

KEYS TO LIVING VICTORIOUSLY

KEYS

TO

THE

KINGDOM

Conrad L. DeFriese

It is with great appreciation that I acknowledge the contribution of my wife, Linda, and our friend, Debbie Fowler, for their many hours of work on this manual. Their suggestions and additions have contributed greatly to its completion.

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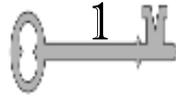
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KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN PARABLES



The kingdom of heaven parables were seven parables that Jesus taught. They cover the time period that began with the Day of Pentecost and will end at the conclusion of the seven years of tribulation.

1. What is the difference in the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven?

- a. The **kingdom of God** includes all the dispensations, ages, and periods of time from Adam to the eternal perfect state.
- b. The **kingdom of heaven** is a specific time period within the kingdom of God. It began on the day of Pentecost and ends at the second advent of Christ, at the end of the seven years of tribulation.

2. Matthew is the only New Testament book that uses the term kingdom of heaven.

The term kingdom of heaven is mentioned 8 times in Matthew Chapter 13, and 33 times in the entire book of Matthew.

The term kingdom of God is mentioned only 5 times in the book of Matthew, but many times in other books of the Bible.

3. The book of Matthew is divided into two parts.

Part 1 - Chapters 1 through 12.

These chapters are written to the Jews. Jesus came to His own and they received him not.

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Part 2 – Chapters 13 through 28.

Beginning in Chapter 13, Jesus turns to the Gentile nations of the world.

4. There are two themes in Matthew Chapter 13.

The two themes in Matthew Chapter 13 are the rise of the Church and the decline of the Jews (but that they will rise again).

5. In Matthew Chapter 13, Jesus began to teach in parables for the first time.

Matthew 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, why speakest thou unto them in parables?

11 He answered and said unto them, because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them, it is not given.

The reason Jesus began teaching in parables was to make it harder for the unbelieving Jews that have rejected Him to understand His teachings and to make it easier for those who were hungry to understand.

6. Paul had the responsibility to complete the Word of God.

*Colossians 1:25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to **fulfil** the word of God.*

26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Fulfil means to complete.

Romans 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began.

MYSTERY REVEALED TO THE CHURCH

The mystery of the kingdom of heaven refers to knowledge of God revealed to the Church that was not revealed in Old Testament times or to unbelievers.

The mystery revealed to the Church pertained to the following:

- The body of Christ
- The bride of Christ
- The indwelling of Christ
- The Church
- The rapture of the Church
- The kingdom of heaven
- Spirituality or Godliness

a. **The Body of Christ**

1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

The body of Christ includes all people that are born again.

b. **The Bride of Christ**

Ephesians 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

c. **The Indwelling of Christ**

*Colossians 1:26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:
27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

d. **The Church**

Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

e. **The Rapture of the Church**

*1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.
54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.
55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?
56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.
57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The rapture of the Church takes place before the seven years of tribulation.

f. **The Kingdom of Heaven**

*Matthew 13:1 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.
2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.*

3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

51 Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

53 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence.

54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

g. Spirituality or Godliness

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

7. The mystery does not include the following:

- The death of Jesus
- The burial of Jesus
- The resurrection of Jesus
- The ascension of Jesus
- The seating of Jesus at the Father's right hand
- The seven years of tribulation
- The second advent of Christ
- The millennium
- The eternal state of all creation

KINGDOM PARABLES TAUGHT BY JESUS

8. There are 7 kingdom parables in Matthew Chapter 13.

❖ Parable 1 - The Sower and the Seed

The parable of the sower and the seed is talking about the Church age.

Matthew 13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

19 when any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

❖ **Parable 2 – The Wheat and Tares**

The parable of the wheat and tares is foretelling about the time during the seven years of tribulation. The good seed is the children of the kingdom of heaven. The bad seed is the children of the wicked one.

Matthew 13:24 Another parable he put forth unto them, saying, the kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? From whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, and enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, wilt thou them that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, gather ye together first the tares, and bind them I bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Matthew 13:36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

❖ **Parable 3 – The Mustard Seed**

The parable of the mustard seed represents the Lord Jesus. The seed is sown and the tree which grows up is the Church. The birds represent the external attack by Satan on the Church.

Matthew 13:31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, the kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

❖ **Parable 4 – Leaven**

The parable of the leaven represents internal attacks on the Church by Satan.

Matthew 13:33 Another parable he spake unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

❖ **Parable 5 – The Treasure Hid in a Field**

The parable of the treasured hid in a field represents Israel. God sent His Son to die on the cross and purchase the whole world (the field) so He could find the hidden treasure, which is Israel.

Matthew 13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

❖ **Parable 6 – The Pearl of Great Price**

The parable of the pearl of great price is talking about the Church. The Church is the pearl. A pearl is made from a grain of sand in an oyster. It is made layer upon layer. That is the way God builds His Church.

Matthew 13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

❖ **Parable 7 – The Net Cast into the Sea**

The parable of the net cast into the sea is referring to the time at the end of the seven years tribulation when God separates the good from the bad.

Matthew 13:47 Again the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

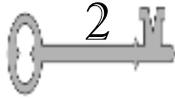
50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Jesus taught the seven parables of the kingdom of heaven to tell what is coming in certain periods of time and how God's plan will be carried out.

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

I am following God's plan for me during the Church age,
fulfilling and completing what He has called me to do.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
THE KEY OF PRAISE



Praising God has always been a priority throughout Scripture. Praise activates the power of God that is in His promises and brings victory. Praise is faith in action! Use your faith to activate God's power by praising Him.

1. Israel shouted the shout of faith and obedience, and the walls of Jericho fell.

Joshua 6:1 Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.

*2 **And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho,** and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.*

3 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

6 And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord.

Joshua 6:16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city.

17 And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the Lord: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

18 And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

19 But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the Lord: they shall come into the treasury of the Lord.

20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

God promised the children of Israel the city of Jericho. This city has a great wall around it. It looks impossible for Israel to take the city. Notice how God gives a promise and then, as they believe the promise and praise Him for the victory, He fights the battle and brings the victory.

God told the children of Israel to march around the walls of Jericho for seven days — once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day. He told them to have the priests blow the trumpets and to take the Ark of the Covenant with them. They were to keep their eyes and thoughts upon the Word of God concerning His promise. They were instructed not to let any noise or words come out of their mouth. He did not want them to speak anything that would be negative against the Word and promise of God. On the seventh day after they had marched seven times, they were commanded by Joshua to shout and praise God. When they shouted and praised God, the walls of Jericho fell flat and they went in and took the city.

First of all, the children of Israel had a promise from God. He told them through Joshua that He had already given them the city. God put it in the past tense. He said, “I have given you Jericho, its king and mighty men of valor. I have given you the city.” He then told them to march around the walls but not to say anything until Joshua tells them to shout.

This is good instruction from the Word of God. If you will take the promise of God, receive it in your heart, and begin to thank and praise God for it, He will give you the victory. You must be aware to not let any negative words or even sounds come out of your mouth concerning the promise of God. Some people say that it looks impossible to have victory in their

situation. If they will take the Word of God and obey it as God has given it, they will receive the victory.

2. Praise God in the face of adversity, and watch God fight the battle.

2 Chronicles 20:14 Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the Lord in the midst of the congregation;

15 And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

16 To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you.

18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord.

19 And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever.

22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and

when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

25 And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

The children of Judah have come up against three great armies that are much greater than themselves. God gives them a promise and instruction what to do. He tells them that they will not need to fight in this battle. He said, "The battle is not yours, but it is God's." He tells them to send singers and praisers out ahead of the army and He will fight the battle. Many times, people want to cry and beg and do many things to try to get the victory. That is not God's way. His way is a way of obedience. His way is for you to believe His promises.

Notice 2 Chronicles 20:22. *"And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten."*

The Bible tells us that no one escaped from the enemy's camp. The children of Judah did not have to fight in the battle, but they received the blessings from the battle. It took them three days to gather the spoil from the battle. Obeying God is the way to victory. Praise is one of those great avenues to get the victory.

Do not fight the devil! Obey God! Believe and praise God for His promises. Use the offensive weapon of praise. Go out and meet the enemy with your mouth full of praise to God. Take a position of praise. Praise is a demonstration of faith and trust in God. March offensively against the enemy, not to fight but praising God!

3. Praise gives strength.

When you need strength, begin to praise the Lord. Praise will usher you into joy. Joy gives you strength.

Nehemiah 8:10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our LORD: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Psalms 8:2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

Matthew 21:16 And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

In Psalms 8:2, Jesus used the word “praise” for “strength” when He quoted Psalms. Praise helps give you victory over your enemies. The ordained strength of God’s people in battle is their perfected praise!

Your mouth is the launching pad for all spiritual weapons. Fill your mouth with praise!

4. God inhabits the praises of His people.

Psalms 22:3 But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

God inhabits (dwells, lives) where people are praising Him. Praise and worship bring God on the scene.

5. They that seek the Lord shall praise Him.

Psalms 22:26 The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.

Praise is the proper attitude to approach God and to receive blessings and answers to prayer.

6. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.

Psalms 100:1 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

2 *Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*

3 *Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

4 *Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*

Psalms 103:1 *Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.*

2 *Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:*

3 *Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.*

Our love grows as we confess it by praising God. When you do not feel like praising God, you should praise Him until you do. Do not follow your feelings. Change your feelings with praise.

7. Praise God for His works.

Psalms 107:21 *Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!*

22 *And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.*

Praise God as Creator.

Psalms 136:1 *O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

2 *O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

3 *O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

4 *To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

5 *To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

6 *To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

7 *To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever:*

*8 The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever:
9 The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth
for ever.*

Your faith can be encouraged by looking back at what God has already done for you.

Psalms 136:10 To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for his mercy endureth for ever:

11 And brought out Israel from among them: for his mercy endureth for ever:

12 With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever.

13 To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever:

14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth for ever:

15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Praise God for bringing Israel into Canaan, their Promised Land.

Psalms 136:16 To him which led his people through the wilderness: for his mercy endureth for ever.

17 To him which smote great kings: for his mercy endureth for ever:

18 And slew famous kings: for his mercy endureth for ever:

19 Sihon king of the Amorites: for his mercy endureth for ever:

20 And Og the king of Bashan: for his mercy endureth for ever:

21 And gave their land for an heritage: for his mercy endureth for ever:

22 Even an heritage unto Israel his servant: for his mercy endureth for ever.

23 Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:

24 And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for his mercy endureth for ever.

25 Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever.

26 O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.

8. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Psalms 150:1 Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

5 Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

6 Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the LORD.

9. Call thy gates Praise.

Praise opens the way to the heart of God.

Isaiah 60:18 Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

10. God gives you the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

Isaiah 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Psalms 61:3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.

Praise is to the soul what sunshine is to the flowers. When you praise well, you feel well. Your emotions and moods can be changed for the better when you praise God.

11. Sacrifice with the voice of thanksgiving and praise.

Jonah 2:8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.

10 And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Praise is a weapon of warfare for the believer. It is one of the greatest keys that you have to obtain the promises of God. Let praise become a part of your life. Praise and thank God for His promises. Don't fight the devil. Take the offensive weapon of praise to the enemy. Let praise be continually in your mouth concerning God's promises. As you set your mind and heart upon the promises of God, your faith will grow and grow and grow. Praise is faith in action!

12. Minister to the Lord with praise.

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Praising God and ministering to Him gets your mind off yourself and on Him. During such times, God can give wisdom and direction to you.

13. Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises at midnight, and God opened the prison doors.

Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Paul and Silas were preaching the gospel. They were obeying God and doing what He told them, however, they ended up in prison chained between Roman soldiers. They were at the midnight hour. Their backs were bleeding because they had been beaten with many stripes. Instead of murmuring and complaining in their situation, instead of questioning that maybe they had missed God, they begin to sing and praise God for His promises and His Word. When they did this, God brought victory.

You may not know what to do in your situation, but you can begin to praise God for His promises. Take a promise from God's Word with you when you take your need to Him in prayer. As you pray, believe God's promise that meets your need. Receive it by faith in your heart. From that moment on, begin to praise God that the promise is yours. Praise can be the best way to pray when you are facing a situation that seems as dark as the midnight hour.

14. Praise strengthens your faith.

Romans 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

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Romans 4:20 No unbelief or distrust made him waver (doubtingly question) concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God.

God promised Abraham that he would have a child in his old age. This was impossible in the natural. There was no way for Abraham and Sarah to have a child in their old age, but Abraham looked at the promise of

God. Through praise and thanksgiving, he grew stronger and stronger in faith until the promise came to pass.

Praise is faith in action. You do not have to fight the devil. Jesus has already defeated the devil. Stand your ground with the Word of God. Praise God that He is performing His Word in your life and circumstances.

15. Prayer and thanksgiving go together.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

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Philippians 4:6 Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.

Give thanksgiving to God for answering your prayer request **before** you see the answer. God is always faithful to answer prayers that are prayed according to His will. The way you come to God even before you receive the answer is with praise and thanksgiving. Enter His gates with thanksgiving. Enter His courts and His presence with praise. Why are you praising Him before you receive the answer to your prayer? Because you know that God is faithful to keep His Word.

16. In everything give thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

17. Praise is the highest kind of prayer.

Put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-17) and pray the prayer of praise to God thanking Him for His promises that you receive by faith.

*Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with **all prayer** and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.*

All prayer in Ephesians 6:18 means all manner or kinds of prayer. Pray using all kinds of prayer. Some kinds of prayer are:

- Praise and worship
- Worship
- Prayer of faith
- Prayer of request
- Prayer of dedication
- Prayer of commitment
- Prayer of consecration
- Prayer of thanksgiving
- Prayer of agreement with another believer
- Declarations from Scripture
- Confessing the Word of God

Let the Holy Spirit lead you. He will lead you to pray the best and most effective way for the best results at that time.

