and fortified. When their fellow Israelites heard this report, they became paralyzed with fear and did not trust God to give them the victory to possess the land He promised.

Caleb had a different attitude than the spies who gave the negative report and said, *“Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”* (Numbers 13:30). But sadly, the entire Israelite assembly rebelled against the Lord, except Joshua and Caleb. God judged the people of Israel by making them wait forty years to enter the land. He supernaturally preserved Joshua and Caleb for that time; for forty years their strength never diminished. After Moses' death, Joshua became the leader of the Israelites and led them to the Promised Land. They conquered it and lived to receive its bountiful blessings.

**“The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our attitudes.” – Chuck Swindoll (Pastor and Author)**

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we thank You for reminding us that you reward us when we have an attitude of faith that believes You will always fulfill Your promises. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**DAY 39, FEBRUARY 9**

**JESUS ASCENDED TO HEAVEN**

***“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’”***

**ACTS 1:9-12**

Forty days had passed since the resurrection. Jesus Christ appeared to His disciples, friends, and others. It was time for Him to go to Heaven and take His position at the right hand of God. Jesus took His disciples to the Mount of Olives and promised them that the Holy Spirit would come upon them to give them strength and power to be witnesses to all nations for God’s glory. After saying these things, as He was blessing them, Jesus ascended to Heaven. In Heaven Jesus took the role of interceding for the saints as their eternal high priest. (Hebrews 7:25) *“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”* There were many onlookers present and they gave witness of seeing Him being lifted up to Heaven on the day of the ascension. The ascension signified that He had completed His mission on Earth and has returned to Heaven.

***“The ascension of Christ did not consist merely of the lifting of His physical body upward, out of this realm and into another. It symbolized His exaltation above all of creation. He was seated at the right hand of the Father to undertake the work of intercession for His followers. Being at the right hand of God tells us that He is above all of us. Paul says He is ‘far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And [God] put all things in subjection under His feet.’”*** (Ephesians 1:21-22)

**– T. W. Hunt (Author of *The Mind of Christ*)**

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we rejoice in the fact that You fulfilled Your assignment on the earth for the salvation of mankind. Thank You for giving Your followers the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us in truth. We ask for a godly awareness so we will live displaying the fruit of the Spirit. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**DAY 40, FEBRUARY 10**  
**THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH**

***“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”***

**1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18**

The Rapture of the church is a coming event where God snatches away all believers from the earth to meet the Lord Jesus in the air. The Lord’s return in the air will be accompanied by a loud command, the voice of an archangel, and a trumpet blast. It will involve an instantaneous transformation of God’s children’s bodies that will fit us for eternity. We will have a body like Christ’s. Philippians 3:21 says; *“Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”* God will transform our physical body to resemble Christ’s glorious resurrection body. Jesus’ resurrected body could appear and disappear (Luke 24:30-31), go through walls (John 20:19), and ascend to heaven (Acts 1:9-11).

***“The second coming of Christ will be so revolutionary that it will change every aspect of life on this planet. Christ will reign in righteousness. Disease will be arrested. Death will be modified. War will be abolished. Nature will be changed. Man will live as it was originally intended he should live.”*** – Billy Graham (Pastor and Author, 1918-2018)

We should allow the promise of the second coming of Christ [the rapture] to continually motivate us with a sense of urgency to tell others about salvation through Christ. It should purify and challenge us to grow in faith and maturity so we will be watching and spiritually ready at His coming. The coming of Christ is the only solution to our earthly sorrows and the cure for our collapsing civilization. The blessed hope for all Christians is the promise of Christ’s return.

***“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”***

**REVELATION 22:20**

**PRAYER**

Dear Lord, we glorify You for the gift of the rapture that will occur to change us to be like Christ and take us to Heaven. We look forward to no more sorrows or pain and glorifying You! May we be adding to Your kingdom by evangelizing and obeying You in all things so we will not be ashamed of Your coming. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

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