18. Praise...

- Sets the captive free
- Sets an ambush for the devil
- Stops worry and fear
- Multiplies peace in your soul
- Makes the walls of the enemy fall flat
- Cures depression
- Turns weakness into strength
- Turns defeat into victory
- Turns sorrow into joy
- Turns dread into delight
- Unlocks prison doors
- Withers criticism to the roots

19. Praise God for His promises.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised).

Faith praises God for His promises before there is any change in the circumstances. Praise God for deliverance before you can see the victory. Praise is the language of faith. Faith in action will activate the power of God in your life.

Praise God for His promises. Find a promise that meets your need and believe it in your heart. Stand upon it and refuse to turn it loose. Take fast hold of it with a grip that will not let go. As you hold to the Word of God, that gives God something to work with. As you praise Him for His promise, that puts your faith into action. Faith must have some kind of action in order to be effective. Without some type of action, faith is dead, inoperative, and powerless. Praise will release your faith and cause it to go to work to bring the promises of God to fruition in your life.

LET EVERYONE THAT HAS BREATH PRAISE THE LORD!

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

I activate the power that is in God's Word by praising Him for His promises and receiving them by faith as if I already possess them.

PRAISE SCRIPTURES

Psalms 22:23 Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye seed of Israel.

Psalms 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

Psalms 33:1 Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.

Psalms 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalms 56:4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

Psalms 56:10 In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.

Psalms 69:34 Let the heaven and earth praise him, the seas, and every thing that moveth therein.

Psalms 71:14 But I hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.

Psalms 106:1 Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalms 107:8 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Psalms 112:1 Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

Psalms 118:21 I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.

Psalms 119:171 My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes.

Psalms 148:3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
THE FEAR OF THE LORD



The fear of the Lord is a reverent and respectful attitude for the Lord and anything associated with God. Anyone who fears the Lord respects, values, admires, looks up to, prizes, and treasures everything related to God. The fear of the Lord is to esteem, honor, adore, venerate, and worship the Lord. Walking in the fear of the Lord opens the door for the Holy Spirit to bring understanding and wisdom concerning God's will and plan for your life.

1. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.

*Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the Lord is to hate **evil**: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*

<u>EVIL</u>	
Adversity	Affliction
Calamity	Misery
Sorrow	Moral bad

God planned for mankind to enjoy life and peace. He does not want people to have evil adversity, calamity, misery, affliction, sorrow, and moral bad. As the fear of the Lord increases in your life, your attitude toward sin and corruption will be more like God's.

2. The greater respect you have for God, the more you will begin to develop the qualities that He has in your own life, and the more influence they will have on your life.

Psalms 33:8 Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

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Psalms 33:8 Let all the earth fear the Lord [revere and worship Him]; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

3. The fear of Lord keeps the tongue from evil.

Psalms 34:11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?

13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Words are like seeds. They produce after their kind. If you sow a corn seed, you will reap corn. Speak God's Word and sow the incorruptible seeds that will produce the things of God. Sow the Word of God in your life with your words. Say what God says!

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

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Ephesians 4:29 Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it.

4. The fear of the Lord is not the fear of man.

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

5. The fear of the Lord is not demonic fear.

The fear of the Lord has only to do with the attitude of your heart toward God. It does not relate to the demonic fear that comes from Satan and evil spirits.

6. The fear of the Lord is not natural fear.

There is a natural, healthy fear that is designed to help protect an individual by causing them to move cautiously.

7. Jesus Christ is our example of someone having the fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 11:2 And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

8. The fear of the Lord brings blessings.

Psalms 128:1 Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways.

9. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life.

Proverbs 14:27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

10. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

11. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear the Lord.

Psalms 25:14 The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

12. There is no want to them that fear the Lord.

Psalms 34:9 O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

13. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

14. The fear of the Lord prolongs days.

Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

15. The fear of the Lord brings deliverance.

Psalms 34:7 The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

16. The fear of the Lord trains you in wisdom.

*Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the Lord is the **instruction** of wisdom; and before honour is humility.*

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*Proverbs 15:33 The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord brings **instruction** in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.*



17. The fear of the Lord brings God's mercy.

Psalms 103:17 But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children.

18. The fear of the Lord produces strong confidence.

*Proverbs 14:26 In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence:
and his children shall have a place of refuge.*

19. Obey God's commandments in the fear of the Lord.

*Ephesians 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear
of God.*

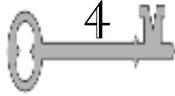
*2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved,
let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,
perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Keep your heart tender and sensitive to hear the voice of the Lord. Being quick to obey Him will cause the anointing and power of God to increase in your life.

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

I continuously maintain a very reverential and highly respectful attitude for all things pertaining to God.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
THE WILL OF MAN



The will of man (mankind, male and female) is his/her volition or willpower. Your will is involved in making decisions and choices. It is vitally important for you to develop and maintain a strong, healthy will that is submitted wholly to God. It is through your will that you receive the things of God into your life, as well as keep wrong things out of your life. It is through your will that the God-kind of faith that is in your heart is released. Choices, whether good or bad, are released through your will.

In this chapter, the will of man is referred to and relates to all of mankind, both male and female.

1. Man (mankind, men and women) is made up of three parts that operate as one. Man is a spirit. He has a soul and lives in a body.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In First Thessalonians 5:23, we see that spirit and soul are two different and separate things. The word “and” joins these two different things together. It is important to gain understanding of your spirit, soul, and body so you will know how to develop each of them according to the Word of God.

In this study, we will focus primarily on the spirit and soul of man (mankind), as well as the will. Your soul is made up of your will, intellect, and emotions.

2. **Your spirit is the part of you that is born-again at the time you accept Jesus as Saviour. Being born again is also called the new birth.**

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

3. **God is a Spirit. He communicates with you through your born-again spirit. Spirit communicates with spirit. God does not speak to you through your mind or body. He speaks to you through your spirit.**

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

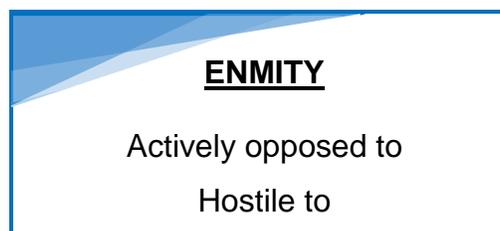
Proverbs 20:27 The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

Psalms 18:28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

God communicates with your born-again, human spirit, and your spirit communicates (brings the information) to your mind. This is why it is so very important to renew your mind with the Word of God. Your natural (carnal) mind is enmity against God. Your natural mind is opposed to the Word of God because of the sinful nature that you were born into. Renewing your mind to the Word of God enables it to understand what your spirit is receiving from the Spirit of God.

*Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is **enmity** against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*



4. God is the Father of born-again, human spirits.

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

5. Your soul is made up of three parts:

- **Intellect** – mind, thoughts, reasoning, human wisdom
- **Emotions** – moods, desires, ideals, loves, likes, dislikes, hates, joys, sadness (Emotions involve the total feelings).
- **Will** – volition or willpower

6. Your soul encompasses the following:

- the center of human personality
- the carnal part of man's individuality (reveals man's intellect, emotions, and willpower in his natural, human state)
- the captain and pilot of the ship (The born-again, human spirit is the owner).
- the center for activities of thinking, feeling, and deciding; should be a servant to the born-again, human spirit
- a useful servant, but a destructive master (You want your born-again spirit that is one spirit with the Holy Spirit to be in charge).

7. Understanding the Will of Man

The will is a soulish function. It draws facts from the intellect and emotions to make a judgment. God made us free moral agents. Our will is free to make choices and decisions. People and circumstances can exert an influence on our will, but we do not have to yield to that influence. We feed our emotions positive or negative images by deciding (with our will) to partake of those images or not. We have power over our own will. We choose whether or not to yield to the Spirit of God. The depth, extent or degree of commitment to God and His ways is something that is determined by our will.

Through Jesus Christ, God has provided for your redemption with bountiful blessings and benefits. It is your responsibility by a choice of your own will to seek God and to believe and receive what He has provided for you through Jesus Christ. God has done His part in providing for your redemption and well-being. You must now decide to cooperate and be obedient to Him. He will not override your will or force you to do something you do not will to do. He wants you to yield to Him and obey Him by the free choice of your will.

WORDS & PHRASES THAT DEFINE “WILL”

Choice	Volition
Decide	Intention
Resolution	Voluntarily
Pick	Prefer
Choose	Liking
Initiative	Disposition
Own say so	Consent to
Without coercion	Your own determination
Of one’s own accord	

WILLINGNESS

Agreeable	Cheerful consent
Compliant	Enthusiasm
Readiness	Responsive
Unreluctant	Unloathing
Ungrudging	Right or receptive mood

Satan cannot control your will unless you choose by an act of your will to be influenced by him and yield to him. You are ultimately responsible for your will, mind, and emotions. Choosing to make your will, mind, and emotions agree with the Word of God allows the power of God that is in His Word to do for you what is humanly impossible.

8. You are a free moral agent and free to make decisions of your own free will. You choose life or death.

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Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you that I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live.

God has made eternal life available to every person. It is your responsibility to choose to receive what He has offered.

9. You exercise your own will in believing and receiving what God has offered.

Matthew 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

10. It is God's will that all men who will to be saved shall be saved.

1 Timothy 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

11. Your relationship with God is entirely on a voluntary basis.

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

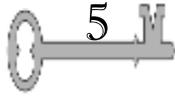
In over 4,000 Scriptures where choose, will, and other words expressing willpower are used, not one suggests that God forces anyone to accept Him and do His will. Every person is responsible for and in control of his/her own will.

The choices you make from your will are absolutely necessary before the good things of God that are in your heart can flow out and be manifested in the world.

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

I am alert to the fact that with my will I choose the things of God and His Word. I reject the thoughts of the enemy.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
GROWING UP SPIRITUALLY



It is your responsibility to do whatever is needed to promote spiritual growth in your life just as you must do naturally what is necessary to promote natural growth and health.

1. There are many similarities to spiritual growth and natural growth.

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.

Spiritual growth and natural growth both require cultivation, development, time, and certain ingredients to promote maturity.

2. Proper nourishment and exercise are essential to proper growth, both physically and spiritually.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

Without proper nourishment, proper growth cannot and will not take place. It takes more than hard work. It takes proper spiritual nutrition to grow spiritually.

3. God has given ministry gifts to the body of Christ for spiritual growth and development.

*Ephesians 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.
9 (Now that he ascended, what it is but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?*

10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

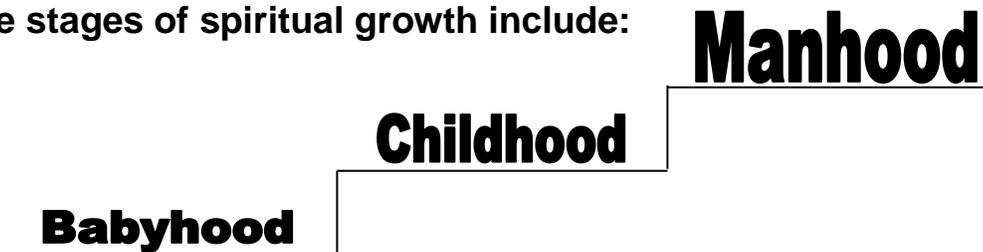
15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

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Ephesians 4:12 His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church).

The ministry gifts (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers – Ephesians 4:11) are to equip, supply, feed, nourish, and minister the things of God to the saints (born-again believers, the body of Christ) These five ministries cannot do all the work of Christ that is to be done. They equip the body of Christ so that it with its many members can do the work of Christ on the earth.

4. Three stages of spiritual growth include:



5. The first stage of spiritual growth is babyhood.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Babies do not know what should or should not go into their mouths. They are ever conscious of what others are thinking of them. They are easily spoiled and become irritable. When babies are weaned properly, they turn away from the bottle. When babies are weaned improperly, they cry and seek self-comfort. The way to get out of babyhood spiritually is to grow out of it by feeding and acting on the Word of God.

Psalms 131:2 Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.

6. The second stage of spiritual growth is childhood.

People in the childhood stage are typically unsteady, unreliable, and spasmodic. They are talkative and have not learned the value of listening. They are curious and ask questions about what is going on and why.

Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

Talkative people are usually trying to be popular and usually guilty of three sins:

- Evil speaking – discussing faults and failures of people not present
- Vain speaking – what “I’ve” done, where “I’ve” been
- Foolish speaking – jesting/joking when it is not convenient

Discover where you are spiritually and grow up from there!

7. The third stage of spiritual growth is manhood.

A person in the stage of manhood esteems earthly things lightly and considers Godly things to be of a greater value.

*Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter;
25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;*

26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

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

Becoming dead to people's expressions of approval, disapproval, criticism or praise is an indicator of spiritual maturity. You will know that you have entered the manhood stage of maturity when you do not expect or need the approval of others.

Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

1 Corinthians 4:3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

People in the manhood stage spiritually are constantly conscious about what the Word says about them. They have the ability to recognize God at work (example: Joseph stayed in prison and did not get bitter).

8. Signs of immature Christians.

If criticized, immature Christians feel slighted, puffed up, restless, uneasy or full of self-pity.

9. Grow up by walking in love.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Human love is selfish. The God-kind of love (Agape love) is unconditional and interested in "what I can give," **not** "what I can get."

10. Carnal-minded Christians are still babes in Christ.

*1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.
2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.
3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

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1 Corinthians 3:3 For you are still [unspiritual, having the nature] of the flesh [under the control of ordinary impulses]. For as long as [there are] envying and jealousy and wrangling and factions among you, are you not unspiritual and of the flesh, behaving yourselves after a human standard and like mere (unchanged) men?

Immature and baby Christians talk fear, doubt, worry, and unbelief. They are not yet talking the mature Christian language of faith, love, peace, forgiveness, and joy. Carnal Christians are immature Christians who walk, talk, and act much like people that are not born again. God will lovingly discipline them (Hebrews 12:5-11) with His Word so they can grow spiritually. It is God's will and desire that they grow closer to the image of Christ (Romans 12:1-2), becoming increasingly spiritual and decreasingly carnal.

Mature Christians are not distracted and disturbed by things of the world because their trust is in God and His faithfulness to meet their every need. Becoming a mature Christian takes time and diligence. This maturity is an ongoing process that is empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit and obedience to the Word of God.

*Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.
13 For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.*

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

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Hebrews 5:13 For everyone who continues to feed on milk is obviously inexperienced and unskilled in the doctrine of righteousness (of conformity to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action), for he is a mere infant [not able to talk yet]!

11. For spiritual growth to take place, you must feed on, learn, and act on God's Word. You must be a doer of the Word!

1 Corinthians 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

Born-again believers should awake to the fact that Christ has made them righteous (in right standing) with God.

Ezekiel 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

God is looking for mature believers that He can send forth in His work. Some characteristics of spiritual maturity include walking in faith and love, not allowing yourself to get offended, and obeying God's call on your life.

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

12. God is building His Church (the body of Christ) and causing it to grow.

The Church is made up of people worldwide that are born again and have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. This reference to the Church is not talking about a specific denomination or group. It refers to the body of Christ all over the world collectively.

Matthew 16:18 And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

God is building His Church on the revelation of who Jesus Christ is.

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.

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Hebrews 6:1 Therefore let us go on and get past the elementary stage in the teachings and doctrine of Christ (the Messiah), advancing steadily toward the completeness and perfection that belong to spiritual maturity. Let us not again be laying the foundation of repentance and abandonment of dead works (dead formalism) and of the faith [by which you turned] to God.

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

13. Test and trials will cause you to mature if you will act on the Word.

James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Acting on the Word of God develops Christian maturity.

14. Proper use of the tongue is a sign of Christian maturity.

James 3:2 For in many things, we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

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James 3:2 For we all often stumble and fall and offend in many things. And if anyone does not offend in speech [never says the wrong things], he is a fully developed character and a perfect man, able to control his whole body and to curb his entire nature.

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

Talking the language of faith, love, and forgiveness is the language of a mature Christian.

15. Mature Christians and mature trees bear fruit. Immature Christians and immature trees do not bear fruit.

*Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Fruit must be cultivated and developed. The fruit of the Spirit exhibits the character of God in a believer and is a sign of maturity. Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11) do not indicate spiritual maturity.

16. God is looking for mature Christians He can depend on for His service.

God calls many people to do a work for Him, however, because they do not grow and mature spiritually, they are never chosen to do the work.

Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

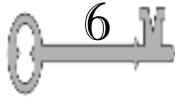
*Matthew 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last:
for many be called, but few chosen.*

Feeding on the Word of God and putting it into practice will cause you to grow and mature spiritually so that you can fulfill God's purpose and plan in your life.

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

I maintain proper growth because I am a doer of the Word of God,
and I am sensitive and responsive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
PAUL'S THORN



There has been much misunderstanding concerning Paul's thorn in the flesh. This lesson will bring Scriptural clarity and enlightenment as to the true meaning of Paul's thorn in the flesh.

*2 Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be **exalted** above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to **buffet** me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

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

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

EXALTED

Lifted up higher than a particular place

BUFFET

To punch repeatedly
(like waves hitting against a ship)

1. There are several things to consider when determining what Paul's thorn in the flesh was.

- a) The devil would not have sent a messenger to Paul to keep him from getting conceited and filled with fleshly pride. The devil wanted Paul to be filled with fleshly pride so that God's work would be hindered in his life.
- b) God gave Paul the revelations for the purpose that he would give them to the Gentiles.
- c) God wanted to exalt Paul so the revelations that Jesus Christ had given him would be exalted among the Gentiles.
- d) Paul did not say that he was exalted, so God was not punishing him or allowing Satan to punish him for something he had not done.
- e) Satan did not want the revelations going out to the world, so he sent a messenger to buffet Paul in an attempt to prevent him from being exalted by God and spreading the revelations of Jesus Christ to the world.
- f) God is not getting Satan to help Him keep Paul humble by tormenting and buffeting him so Paul cannot get the revelations that God has given him to the world.

2. God gave Paul a great responsibility to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, kings, and Israel.

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.

3. God miraculously gave Paul his eyesight.

Acts 9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath

sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

*18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and **he received sight** forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.*

God did not partially give Paul his eyesight. He did it right. Poor eyesight was not Paul's thorn in the flesh. We see from Acts 9:17-18 that God **gave** Paul his eyesight.

- 4. Paul's thorn in the flesh was a messenger of Satan sent to buffet him in an attempt to prevent Paul from being exalted by God and giving the revelations of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles and others.**

2 Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

- 5. Satan attacked Paul in many ways trying to stop or hinder him from spreading the revelations of Jesus Christ.**

2 Corinthians 11:21 I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit where insoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.

22 Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.

23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

32 In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

6. Judaizers came behind Paul trying to undermine his teaching of salvation by grace through faith.

Acts 13:50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

Judaizers taught that people must continue to keep the law of Moses as a means of salvation, even after receiving Jesus Christ as Saviour by faith. These legalistic Jews told the Gentiles that even though they were saved by grace through faith, they must keep the law in order to grow spiritually. This was part of the way the messenger of Satan buffeted Paul and was a thorn in his flesh.

7. Thorns are never used to speak of the work of God. They came as part of the curse.

Genesis 3:18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.

A crown of thorns (curse) was put on Jesus' head. He took the curse for us.

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.

Matthew 27:29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

The removal of the curse in the millennium is typified by the removal of thorns.

Isaiah 55:13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Thorns in the ground are referred to as a type of a curse.

Matthew 13:7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them.

Matthew 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

ADDITIONAL “THORNS” SCRIPTURES

Ezekiel 28:24 And there shall be no more a pricking brier unto the house of Israel, nor any grieving thorn of all that are round about them, that despised them; and they shall know that I am the Lord God.

Numbers 33:55 But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.

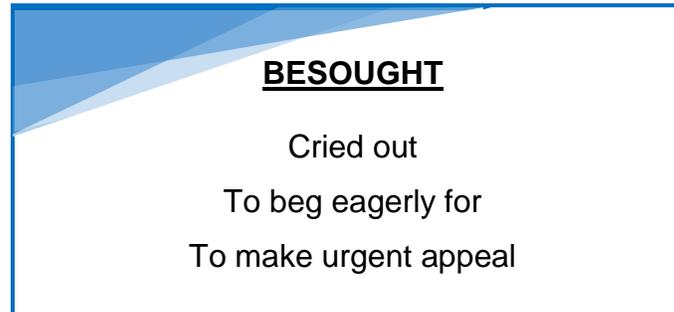
Joshua 23:13 Know for a certainty that the Lord your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the Lord your God hath given you.

Judges 2:3 Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.

Proverbs 22:5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.

8. With all the persecution Paul had, this is the only time he cried out for deliverance.

2 Corinthians 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.



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

Infirmities in 2 Corinthians 12:9 means weaknesses. Paul was going through severe tests and trials. He was praying and praying trying to get an answer and get victory in the things he was dealing with in life. He cried out to God. God spoke to him and said, “My grace is sufficient for thee.” God is telling him that the time of distress of your worst attack is not the time to cry out. Paul was not initially practicing what he knew concerning God’s grace and faith. God told Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you.” God wanted him to practice what he knew to do during the time of testing. He wanted Paul to rely on, draw from, and put into action the inner resources that God had given him! That is what God is saying to you today. His grace is sufficient for you. His grace will see you through any challenge you are facing. Rely on God’s grace!

After Paul cried out the third time, he heard the voice of God. He then began to rely on the revelations he had received. He began acting on the Word of God he had received which was sufficient to meet his need.

Prepare ahead and seek God for revelation knowledge of His Word. When tests and trials come, acting on the revelation of the Word of God will bring you through. The abundance of revelation that you are being attacked for is the very thing that is going to bring you through!

9. Paul had revelation knowledge from God concerning grace and faith.

Throughout the Pauline epistles, we see many Scriptures where the Holy Spirit revealed the understanding of grace and faith to Paul.

Get into the Word of God. The Word will bring faith, and faith brings grace that will overcome the problem.

10. Faith gives access to grace.

Romans 5:2 By whom also we **have access by faith into this grace** wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Increase in grace by...

- Speaking the Word so you can hear it
- Hearing the Word, which causes faith to come
- Walking in faith, which gives you access to grace

We are living in a time that the fullness of the grace of God is upon the earth. God is pouring out His Spirit today upon the earth. The fullness of His grace is here.

Grace is...

...God's ability to do for you and through you what you cannot do for yourself.

...God's unearned and unmerited favor

...God's divine influence upon your heart and the reflecting of that influence showing up in your life.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

When you came to the Lord, received salvation, and experienced the new birth, it was not because you were walking a perfect walk. It was not because you were living so well upon the earth, but it was by His grace. You heard the Word of God. Faith came to receive salvation and you released that faith. You acted upon it and received salvation by grace by releasing your faith in God and His Word.

2 Corinthians 4:13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

You are not able to do God's will and plan in your own strength and ability. It will only be by the grace of God that you will be able to please Him, do His will and plan, receive His promises, and see His power working in your life. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Be sensitive and responsive to what He is leading or speaking to your heart to do or not to do. He will lead you in ways that will enable and empower you by His grace to do His perfect will.

*Romans 5:2 By whom also we have access **by faith into this grace** wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

How are you going to get this grace? You have access into this grace by faith. Walking in faith releases the grace (the ability and power of God) that enables you to do God's will. He is not going to perform His will and plan in your life through your human ability. You can do all that you can do through human ability and strength, but all that you can do is not enough to be able to perform and do the will of God. You need the grace of God to do for you what you cannot do for yourself. Putting your faith and trust in God and His Word is what releases His grace, ability, strength, and power into your life.

Romans 4:16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all.

God has given you His promises and Word. He has many blessings and many victories that He wants to perform in your life. He wants to bless you. He wants to bless others through you, but it is going to take the grace of God.

11. God told Moses to quit crying to Him, to obey, and to go forward.

Exodus 14:15 And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward.

Moses had a rod in his hand. You have the Word of God that you can believe in your heart and speak with your mouth, then God's grace, like the east wind that rolled back the waters of the Red Sea for the children of Israel to cross over, will do for you what you cannot do for yourself.

12. Meditate on the Word of God until it fills your heart (spirit), then when you speak the Word, it will have Spirit life in it.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Romans 10:6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.

Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Romans 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

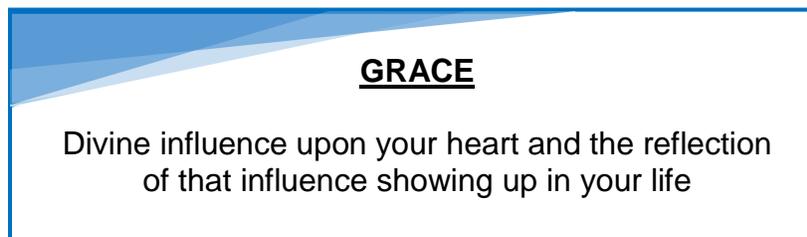
New American Standard

Romans 4:17 (As it is written, “A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU”) in the sight of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.

13. Grace can be multiplied or increased.

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.

*2 Peter 3:18 But grow in **grace**, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.*



You grow in grace. The more knowledge of the Word of God that you have in your life, the more grace you will have. The fullness of God’s grace is available to everyone, but everyone does not avail themselves to as much grace as other people. Some people spend more time in the Word of God. They seek the Lord more. They spend more time in prayer to receive more grace.

One way to receive more grace is by humility.

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

Being humble is not wearing raggedy clothes and holding your head down. Being humble is putting your trust in God and His Word rather than in your circumstances, in other people or in your own ability.

God is calling you. He wants to use you on the earth. He needs you. He wants to flow His mighty power through you, but you cannot do it in your

human ability and strength. God cannot even meet your needs the way He wants to in your own strength and ability, but He will do it by His grace. When you receive more grace, you will not have to take your problems to God. You will take God to your problems!

14. Be strong in grace.

*2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the **grace** that is in Christ Jesus.*

Be strong in grace, not strong in your own ability.

15. Jesus is the Word, full of grace.

Get in the Word and be full of God's grace. Get full of the Word and you will get full of grace.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

*John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace and truth.***

16. Receive more grace by prayer.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

If you will labor to enter into prayer, you will not struggle with other areas of life. Too often people try to fight the temptation of sin when they have not yielded to prayer. Prayer gives you grace and strength to overcome sin. Grace received in prayer changes you so you can take your faith and change things. You need enough of God's grace (strength and ability) to hold your confession of faith long enough until you see the manifestation of the promise.

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Hebrews 13:9 ...it is good for the heart to be established and ennobled and strengthened by means of grace.

17. The messenger of Satan in 2 Corinthians 12:7 was a person, not a thing or a disease.

2 Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

The Greek word angelos is mentioned in the Bible 188 times and is translated “angel” 181 times and “messenger” 7 times. It is in every case a person and never a thing or disease.

The word messenger means "angel." An angel of Satan was sent to buffet Paul. It was not sickness or disease that buffeted him.

The Rotherham & Weymouth Bible Translations refer to “he” and “him” when referring to Paul’s thorn. Disease is not referred to as “he” or “him.”

God told Ananias that he would show Paul how great things he must suffer for His Name’s sake. These things referred to persecutions, not disease.

Beck Translation

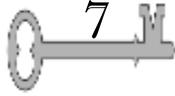
*2 Corinthians 12:8 ...three times I begged the Lord to have **him** leave me alone.*

Paul spoke many times of his persecutions, but never once mentioned suffering sickness or disease. His thorn cannot scripturally be used to teach that sickness and disease are the will of God. On the contrary, there is much scriptural evidence that healing for the physical body is the will of God, as well as forgiveness of sin.

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

I depend upon God's grace, not my hard work and human effort, to meet my every need. I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
BE A DOER OF THE WORD



Acting upon the Word causes the power that is in the Word to be released. The power of God is always present everywhere. That power is released when you act upon God's Word.

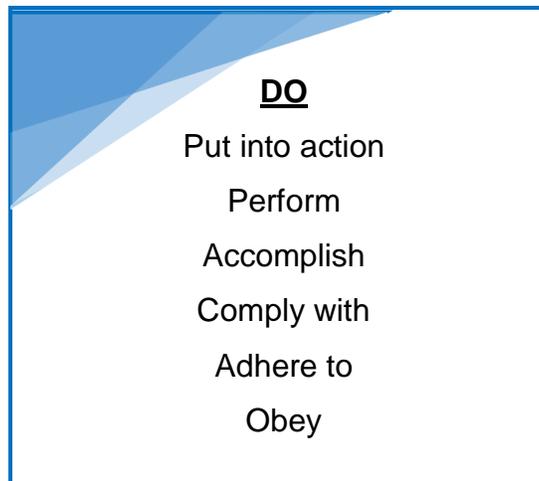
The following Scriptures instruct you to do what the Word of God instructs you to do.

- 1. If you will keep and do God's instructions and laws, He will keep His covenant and bless you.**

*Deuteronomy 7:11 Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to **do** them.*

12 Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers:

13 And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee.



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Deuteronomy 7:11 You shall therefore keep and do the instruction, laws, and precepts which I command you this day.

12 And if you hearken to these precepts and keep and do them, the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the steadfast love which He swore to your fathers.

13 And He will love you, bless you, and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your body and the fruit of your land, your grain, your new wine, and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the young of your flock in the land which He swore to your fathers to give you.

To be a doer of the Word means to put the Word into action.

Do it:

- Perform it
- Accomplish it
- Comply with it
- Do what it says to do
- Be obedient to the Word of God

Doing the Word of God, acting upon it, and practicing it causes the power that is in the Word to be released into your life. The power of God is always present everywhere. That power is released when you act upon God's Word.

2. God's blessings will come upon and overtake those that diligently listen to and do His commandments.

*Deuteronomy 28:1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, **to observe and to do** all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:
2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.*

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Deuteronomy 28:1 If you will listen diligently to the voice of the Lord your God, being watchful to do all His commandments which I command you this day, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.

2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you if you heed the voice of the Lord your God.

3. Observing and doing God's commandments will cause you to prosper and have good success.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

4. No good thing will God withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Psalms 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

5. The person that is a doer of the Word builds his/her house on a rock.

Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Notice the difference in the two people mentioned in Matthew 7. Both are hearers of the Word. I believe both are Christians. I believe both have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and love Him. They both will go to heaven when they die or are caught up in the rapture, but one of them is a doer of the Word and the other one is not.

You know, you can receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour and when you die or go in the rapture, praise be to God, you will go to heaven. You will be with Him throughout eternity, but God not only wants us to be with Him in heaven after this life, He wants us to have victory while we are here. These floods, winds, and rains, as He shows us in these verses, is likened unto the things that we go through in life. The storms of life come upon every person. If you are not going through a storm or having a test or a trial today, do not be concerned about it, because the day will come that you will. It is a part of this human experience in this world, but God has a plan for you to come through those storms, winds, tests, and trials victoriously.

How a person comes through the storm depends on whether or not he/she is a **doer** of the Word of God. Releasing your faith in God and His Word allows His grace to flow through you to weather the storm and come out victorious. The enemy's job is to distract you with the storm and try to pull you down. Being a doer of the Word will release the power that is in the Word to cause you to overcome! Put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)! Develop the fruit of the Spirit in your life (Galatians 5:22-23)! These things will equip you to stand and remain standing when attacks from the enemy come!

6. Obeying the voice of the Lord brings success.

Luke 5:4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

7. Whatever Jesus says to you, do it.

John 2:5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

8. Make doing the will of God your nourishment and food.

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

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John 4:34 Jesus said to them, My food (nourishment) is to do the will (pleasure) of Him Who sent Me and to accomplish and completely finish His work.

9. God hears the prayers of those who do His will.

John 9:31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

10. Doing God's will brings happiness.

John 13:17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

11. You have to do God's will before you receive the promise.

Hebrews 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

12. Being a doer of the Word will keep you from deceiving yourself.

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

This is where the enemy comes in to try to deceive Christians into thinking that hearing the Word is all that is needed. It is important to hear the Word of God, read your Bible, go to church, and listen to Bible teaching. Keep doing those things, but don't stop there. Continue to hear the Word of God. Faith comes by hearing. Take what you have heard and put it into practice. Do it! Be a doer of the Word!

Notice what He says in James 1:22 (above), *“But be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”* It is not the devil deceiving you or somebody else deceiving you. When you hear the Word of God and do not do what it says, the Bible says that we deceive our own selves. If we know to do good and do it not, the Bible says, “To him it is sin.” Actually, the Bible says, “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23).” Not to put your trust in God, not to obey Him, not to be a doer of the Word opens a door for the enemy to get into your life. Don't let that happen!

13. Faith must have actions that correspond with it, otherwise, it is unproductive.

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

*Romans 10:17 So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.*

Faith must be accompanied by action in order for the power that is in the Word to be released.

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

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*James 2:17 So also faith, if it does not have works (deeds and actions of obedience to back it up), by itself is **destitute of power** (inoperative, dead).*

Destitute of what? Destitute of power! We are talking about getting the power that is in the Word of God released in our lives. When you hear the Word of God, faith comes. Praise God! Hear the Word of God and keep on hearing it. Let faith come to you, but then learn that faith must be released.

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

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James 2:26 For as the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless, so faith apart from(its) works of obedience is also dead.

In order for the power that is in the Word of God to be released, there must be action. That action may be praise and thanksgiving. It may be casting your care upon the Lord. It may be to quit murmuring and complaining. It may be to quit fretting and letting yourself be overly anxious. In other words, put the Word of God into practice. That is what will cause the power that is in the Word to be released and go to work in your life.

14. Doing the Word of God will keep you from falling.

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

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2 Peter 1:4 By means of these He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape (by flight) from the moral decay (rottenness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature.

5 For this very reason, adding your diligence (to the divine promises), employ every effort in exercising your faith to develop virtue (excellence, resolution, Christian energy), and in (exercising) virtue (develop) knowledge (intelligence),

6 And in (exercising) knowledge (develop) self-control, and in (exercising) self-control (develop) steadfastness (patience, endurance), and in (exercising) steadfastness (develop) godliness (piety),

7 And in (exercising) godliness (develop) brotherly affection, and in (exercising) brotherly affection (develop) Christian love.

8 For as these qualities are yours and increasingly abound in you, they will keep (you) from being idle or unfruitful unto the (full personal) knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

9 For whoever lacks these qualities is blind, (spiritually) shortsighted, seeing only what is near to him, and has become oblivious (to the fact) that he was cleansed from his old sins.

10 Because of this, brethren, be all the more solicitous and eager to make sure (to ratify, to strengthen, to make steadfast) your calling and election; for if you do this, you will never stumble or fall.

15. Asking and receiving from God requires being a doer of His Word.

1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

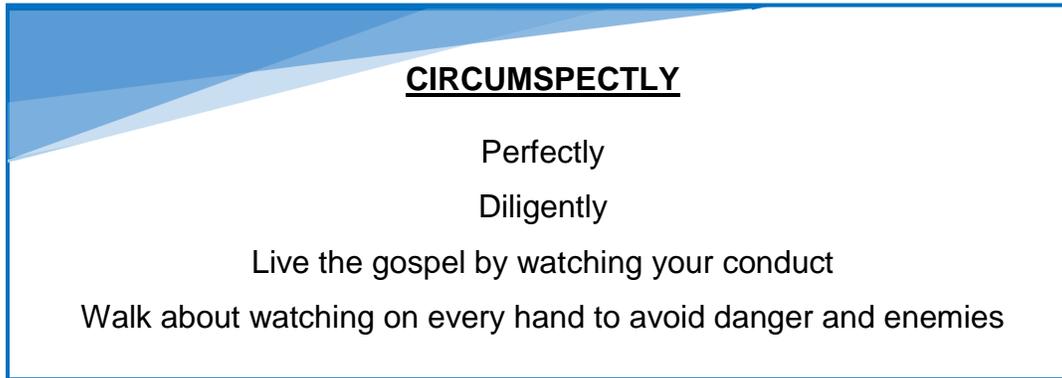
1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

When you pray according to the Word of God, you are praying according to the will of God.

16. Christians are to walk circumspectly.

*Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk **circumspectly**, not as fools, but as wise.*



*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition
Ephesians 5:15 Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people).*

17. Do not expect to have victory by doing good works when you are not obeying the Word in other areas.

*Matthew 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;
24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

Singing in the church choir with unforgiveness or resentment against someone else will not bring victory. Giving in the offering will not substitute for getting rid of strife and rude manners.

*1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.
2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.*

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Proverbs 17:1 Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.

Proverbs 16:32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying as the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Psalms 37:16 A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

SOME OF THE COMMANDS THAT WE ARE TO DO FROM GOD'S WORD

1. Speak to the mountain.

*Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall **say unto this mountain**, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

Do not just pray about the mountain. Speak to it! Command it to move!

2. Call those things that be not as though they are.

*Romans 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and **calleth those things which be not as though they were.***

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*Romans 4:17 As it is written, I have made you the father of many nations. (He was appointed our father) in the sight of God in Whom he believed. Who gives life to the dead and **speaks of the nonexistent things that (He has foretold and promised) as if they (already) existed.***

3. Husbands should honor their wives, otherwise, prayers can be hindered from being answered.

*1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, **giving honour unto the wife**, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*

4. Let the peace of God rule in your heart.

*Colossians 3:15 And let the **peace of God rule in your hearts**, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*

Do not make a decision to do something if you do not have peace about it in your heart.

5. Love your enemies.

*Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, **Love your enemies**, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.*

6. Do not open the door or give the devil a place to get into your life.

*Ephesians 4:27 **Neither give place** to the devil.*

Do not give the devil a handle or foothold in your life.

7. Commit your works to the Lord.

*Proverbs 16:3 **Commit thy works unto the LORD**, and thy thoughts shall be established.*

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Proverbs 16:3 Roll your works upon the Lord (commit and trust them wholly to Him; He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and) so shall your plans be established and succeed.

8. Do not fret or have anxiety about anything.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

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*Philippians 4:6 **Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything**, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.*

9. Cast all your cares upon the Lord.

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

10. Put off the old man and put on the new man.

*Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have **put off the old man** with his deeds;*

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

*Ephesians 4:24 And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

The old man in Colossians 3:9 refers to the old way of saying and doing things (such as doubt, fear, unbelief, murmuring, lack of knowledge, etc.) without the Holy Spirit and Word of God.

The new man in Colossians 3 and Ephesians 4 refers to the new way of saying and doing things with the Holy Spirit and Word of God — your mind being renewed to think, speak, and act like God does. You are a new creature in Christ with the Holy Spirit on the inside of you. Put on the new man! Put the past behind you and walk in newness of life!

11. Present your body a living sacrifice and renew your mind to the Word of God.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

12. Meditate in the Word of God.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

13. Do not judge others.

You do not know the motive or intent of others when they make a mistake. Do not make their little mistake look like a mountain.

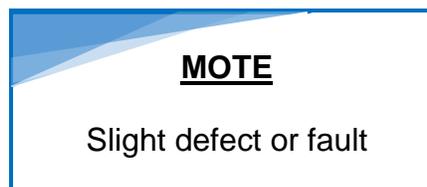
Matthew 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the **mote** out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the **mote** out of thy brother's eye.



14. Put on the whole armor of God.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6, verses 10-17, describes the whole armor of God. This armor includes everything you need to be successful both defensively and offensively when you are waging war against the devil. I want you to notice that praying or asking God to put the armor on you will not work. Also, it will not work for you to ask someone else to pray the armor on you or put it on you. You must put on God's armor yourself each day.

15. Attend to the Word of God.

Proverbs 4:20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

How wonderful it is to have the Word of God. The Word of God is a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path. If you will get in the Word, remember it, talk about it, and be a doer of it, you will be able to solve problems in life through the help of the Lord Jesus Christ. God has answers for you. Many times, people say, "If I just knew what to do, if I just knew what the answer was." Praise God, the answers to life's problems are in the Word of God.

16. Believe that you receive when you pray.

*Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, **when ye pray, believe that ye receive them**, and ye shall have them.*

Weymouth Translation

Mark 11:24 That is why I tell you, whatever you pray and ask for, if you believe that you have received it, it shall be yours.

It is important when you pray that you pray according to the Word of God. Many people are living in hope, but they do not really believe that God hears them when they pray. It is important when you pray that you believe you receive.

When do you believe that you receive the answer to your prayer? When you see it? No! You believe you receive the answer to your prayer **when you pray**. When do you see the manifestation of the answer to that prayer? You will see the manifestation when God brings the manifestation, but you believe by faith that you receive the answer at the time you pray.

17. Take heed how you build your lives.

1 Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

God is building His Church, the body of Christ, today. You, as a believer, are a member of that Church. Jesus Christ has laid the foundation. It is up to you how you build upon it. I believe the Holy Spirit will strengthen you by the power of God through His Word to better understand how to build and what your responsibility is in building upon Jesus Christ, the true foundation. The Scripture says that you can build gold, silver, and precious stones, or you can build wood, hay, and stubble. It is important for you to make the decision that you are going to be a doer of the Word of God and not just walk in the flesh and do the natural things that you want to do. It is important that you do the things God has called you to do. How you build and what you build depends on how you live your life.

18. Keep your body under subjection.

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be castaway.

The Apostle Paul realizes that even though he is born-again and has the Spirit of God with him, he still has the sin nature in his flesh. When you receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, it is a tremendous miracle of God to have Him with you for the rest of your life and for eternity. You

still have the sin nature in your flesh as long as you are living in a natural body. All sins generate from the sin nature. You have the right to choose to yield to the Spirit or yield to your flesh. I believe the Holy Spirit is going to help you understand more and more how to separate your spirit from your flesh. God the Holy Spirit is with you leading and helping you in your born-again spirit, however, the sin nature is still within your body and flesh.

It is very important to take charge of your thinking. It is very important not to let the devil control what you think, but YOU control what you think. God will not control what you think. The devil wants to control what you think. It is the will of God for YOU to be in charge of your mind and thinking. God wants you to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Cast down imaginations. Do not think on thoughts of fear, doubt, and unbelief. Do not let the devil plant thoughts in your mind and continue to think about those things. Satan may bring a thought to your mind, but you do not have to dwell on it. You can bring that thought into captivity and begin to think about the things of God and the Word of God.

19. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

20. Lay aside anything that hinders the will of God in your life.

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

21. Keep the Word of God.

1 John 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

Let the Word of God get planted on the inside of you in your spirit man, in your heart, not just in your mind and thoughts. It has the power to produce what it says when you put it into action in your life.

22. You must have patience and endurance in order to receive God's promises.

*Hebrews 10:36 For ye have **need of patience**, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Hebrews 10:36 For you have need of steadfast patience and endurance, so that you may perform and fully accomplish the will of God, and thus receive and carry away (and enjoy to the full) what is promised.

New International Version

Hebrews 10:36 You need to preserve so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

23. Sweetness of the lips increases learning.

*Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the **sweetness of the lips** increaseth learning.*

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart are called prudent, understanding, and knowing, and winsome speech increases learning (in both speaker and listener).

New American Standard

Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart will be called discerning, and sweetness of speech increase persuasiveness.

Having a sweetness, kindness, and gentleness in your tongue increases learning. Sometimes when people are married, they may want their spouse to learn something. Do you know they can learn it better from you if you have sweetness and kindness in the tone of your voice? When

parents are teaching children and showing them the right way to do something, it is difficult for children to learn when parents speak harshly to them. Proverbs 16:21 says that sweetness of the lips increases learning.

*Proverbs 16:23 The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth,
and addeth learning to his lips.*

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*Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet
to the mind and healing to the body.*

When a person speaks with kind words, sweetness of the lips, speaking in a nice tone of voice, it will cause the one that is speaking and the one that is listening to increase in learning.

24. Put the Word of God first in your life.

*Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law:
and nothing shall offend them.*

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*Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they who love Your law;
nothing shall offend them or make them stumble.*

Putting the Word first will give you peace and keep you from stumbling or getting offended.

25. God fights for those that obey His voice.

*Exodus 23:22 But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all
that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an
adversary unto thine adversaries.*

*Exodus 23:25 And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall
bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from
the midst of thee.*

*26 There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land:
the number of thy days I will fulfil.*

26. Love one another.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Every Christian has the God-kind of love on the inside of them. Since God has given you the same kind of love that He has, His commandment is that you love one another with that kind of love. The God-kind of love is unconditional. The God-kind of love does not take something out of someone, but it puts something into them. It does not look for value in others, but it puts value in them. It is not based on someone's performance or conduct or on whether that person is doing good or bad. The love of God is unconditional. It loves regardless of circumstances, outward conditions, and what is going on.

27. Forgive one another.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

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Ephesians 4:32 And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you.

I want you to notice that the first part of Ephesians 4:32 puts forgiveness into action. Sometimes, when we forgive people that have said or done things against us, we just say, "Well, I forgive them," and go on our way and that is all we do. This verse brings out deeds that we can do to put our forgiveness into action. In other words, forgive the person that hurt or wronged you and also do something useful, helpful or kind toward them. God wants you free from bondage to the enemy. He wants you to understand forgiveness and recognize it. Unforgiveness is one of the most deceitful things that can come into a person's life because people think that is just how life is. Satan comes in very deceitfully to get unforgiveness and hurt working in your life knowing that those things lead to bitterness, which will block the blessings and the power of God from flowing in your life.

Praise God, the Holy Spirit is shining the light of God's Word on our lives so we can see what the enemy wants to do or is trying to do. We are not ignorant of Satan's devices.

28. Walk in the Spirit.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

No amount of prayer, study, reading, and hearing the Word can take the place of doing it. All these things are important, but it is being a doer of the Word that releases the power of God that is in the Word.

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

I am not only a hearer of the Word, I am a doer of the Word.
I believe the Word in my heart. I have actions that correspond
with my faith in my daily conduct and speech.

EXAMPLES OF VICTORY BY OBEYING GOD'S WORD

1. The blind man went and washed the clay from his eyes and came away seeing.

John 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

2. Moses, do not cry to the Lord but stretch out your rod.

Exodus 14:15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

3. The water turned to wine when the servants obeyed the words of Jesus.

John 2:1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom.

EXAMPLES OF VICTORY BY OBEYING GOD'S WORD

4. The ten lepers were healed as they went to show themselves to the priests.

Luke 17:11 And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

5. Peter launched out and caught a great draught of fish.

Luke 5:4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

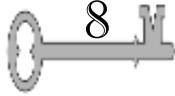
6. Stand still, and do not fight in the battle.

2 Chronicles 20:17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

7. Shout the walls down.

Joshua 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
GOD'S METHOD OF CORRECTION



God loves His children and corrects them with His Word so He can release more blessings into their lives. He does not chasten them with sickness, disease or poverty, nor does He cause life to be difficult and burdensome.

1. God chastens His children with His Word.

*Hebrews 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, **despise not thou the chastening of the Lord**, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:*

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

DESPISE

To dislike

To not give proper attention to

To no regard as highly as you should

CHASTEN

Correct

Rebuke

Discipline

Make plain

Call to account

Train

Instruct

Reprove

Admonish

Set straight

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Hebrews 12:5 And have you [completely] forgotten the divine word of appeal and encouragement in which you are reasoned with and addressed as sons? My son, do not think lightly or scorn to submit to the correction and discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage and give up and faint when you are reprovved or corrected by Him;

6 For the Lord corrects and disciplines everyone whom He loves, and He punishes, even scourges, every son whom He accepts and welcomes to His heart and cherishes.

7 You must submit to and endure (correction) for discipline; God is dealing with you as with sons. For what son is there whom his father does not (thus) train and correct and discipline?

8 Now if you are exempt from correction and left without discipline in which all (of God's children) share, then you are illegitimate offspring and not true sons (at all).

9 Moreover, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we yielded [to them] and respected (them for training us). Shall we not much more cheerfully submit to the Father of spirits and so (truly) live?

10 For (our earthly fathers) disciplined us for only a short period of time and chastised us as seemed proper and good to them; but He disciplines us for our certain good, that we may become sharers in His own holiness.

11 For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems grievous and painful; but afterwards it yields a peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it (a harvest of fruit which consists in righteousness—in conformity to God’s will in purpose, thought, and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God).

12 So then, brace up and reinvigorate and set right your slackened and weakened and drooping hands and strengthen your feeble and palsied and tottering knees,

13 And cut through and make firm and plain and smooth, straight paths for your feet (yes, make them safe and upright and happy paths that go in the right direction), so that the lame and halting (limbs) may not be put out of joint, but rather may be cured.

God does not chasten you to hold you back or cause you to suffer. The purpose of chastening is to get you back on the right path so trouble will stop and blessings will increase. He enjoys blessing you and wants to see you enjoy His blessings and blessing others.

2. God is the Father of your born-again, human spirit.

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

The part of you that is born again is your spirit, not your body or soul (mind, will, and emotions). God corrects (chastens) your spirit.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

3. Stiffen your dropping arms! Tighten the grip of your slipping hands! Straighten the weakened knees! Stiffen the stand of your knocking knees!

Hebrews 12:12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees.

4. Do not wander away from the path. Forge steadily onward so the disabled limb will not be put out of joint, and the man who goes lame will not stumble out of the path.

Hebrews 12:13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

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Hebrews 12:12 So then, brace up and reinvigorate and set right your slackened and weakened and drooping hands and strengthen your feeble and palsied and tottering knees,

13 And cut through and make firm and plain and smooth, straight paths for your feet (yes, make them safe and upright and happy paths that go in the right direction), so that the lame and halting (limbs) may not be put out of joint, but rather may be cured.

5. God's people can be defeated because of a lack of knowledge.

*Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for **lack of knowledge**: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

During the time of Hosea, there was not a lack of preachers and teachers to proclaim the Word of God. The people lacked knowledge of God's Word because they did not go to the preachers and teachers to receive the Word.

Isaiah 5:13 Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

6. God does not test His children with evil.

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.

God is not testing or punishing you by bringing sickness, disease, poverty, calamity, problems, and negative things into your life. God does not have any of these kinds of things in heaven. He cannot give you something that

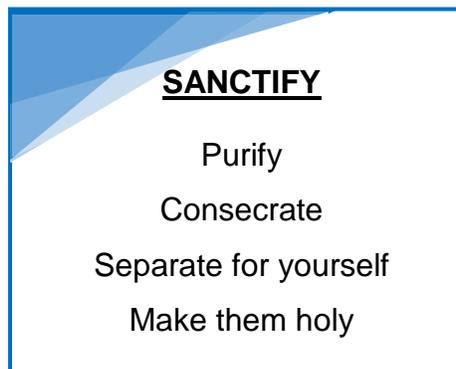
He does not have. Satan is the author of all sickness, disease, poverty, lack, problems, calamities, dismay, and negative things that come against you. Whether directly or indirectly, Satan is the author of those things.

God does not need Satan to help teach you anything. He is not using the devil or causing him to put things on you to teach you a lesson. Yes, you may learn about God in times of sickness, disease, poverty, and problems. Praise God, even in bad times when you turn to Him and His Word, He is always there to guide you, help you, and show you the way to go. The reason you learn during those times is that you turn to God and His Word. You can turn to God and His Word in times of blessing and learn from Him.

7. God uses His Word to chasten, correct, instruct, and train His children.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.



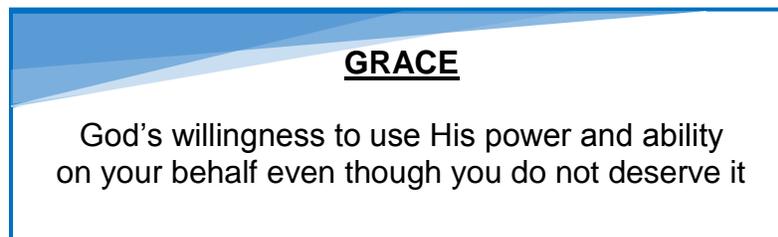
John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Psalms 94:12 Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law.

God uses His Word to teach you. He does not use sickness, disease, and problems. The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy. God comes that you may have life and that you may have it more abundantly.

8. Knowledge of God and His Word brings grace and peace.

*2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,
3 According as 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.*



The knowledge of God's Word opens the opportunity for you to receive His blessings.

9. God instructs and teaches with His Word.

Psalms 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Proverbs 6:22 When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.

Isaiah 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

*Psalms 48:14 For this God is our God for ever and ever:
he will be our guide even unto death.*

*Proverbs 16:3 Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy
thoughts shall be established.*

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*Proverbs 16:3 Roll your works upon the Lord (commit and trust
them wholly to Him; He will cause your thoughts to become
agreeable to His will, and) so shall your plans be established
and succeed.*

*Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD:
and he delighteth in his way.*

*Nehemiah 9:20 Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them,
and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them
water for their thirst.*

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

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

*Isaiah 48:17 Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One
of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit,
which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.*

*John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will
guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but
whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew
you things to come.*

*Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not
sin against thee.*

*Psalms 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever:
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine
gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Psalms 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;
32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Psalms 119:24 Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.

Luke 1:70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began.

Luke 1:79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Isaiah 1:19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.

Psalms 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Proverbs 13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

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Proverbs 13:24 He who spares his rod (of discipline) hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines diligently and punishes him early.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

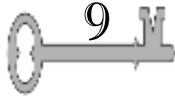
Proverbs 29:17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

God does not chasten His children with sickness, tragedy, negative events, bad weather, or earthquakes. He chastens His children by correcting them according to His Word. Be sensitive and responsive in submitting yourself to the Word of God and obeying it. It will not put you into bondage but will set you free.

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

God corrects me with His Word because He loves me
and wants me to have and enjoy the things that are the best for me.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER



Forgiving others is necessary in order to walk in love and to walk in victory. Walking in forgiveness sets you free from the bondage of the enemy. There are great benefits in maintaining an attitude of forgiveness toward those that offend you or do you wrong. It is important to recognize if there is any unforgiveness in your heart and do what is necessary to remove it from your life.

1. Forgiveness is necessary to walk in love and victory.

*Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving** one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

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*Ephesians 4:32 And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), **forgiving** one another (readily and freely), as God in Christ forgave you.*

2. Showing forgiveness is putting love into action.

*Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and **forgiving** one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.



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Colossians 3:13 *Be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference (a grievance or complaint) against another, readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has [freely] forgiven you, **so must** you also [forgive].*

14 *And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness [which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony].*

We are commanded to forgive one another the same way God for Christ's sake has forgiven us. Notice in the latter part of Colossians 3:13 that it says, "So must!" **MUST!** So must you forgive others. In other words, God is giving a commandment. It is not a commandment to put you under bondage. It is a commandment to set you free. God is telling you something that you must do. It is not to hold you back. It is so He can release more blessings into your life, so you can hear His voice more clearly, and so that His grace can do more in your life than you can even imagine or more than He has ever done before.

Cease to require people to come apologize to you and ask your forgiveness or tell you what they did was wrong. Cease to demand the penalty for what they did. Cease to blame or feel resentment against them. Forgiveness

means you remove whatever wrong was done to you and it no longer exists in your life. Quit thinking about it. There is no longer a charge against the other person because you have released it. When you have pardoned them, it is over with. You know that you have truly forgiven someone when you feel good about things and when you do not feel hurt, resentment or hardness when you think about their words or actions.

I want to encourage you to allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life. Allow Him to speak to your heart and mind. Allow the Holy Spirit to show you if there is any unforgiveness against anyone, even if it is someone that has already gone on to heaven or someone that you may never see again. Maybe it was a school teacher that you had early in life. Maybe it was a neighbor. Maybe it was a business partner. Whoever it is, let the Holy Spirit do a work in your heart so there is no unforgiveness toward anyone about anything. Do not allow the enemy to cause you to think about their wrongdoings. Think on things that are of good report, lovely, true, and just (Philippians 4:8). Think on things that have goodness and value in them.

3. Showing love and forgiveness to one another is the way all people will know that you are a child of God.

*John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

1 Corinthians 14:1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

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1 Corinthians 14:1 Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]; and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts).*

The Bible does not say that people will know you are a disciple of Christ because you go to church, read the Bible or give an offering. It says the world will know that you belong to Jesus Christ because you show the God-kind of love to one another.

4. Showing mercy opens the door for you to obtain mercy.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

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Matthew 5:7 Blessed (happy, to be envied, and spiritually prosperous – with life-joy and satisfaction in God’s favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy!

5. Forgiving others enables you to receive forgiveness when you need it.

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

6. Recognize and correct your own faults first before attempting to correct others.

Matthew 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

*4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the **mote** out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?*

*5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the **mote** out of thy brother's eye.*

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Matthew 7:1 Do not judge and criticize and condemn others, so that you may not be judged and criticized and condemned yourselves.

2 For just as you judge and criticize and condemn others, you will be judged and criticized and condemned, and in accordance with the measure you [use to] deal out to others, it will be dealt out again to you.

Luke 6:30 Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.

31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.

34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Sowing the seed of giving to others with the right attitude allows you to reap a good harvest. You reap what you sow. It is better to leave judgment up to God. If someone has done you wrong, release them. Let there be no record anymore. Quit blaming or requiring them to do anything. Totally release them. Let God take care of the judgment. If you will do this, it will release you from the bondage of the enemy. The Holy Spirit will shine His light on your life and show you where you need to get rid of hurt, resentment or hardness against anyone. God desires for you to walk in liberty and freedom.

7. Walking in forgiveness is necessary for your faith to work effectively.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Notice in Mark 11, verse 25, that the only thing Jesus said will hinder your faith from working is having unforgiveness in your heart. There are other things that will hinder your faith, but the only thing that Jesus Christ mentioned here is to forgive others when you stand praying. If you are harboring anger or bitterness against anyone, let those things go. Turn them over to God. Cast your cares upon Him so He can release His voice into your life, give you Divine wisdom and guidance, and pour out the blessings that He has already provided for you in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

5 And the apostles said unto the LORD, Increase our faith.

6 And the LORD said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

Make a decision to forgive. Do not depend on your feelings. Do not operate by how you feel. Operate in the love of God and extend forgiveness to those who need it.

8. There are no limitations to how much or how many times we are to forgive others.

Matthew 18:21 When came Peter to him, and said, LORD, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? til seven times?
22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

You should not withhold forgiveness when God has forgiven you for so much. God has forgiven you time and time and time again.

9. When should you forgive one another? *You should forgive instantly!* The longer you hold hurts, grudges, and resentment, the more opportunity the root of bitterness will have to get a hold on you.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Walk in a continuing and unending attitude of forgiveness toward those who have wronged you. You cannot justify an unforgiving attitude no matter what good reason you think you have. An unforgiving attitude holds you in bondage and takes from you the joy, peace, and blessings of God that are rightfully yours.

An unforgiving attitude cannot remain in your heart without your consent. Nobody can make you have an unforgiving attitude. The only person that can put you in bondage to an unforgiving attitude is yourself.

10. Some people find it hard to forgive due to certain things, such as...

- Pride
- Selfishness – You want your own way, and do not consider the needs of others.
- Sometimes what you lose can never be replaced.
- You enjoy the self-pity that others give you when they see your loss.
- A person may lack knowledge that unforgiveness is the problem.

Some people may think that it is not easy to forgive others. It is easier to forgive than to carry the bondage and heaviness that goes with unforgiveness. Jesus felt pain when He was mistreated, but He still forgave.

11. Take definite, deliberate steps to walk in forgiveness.

Ask God to forgive you for having an unforgiving attitude.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Forgive the other person. Emotionally release them. Jesus said you can use your faith to remove unforgiveness and it will obey you.

If possible, make things right and be reconciled to the other person.

*Matthew 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;
24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

Depend on the Lord to be your strength and help you take the necessary steps to walk in forgiveness.

*Psalms 18:1 I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.
2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;
my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler,
and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

12. Examine yourself to see if you have really forgiven the other person.

1 Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

Make sure the negative feelings that you had against the other person are no longer in your heart. Accept the person the way they are. Your concern for the other person should be greater than the concern about what they did to you.

Every hurt, unless treated properly, will develop into an unforgiving attitude. Do not ignore or bury hurts. Get rid of them or they will come out somewhere sometime. Acknowledging and dealing with an unforgiving attitude may be more painful than the hurt with which the unforgiveness is connected. Realize that you can choose by an act of your own will to forgive and receive forgiveness. Healing begins the moment you release the emotions of anger, resentment, hurt, and animosity that accompany an unforgiving attitude.

13. Do not hold unforgiveness against anyone, including your enemies.

Matthew 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

14. Jesus walked in forgiveness, even toward those that crucified Him.

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

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

15. We are to bear one another's burdens, including dealing with their mistakes with a forgiving attitude.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

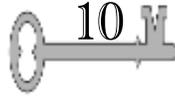
2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Walking in forgiveness will set you free from bondage to the enemy. Yes, it sets the other person free and that is very important also. The main thing I want to stress is that forgiveness will set you free. God does not want you in bondage to Satan and his evil powers. God wants you totally free so you can hear His voice and pour out His blessings upon you. He wants you free so He can do the things He has already provided for you in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that the Holy Spirit will open the Word of God for you to see how to forgive and to make sure that you are walking in forgiveness.

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

The God-kind of love is shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Spirit.
I maintain an attitude of forgiveness toward anyone that does me wrong.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
**LIVE WITHOUT OFFENSE
OR GETTING OFFENDED**



It is important to recognize when the enemy is attacking you and trying to cause you to get offended by the actions and words of other people. Learning how to avoid allowing yourself to get offended and not offending others will enable you to live a life of greater victory and greater joy.

1. Keeping your trust in God and His Word will keep you from getting offended.

*Psalms 119:165 Great **peace** have they which love thy law:
and nothing shall **offend** them.*

Peace is certainly something we all need more of today. Great peace have they that love God's Word. Great peace have they that focus on God and His Word, and nothing shall offend them.

OFFEND OR TO BE OFFENSIVE

Affront	Dishonor
Humiliate	Disoblige
Put down	Insult
Disrespect	Discourteous
Ridicule	Hurt

OFFENSE

A negative reaction to an unpleasant condition

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

*Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they who love Your law;
nothing shall offend them or make them stumble.*

Getting your attention and keeping your attention on God and His Word will keep you from stumbling and getting offended. Offense is one of the main ways that Satan tries to pull people out of love, out of faith, and out of keeping their trust in God and their eyes on Him. The enemy brings whatever he can to get your attention. It may be an incident in business or at a store. It may be while traveling in traffic. It may be something that happened between you and a relative, friend, business associate, teacher or stranger. It may just be something about yourself. The devil will try to use anything he can to get you offended, hurt or troubled (which will pull you out of faith) so he can try to stop the blessings of God from being fulfilled in your life.

John 16:1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

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*John 16:1 I have told you all these things, so that you should not be **offended** (taken unawares and falter, or be caused to stumble and fall away) [I told you to keep you from being scandalized and repelled.]*

Being offended will block your anointing and cause you to have a stumbling block. Being easily offended keeps things from working as they should. If you take your eyes off God and His Word and start looking at people and circumstances, you can get offended. People can let you down or not keep their promise. Keep your trust in God. He will never let you down. If you are getting offended or easily upset with others, you are looking too much horizontally at natural relationships and not vertically. Adjust your focus. Look to God for what you need!

Psalms 121:1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

2 My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

5 *The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.*

6 *The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.*

7 *The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.*

8 *The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.*

2. Do not allow yourself to bring an offense against someone else.

Acts 24:16 *And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.*

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Acts 24:16 *Therefore I always exercise and discipline myself [mortifying my body, deadening my carnal affections, bodily appetites, and worldly desires, endeavoring in all respects] to have a clear (unshaken, blameless) conscience, void of offense toward God and toward men.*

1 Corinthians 10:32 *Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.*

2 Corinthians 6:3 *Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed.*

Philippians 1:9 *And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;*

10 *That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.*

11 *Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.*

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Philippians 1:10 *So that you may surely learn to sense what is vital, and approve and prize what is excellent and of real value [recognizing the highest and the best, and distinguishing the moral differences], and that you may be untainted and pure and*

unerring and blameless [so that with hearts sincere and certain and unsullied, you may approach] the day of Christ [not stumbling nor causing others to stumble].

God is love. He cannot operate where there is offense.

Romans 14:20 For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. 21 It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.

3. Gentleness and calmness will prevent or put a stop to offenses.

Ecclesiastes 10:4 If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifeth great offences.

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Ecclesiastes 10:4 If the temper of the ruler rises up against you, do not leave your place [or show a resisting spirit]; for gentleness and calmness prevent or put a stop to great offenses.

4. Jesus Christ is an offense to them that do not believe.

Isaiah 8:14 And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

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Isaiah 8:14 And He shall be a sanctuary [a sacred and indestructible asylum to those who reverently fear and trust in Him]; but He shall be a Stone of stumbling and a Rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Romans 9:33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

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Romans 9:33 As it is written, Behold I am laying in Zion a Stone that will make men stumble, a Rock that will make them fall; but he

who believes in Him [who adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Him] shall not be put to shame nor be disappointed in his expectations.

1 Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

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1 Peter 2:8 And, a Stone that will cause stumbling and a Rock that will give [men] offense; they stumble because they disobey and disbelieve [God's] Word, as those [who reject Him] were destined (appointed) to do.

Galatians 5:11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

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Galatians 5:11 But, brethren, if I still preach circumcision [as some accuse me of doing, as necessary to salvation], why am I still suffering persecution? In that case the cross has ceased to be a stumbling block and is made meaningless (done away).

5. Carnal-minded Christians can be a stumbling block to the gospel of Christ.

Matthew 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

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Matthew 16:23 But Jesus turned away from Peter and said to him, Get behind Me, Satan! You are in My way [an offense and a hindrance and a snare to Me]; for you are minding what partakes not of the nature and quality of God, but of men.

6. Do not offend others with your words.

*James 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a **perfect** man, and able also to bridle the whole body.*

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*James 3:2 For we all often stumble and fall and offend in many things. And if anyone does not offend in speech [never says the wrong things], he is a fully developed character and a **perfect** man, able to control his whole body and to curb his entire nature.*

The word perfect in James 3:2 means mature, or a fully developed character. As you grow in the things of God, you should become more and more to where you keep your trust in God and His Word. You do not allow what people say and do or circumstances that come along in life to cause you to feel hurt, resentful or at ill ease. Even when negative opportunities present themselves, keep your eyes on Jesus!

7. Allowing yourself to get offended will keep you from receiving the harvest from God's Word that belongs to you.

Mark 4:16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

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Mark 4:16 And in the same way the ones sown upon stony ground are those who, when they hear the Word, at once receive and accept and welcome it with joy;

17 And they have no real root in themselves, and so they endure for a little while; then when trouble or persecution arises on account of the Word, they immediately are offended (become displeased, indignant, resentful) and they stumble and fall away.

Matthew 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

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Matthew 13:20 As for what was sown on thin (rocky) soil, this is he who hears the Word and at once welcomes and accepts it with joy;

21 Yet it has no real root in him, but is temporary (inconstant, lasts but a little while); and when affliction or trouble or persecution comes on account of the Word, at once he is caused to stumble [he is repelled and begins to distrust and desert Him Whom he ought to trust and obey] and he falls away.

8. Jesus Christ paid the penalty for the forgiveness of our offenses.

Romans 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

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Romans 4:25 Who was betrayed and put to death because of our misdeeds and was raised to secure our justification (our acquittal), [making our account balance and absolving us from all guilt before God].

9. It is difficult to restore the friendship of someone you have offended.

Proverbs 18:19 A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.

10. It is impossible but that offenses will come.

Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

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Luke 17:1 And [Jesus] said to His disciples, Temptations (snares, traps set to entice to sin) are sure to come, but woe to him by or through whom they come!

Learn to use your faith to forgive those that offend you.

Luke 17:2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

5 And the apostles said unto the LORD, Increase our faith.

6 And the LORD said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

Sometimes it looks like there are so many tests and trials in life. It can be easy to feel that you cannot take more. What do you do when someone brings offense against you repeatedly? Jesus says to forgive them even seven times a day. In other words, He is saying that there is no limit.

I want you to notice Luke 17, verse 6, which is a very key Scripture in how to handle unforgiveness. This Scripture shows you how to forgive by faith, but you can apply this to other areas of life. When people have trespassed against you or brought an offense against you, forgive them by saying, "Unforgiveness, you will have no part in me. Unforgiveness, I command you to go from me and depart from me right now in the name of Jesus."

Jesus said, "You might **say** unto this sycamine tree or this mulberry tree to be plucked up by the root and be cast into the sea." Speak to the offense. You say unto the offense that is trying to get you to have unforgiveness to be plucked up by the root and be cast into the sea.

Matthew 18:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.

9 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

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Matthew 18:7 Woe to the world for such temptations to sin and influences to do wrong! It is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the person on whose account or by whom the temptation comes!

11. People that do not believe in Jesus will be offended in Him.

Matthew 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

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Matthew 13:57 And they took offense at Him [they were repelled and hindered from acknowledging His authority, and caused to stumble]. But Jesus said to them, A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.

12. Peter allowed himself to be offended because of Jesus during a time of great trial and testing.

Matthew 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

32 But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

33 Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.

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Matthew 26:31 Then Jesus said to them, You will all be offended and stumble and fall away because of Me this night [distrusting and deserting Me], for it is written, I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.

32 But after I am raised up [to life again], I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

33 Peter declared to Him, Though they all are offended and stumble and fall away because of You [and distrust and desert You], I will never do so.

Peter did not think he would get offended, but in the time of a severe test, he allowed himself to get offended.

It is important to keep your eyes on the Lord at all times, especially when you are going through a test or trial. The enemy wants to use that test or trial to pull your focus away from God. Be on guard! Do not look at circumstances. Keep your eyes on the Word, and it will bring you through!

13. Sin came upon all mankind because of one man's offense.

Romans 5:15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

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Romans 5:15 But God's free gift is not at all to be compared to the trespass [His grace is out of all proportion to the fall of man]. For if many died through one man's falling away (his lapse, his offense), much more profusely did God's grace and the free gift [that comes] through the undeserved favor of the one Man Jesus Christ abound and overflow to and for [the benefit of] many.

14. John the Baptist allowed himself to get offended and was beheaded.

Allowing yourself to get offended can cause you to lose your head! John the Baptist was used by God to prepare the introduction of Jesus to the world. John knew that Jesus was the Son of God. During a time of testing, however, he allowed himself to be offended instead of keeping his trust in Christ.

Matthew 11:2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

*4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John **again** those things which ye do hear and see:*

5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Now, remember, John had already baptized Jesus in Jordan. John had prepared the way for the Lord. He knew that Jesus was the One that was to come and that He was the Son of God. Yet, when he was going through a test, a severe trial, he allowed himself to get offended. He wanted Jesus to do something about his situation. He thought Jesus should do something for him, but it seemed Jesus was not doing anything at the time.

Notice the word "again" in verse 4 in Matthew Chapter 11. John already knows these things, but Jesus is telling the disciples of John, "Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see."

Notice verse 6 in Matthew Chapter 11. This is a key verse. Jesus is saying these words, “**And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.**” A lot of times people go through tests and trials and whether they realize it or not, they are blaming God for what is going on. Either God did not prevent it or did not help them. God did not do something to get them out of the situation. They are blaming God for not doing something about their problem. John the Baptist got offended because he thought Jesus should come and do something about his situation. He allowed the offense to take the place of trust and believing God to set him free. If he had kept his trust in the Lord and not gotten offended, how do we know but God most likely would have made a way for him to get out of that situation. Instead, John the Baptist ended up losing his head.

Do not allow the enemy to cause you to get offended when you are going through tests and trials. Do not question or blame God. Why doesn't God do something? Why did God let this happen to me? The problems and negative things that happen to you are not from God. He is not using the devil to teach you a lesson. The devil is not working together with God to help you grow spiritually. The negative things that come to you are coming to you as a direct result of the attacks of Satan. Do not allow yourself to get offended so that it stops the help and blessings of God from coming to you.

Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

God would not ask you or command you to do something that you cannot do. It may not be easy to do, but you can do it by the grace of God. Wouldn't you enjoy living a life where you did not have any of those things. Did you know that it is God's plan for every believer to live that kind of life? You can be like Paul and Silas in prison. Even though they had been beaten, they had learned as Paul said in Philippians 4:11, in whatever state to be independent of circumstances. They were praising God and singing hymns at midnight. They were not fretful, upset or

dreading tomorrow even though they did not know what was going to happen the next day. Keeping that frame of mind is what opened the door for God to send an earthquake and open those prison doors. That earthquake did not take place in another part of town or in another part of the country. That earthquake was right where the prison was. As you become more and more a doer of God's Word, that opens the door for His grace of God to flow in your life and for Him to do for you what you cannot do for yourself. Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything. In whatever state you find yourself, be content. Look to the Lord. He will make a way out for you!

Do not get offended at God when you get in trouble. He is the only One that can help you. Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown in jail, but they did not get offended or blame God. They praised God and kept their trust in Him. This allowed God to bring an earthquake to open the prison doors and set them free.

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

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1 Corinthians 10:13 For no temptation (no trial regarded as enticing to sin), [no matter how it comes or where it leads] has overtaken you and laid hold on you that is not common to man [that is, no temptation or trial has come to you that is beyond human resistance and that is not adjusted and adapted and belonging to human experience, and such as man can bear]. But God is faithful [to His Word and to His compassionate nature], and He [can be trusted] not to let you be tempted and tried and assayed beyond your ability and strength of resistance and power to endure, but with the temptation He will [always] also provide the way out (the means of escape to a landing place), that you may be capable and strong and powerful to bear up under it patiently.

God will always make a way of escape with every test, but you must not allow yourself to get offended and cause you not to recognize the way of escape.

The way of escape may be...

- ...Praising God
- ...Taking the blame when you are not the one at fault
- ...Giving an extra financial offering
- ...Confessing the Word
- ...Doing whatever the Lord says to you to do

Luke 7:23 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

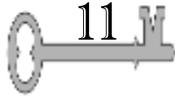
Do not get mad at God or His representatives on earth. Faith is not released with a question. It is released with praise for the promises of God. Faith is released by believing and acting on the Word of God and praising Him for the answer until you see the manifestation of His promise. It is your choice whether you allow yourself to get offended or not at what someone else says or does. You cannot control what other people say or do, but you can control your reaction to it. What you think and what you say is under your control. Choose to trust God in the best and worst of times! Choose to let offenses go! Choose forgiveness!

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

I purpose to keep my love and attention on the Word of God and not allow the mistakes and wrongdoings of others to cause me to be offended or resentful toward them.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

GIVE NO PLACE TO THE DEVIL



It is a Scriptural fact that the devil cannot get to you anytime he wants to unless you have opened a door to him. You may or may not always be aware you have opened such a door. The more you gain knowledge of the Word of God and obey it, the more you will close the door to the enemy so he cannot get to you.

1. Do not give the devil a place to get into your life.

Ephesians 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

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Ephesians 4:27 Leave no [such] room or foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him].

Jesus gave no place to the devil. It is up to you if you open the door or give the devil a place in your life. You can get over in the flesh or you can stay in the Spirit. You can obey the Word of God or not. You can put on the whole armor of God or not. Those decisions are up to you individually. Stop giving the devil an occasion or opportunity. Have no loophole in your life where he can get in.

2. Jesus Christ did not allow Satan to have anything in Him.

*John 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and **hath nothing in me**.*

“Hath nothing in me” from other Bible translations:

- *He has nothing in common with me.*
- *He has no hold on me.*
- *He has no rights over me.*

- *He has no power over me.*
- *He has no claims on me.*

Jesus did not do anything that would give Satan a legal right to accuse Him. He did not allow Himself to be a channel, avenue or instrument that Satan could use. God does not want you to give the devil a foothold or loophole in your life.

3. People are defeated because of a lack of knowledge.

*Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for **lack of knowledge**: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

In Hosea's day, there was not a lack of prophets or Bible teachers. The Word of God was available to the people. The reason there was a lack of knowledge was because the people were not taking responsibility to go get the Word of God.

Today, we have the Bible and many places and ways that people can access and learn the Word of God – church, study groups, books, videos, YouTube, social media, CD's, DVD's, television, internet, etc. Each person has their own responsibility to receive and learn the Word and find out God's will for their life.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

4. Being a doer of the Word will keep you from being deceived.

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

You can deceive your own self if you are not a doer of the Word that you have learned.

Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

5. King David opened the door to the enemy through disobedience.

Seventy thousand men died because David sinned by numbering Israel.

1 Chronicles 21:1 And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

2 And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it.

3 And Joab answered, The LORD make his people an hundred times so many more as they be: but, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? why then doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel?

1 Chronicles 21:7 And God was displeased with this thing: therefore he smote Israel.

1 Chronicles 21:14 So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men.

6. Speaking wrong words can be a snare.

Proverbs 6:2 Thou art **snared** with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

SNARED

Caught in a net

7. Put on the whole armor of God.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Make sure you put on and keep on every piece of the armor of God every day. Do not leave any piece off. Every piece is needed to give you full protection from the enemy.

8. Do not let Satan get an advantage over you.

It is up to you to not give a place in your life where Satan can get an advantage.

2 Corinthians 2:9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ;

11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

New International Version

2 Corinthians 2:11 ...in order that Satan might not outwit us.
For we are not unaware of his schemes.

9. Walk without blame and be harmless in the midst of a crooked and perverse world.

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.

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Philippians 2:15 That you may show yourselves to be blameless and guileless, innocent and uncontaminated, children of God without blemish (faultless, unrebukable) in the midst of a crooked and wicked generation [spiritually perverted and perverse], among whom you are seen as bright lights (stars or beacons shining out clearly) in the [dark] world.

10. Do not open a door or give an occasion to the flesh.

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

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Galatians 5:13 For you, brethren, were (indeed) called to freedom; only (do not let your) freedom be an incentive to your flesh and an opportunity or excuse (for selfishness), but through love you should serve one another.

11. Diligently obeying God's Word brings victory.

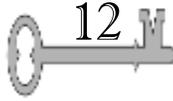
Deuteronomy 28:1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:
2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

You are in charge of what you think, say, and do. You are a free moral agent and free to make your own decisions. Choose to obey the Word of God and give no place to the devil.

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

By being a doer of the Word, I close any doors to the enemy that might have been opened. I give no place to the devil.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
OBEDIENCE BRINGS VICTORY



Obedience to the Word of God puts you in position to receive the blessings and promises of God that belong to you.

<u>OBEDIENCE</u>	
Keep	Conformity
Perform	Observance
Heed a command	Hearken to
Submissiveness	Abide by
Follow orders	Conform to authority
Doer of the Word	

1. You are the servant of whom you obey.

Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

2. Obedience is better than sacrifice.

1 Samuel 15:18 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

3. Pull down strongholds by bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

4. Jesus learned obedience.

Hebrews 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.

5. The willing and obedient are blessed.

Isaiah 1:19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.

6. The obedience of Christ brought salvation.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Just as the effects of sin were handed down to the whole human race through Adam, so righteousness is available to everyone in the human race by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is a legal basis for the righteousness that God has provided through the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The very fact that Jesus came, lived a sinless life, died on the Cross, shed His blood, gave His life, and rose from the dead gives us a legal right to receive forgiveness of sin, to receive the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to be in right standing with God.

7. Obeying the truth will purify your soul (mind, will, and emotions).

*1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in **obeying the truth** through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.*

James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Notice, obeying the truth is something that you must do. God has His part, but you have your part just like it is with a seed. The seed is real. A watermelon seed has enough power in it to produce a large, juicy, tasty, nutritious watermelon. But, even though that seed has power in it, it must be planted and watered. If the seed is lying on the table instead of planted in the ground, it has no power to produce anything. The seed must be sown and cultivated.

That is the way the Word of God is. You read the written Word, which reveals the Living Word. That Word of God is like a seed. It must be planted in your heart and then watered for the power that is in that seed to come alive and affect you and be a blessing to you.

Receive with meekness (teachableness) the engrafted Word. Let it become a part of you. Let it be engrafted into you. Let the engrafted Word become a part of your daily life, a part of your thinking, and a part of your talking.

James is the Pastor of the church in Jerusalem. In James 1:21 (above) he is speaking to believers, people that are born- again. He said, "Which is able to save your souls." These people are already born-again, but their souls need to be saved. Now I know we talk about people getting their soul saved, but in reality, when a person gets born-again they are born-again in their spirit, which is different, or separate, from their soul. Their soul is their mind, will, and emotions. Well, praise God, here is an answer for people that are troubled in their feelings, emotions, and thinking. He said, "If you will receive with meekness (teachableness) the engrafted Word, it is able to deliver and save your soul, which includes your feelings and emotions.

8. The Holy Spirit is given to the obedient.

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

9. Paul was called to preach and teach the obedience of faith.

*Romans 1:5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name.
6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ.*

Paul was called to bring about the obedience of faith and to urge faith and obedience among all heathen.

Romans 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

10. Do whatever Jesus says to do.

*John 2:3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.
4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.*

5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

11. Obedience prolongs your days.

Deuteronomy 5:1 And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.

Deuteronomy 5:32 Ye shall observe to do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

33 Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

1 Kings 3:14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

12. Obedience brings blessings.

Deuteronomy 11:26 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;

27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:

28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

Isaiah 48:18 O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.

Jeremiah 7:23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

13. Keeping God's commandments brings His blessings.

Deuteronomy 28:1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

4 Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

5 Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

6 Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

7 The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

8 The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

9 The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

10 And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

11 And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

14 And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee.

14. People that really love the Lord keep His commandments.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

15. You should obey God rather than man.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

16. Children should obey God rather than man.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

17. You should obey the law of the land as long as it does not violate God's law.

1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.
15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:
16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.
17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.
18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.
19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.
20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

- 18. The redemption that we have in Christ Jesus provides many blessings. These blessings are conditional based on our obedience to God's Word. These blessings include salvation, healing, divine guidance, prosperity, protection, and much more.**

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.

1 John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- 19. God's promises are fulfilled to the obedient.**

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Proverbs 3:7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Psalms 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

The word ask in John 15:7 is not a prayer like you would ask God for an answer to prayer. The word ask is the Greek word that means to demand what is rightfully yours. If you are born-again today, you are abiding in Christ. When His Word abides in you, when it stays in you, when you do not get off into doubt, fear, and unbelief, when you do not talk negative and doubtful things, but add learning to your lips, He said that you can demand what is rightfully yours according to the Word of God. You can declare the promises of God. You can declare that the blessings of God belong to you, and God by His grace will bring those things to pass in your life.

20. Obey the Word of God that comes through true ministers of Christ.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

21. Our redemptive blessings are available to all who do what the Word says to do!

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

3 John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

1 John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

God's love for us is not conditional, but His benefits and blessings are based on our obedience to His Word. God works within His Word! We

should not expect God's blessings while rejecting His will. Strength for God's service is the only proper basis for seeking health, wealth, strength, and victory.

22. Observing to do what is written in God's Word brings prosperity, success, and victory.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

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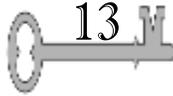
Joshua 1:8 This book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success.

Victory will become a reality to those who choose to obey the Word of God. It is not always easy, but it always is rewarding to obey God's Word.

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

I am not only a hearer of the Word of God, I am a doer of the Word.
This puts me in position to release my faith to receive
the blessings and promises of God that belong to me.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
HUMILITY AND VICTORY



God is looking for a humble person He can bestow His blessings upon and flow His power through. A humble person will not exalt themselves. They will give all the glory to God. This enables God to bless him/her more and more and use them in greater and greater ways.

<u>HUMILITY</u>	
Abase self	Submission
Meekness	Teachable
Unselfish	To bend the knee
Unpretentious	Little in one's own sight

1. You must humble yourself before God can give you victory.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

You must do the humbling. It is God that gives the victory. Notice, as important as prayer is, this Scripture says to humble yourself first and then pray.

2. God gives more grace to the humble.

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

GRACE

God's unmerited (undeserved) favor
God's ability doing for you what you cannot do for yourself
God impressing you what to do and you obeying that

You need God's grace in every area of life (marriage, job, ministry, healing, guidance, protection, etc.). What has been provided by grace must be possessed by faith. The Promised Land was given to Israel by grace, but it was up to them to possess it by faith.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

It is up to you to submit to God. You are only submitted to God when you are obedient to do what the Bible says to do.

3. Humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

Proverbs 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

God is good, fair, just, and right. Always stay on His side whether you think He is right or not. God's way is always right even though you may not understand at the time.

When you are believing God for something, your faith can be hindered if you are not walking in love toward others. Guard against telling others what they need to do. Instead, trust God to take care of you and do what the Word says to do. Focus on what you need to do, not on what other people may or may not be doing.

4. Humble yourself and God will do the exalting.

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed

with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

Sometimes the thing you least want to hear is the very thing (if you could receive, accept, and deal with it) that would cause you to grow the quickest and develop the most if you had the humility and faith to take it and do something with it. Unless people have the humility to accept it or the faith to deal with it, you do not do people a favor by talking to them about where they need to change. It is not always wise to say everything you know.

How much you receive depends on how quickly you grow and develop, as well as how much humility, faith, and grace you have. God is not being mean to you. He is trying to help you make adjustments that will get you into position to receive what you need. Getting offended at others or at yourself can hinder you from receiving what God has for you. Whatever it is that bothers you so much about others and makes you so mad at them is often because it reminds you of something in yourself that you do not like.

Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Quoting Scriptures at others and telling them how they should treat you will not bring about what you are trying to accomplish. Humble yourself. Trust in the Lord and watch Him give you victory.

Proverbs 6:3 Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.

Proverbs 16:19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Proverbs 22:4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.

Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Psalms 9:12 When he maketh inquisition for blood, he remembereth them: he forgetteth not the cry of the humble.

Psalms 10:17 LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear.

Job 22:29 When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person.

2 Chronicles 32:26 Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Micah 6:8 He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Matthew 23:11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Luke 14:10 But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.

11 For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

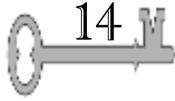
Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.

The sign of real humility is to be submissive and obedient to the Word of God. Do not let the devil trick you into thinking that shrinking back and appearing weak is a sign of humility. It is not. True humility fearlessly and confidently goes forward obeying God and His Word.

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

I crucify my flesh and humble myself before the Lord
so He can use me according to His plan for my life.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING



Allowing yourself to be overly anxious can hinder your faith and make it more difficult for you to hear the voice of God.

1. Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

*Philippians 4:6 Do not fret or have any **anxiety** about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.*

7 And God's peace (shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace) which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

8 For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and

winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things (fix your minds on them).

<u>ANXIOUS</u>	
Fearful	Fretful
Upset	Nervous
Tense	Impatient
Distressed	Troubled
Disturbed	Agitated
Worried	Perplexed
Bothered	Frustrated
Strained	Disquieted
On edge	Care worn
Heavy laden	

New American Standard

Philippians 4:6 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

7 *And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

8 *Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.*

New International Version

Philippians 4:6 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

7 *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

American Standard Version

Philippians 4:6 In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Conybeare Translation

Philippians 4:6 Let no care trouble you, but in all things, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Berkeley Translation

Philippians 4:6 Entertain no worry...

Modern English (H.B. Montgomery)

Philippians 4:6 Do not worry about anything...

J.B. Phillips Translation

Philippians 4:6 ...tell God every detail of your needs in earnest and thankful prayers.

Instead of fretting and being anxious, take everything to God in prayer. Be thankful because God hears and answers prayer.

God has given you a key to peace. You are at peace with Him as far as sin is concerned because you accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. You no longer have a sinful heart (spirit). In this world, you have adversity. God said, "I give you the keys to the kingdom." One of those keys is to not fret, worry or be anxious about anything. This is a precept, a principle, of the kingdom of God.

If you will practice and be a doer of the Word, God will strengthen your heart and mind and give you His peace. Bring your thoughts into captivity. Teach your lips to speak the Word of God. Do not fret or have any anxiety in any circumstance. Go to God in prayer. Cast your care upon Him. Look to Him.

2. Fretting tends only to evildoing.

Psalms 37:8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Psalms 37:8 Cease from anger and forsake wrath; fret not yourself—it tends only to evildoing.

3. Do not let worries and cares distract you from God's plan for your life.

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I tell you, stop being perpetually uneasy (anxious and worried) about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; or about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life greater (in quality) than food, and the body (far above and more excellent) than clothing?

How are you not going to worry? How are you not going to be perpetually or continuously uneasy? You are going to reach that state by casting your cares upon the Lord and by rolling your works upon Him. Anxieties and cares and anxieties are powerful enough to choke the Word of God out of your heart.

You cannot be worried and be in faith at the same time.

*Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and **cares** of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Luke 21:34 But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed (weighed down) with the giddiness and headache and nausea of self-indulgence,

drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to (the business of) this life, and (lest) that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose.

4. Cares are powerful enough to root the Word out of your heart unless you keep them off you.

Mark 4:18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

As soon as you hear the Word of God, Satan comes immediately to bring anxiety, care, and worry to get you out of the Word. He knows that if you will not let him get in, if you will give no place to him, but keep your mind on the Word of God, you will continue to be rooted and grounded in God's Word. Do not fret because of problems or get anxious, unsettled, and upset because of perplexities and adversities in life. If you will hold fast to God's Word, it will do for you what nothing else can do. It will bring you into victory.

You must get the cares of life off of you in order to get into faith and stay there. Use your faith to throw the cares off. What some people call prayer is just telling God about their problems. Real prayer is telling God your problems **and** having a Scripture you are standing on that promises you victory concerning those problems.

5. Two of the greatest indicators of faith is JOY and PEACE.

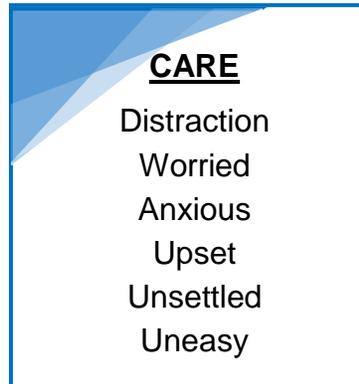
Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

You will have joy and peace when you are trusting God regardless of circumstances. When your trust is in God, you know that He will always cause you to triumph.

6. Cast all your cares upon the Lord.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

*7 Casting all your **care** upon him; for he careth for you.*



Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

1 Peter 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves [demote, lower yourselves in your own estimation] under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you,

7 Casting the whole of your care – all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all – on Him; for He cares for you affectionately, and cares about you watchfully.

The prayer of commitment is casting your cares, worries, anxieties, and concerns on the Lord. Casting your cares on the Lord is one kind of prayer.

7. Do not fret because of evildoers who seem to be getting blessed.

Psalms 37:1 Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

The blessings of the evildoer will soon come to an end. The blessings of the righteous may not always come quickly but will last forever.

8. Cast your burden on the Lord and He will sustain you.

God cannot help you as long as you are trying to do it all by yourself.

Psalms 55:22 Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Psalms 55:22 Cast your burden on the Lord (releasing the weight of it) and He will sustain you: He will never allow the (consistently) righteous to be moved – made to slip, fall or fail.

9. A calm and relaxed mind tends to health.

Proverbs 14:30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Proverbs 14:30 A calm and undisturbed mind and heart are the life and health of the body, but envy, jealousy and wrath are as rottenness of the bones.

10. When your trust is in the Lord, you will have peace.

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Isaiah 26:3 You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind (both its inclination and its character) is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You, leans on You and hopes confidently in You.

11. A gentle tongue promotes health and healing.

Proverbs 15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Proverbs 15:4 A gentle tongue (with its healing power) is a tree of life, but willful contrariness in it breaks down the spirit.

12. Peace belongs to them that love and obey God's Word.

*Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law:
and nothing shall offend them.*

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

*Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they who love Your law;
nothing shall offend them or make them stumble.*

13. Commit your plans and works to the Lord, and He will cause your thoughts to agree with His will.

*Proverbs 16:3 Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy
thoughts shall be established.*

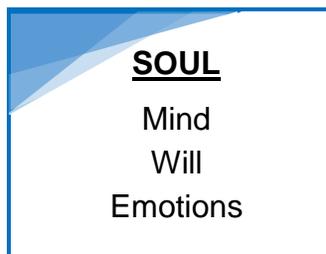
Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

*Proverbs 16:3 Roll your works upon the Lord - commit and
trust them wholly to Him; (He will cause your thoughts to
become agreeable to His will, and) so shall your plans be
established and succeed.*

Roll your works upon God. Turn them wholly over to Him. When you do that, He says He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable with His will, and then your plans will be established and succeed.

14. Keeping your tongue will keep you from being troubled emotionally.

*Proverbs 21:23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth
his *soul* from troubles.*



15. Learn to not allow yourself to become dissatisfied to the point that you become disturbed.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Philippians 4:11 Not that I am implying that I was in any personal want, for I have learned how to be content (satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am.

Rotherham Translation

Philippians 4:11In whatsoever circumstances I am in to be independent....

Learning to be content is something that Apostle Paul learned as he walked with the Lord and followed the Holy Spirit. Learning to be content is not something that happens overnight. This is not something that you obtain with just one prayer or sitting in one Christian service. It is developed in your daily walk. You can learn to be independent of circumstances and not let them have such an impact on you where it influences you to make wrong decisions, go in the wrong direction or lose your peace.

In the Wuest translation in the latter part of Philippians 4:11, it says, “I have come to learn in the circumstances in which I am placed to be independent of these and self-sufficient.”

That self-sufficiency is not in your own ability. It is in the strength and power of the fruit of temperance. Learn to be independent of circumstances. Paul and Silas were in jail at midnight. Their backs were bleeding from being beaten. Their feet were in chains. They were lying there amongst those soldiers, but, they considered themselves to be independent of those circumstances. They saw themselves in the presence of God. They saw themselves with victory. They saw themselves as overcomers. Paul said, “I have learned in whatsoever state I am to be independent and self-sufficient.” That is the sufficiency that he had on the inside of him in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want to encourage you to consciously take time to cultivate and develop the fruit of temperance. By doing this, you will have the strength to avoid many problems that would normally take hold in your life. By learning to obey the Lord and giving no place to the devil, many problems and negative circumstances can be avoided.

16. Be sober and in control of yourself.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

New International Version

1 Thessalonians 5:8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

17. Show kindness to others without complaining about it.

1 Peter 4:9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

New American Standard

1 Peter 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

18. The discipline and instruction of the Lord are for your certain good.

Psalms 94:12 Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

13 That thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked.

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Psalms 94:12 Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man whom You discipline and instruct, O Lord, and teach out of Your law,

13 That You may give him power to keep himself calm in the days of adversity, until the (inevitable) pit of corruption is dug for the wicked.

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

Hebrews 12:9 Moreover, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we yielded [to them] and respected (them for training us) Shall we not much more cheerfully submit to the Father of spirits and so (truly) live? 10 For (our earthly fathers) disciplined us for only a short period of time and chastised us as seemed proper and good to them; but He disciplines us for our certain good, that we may become sharers in His own holiness.

19. Stop allowing yourself to be agitated and disturbed.

God would be unjust if He told you to do something that you cannot do. You can choose to walk in peace.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

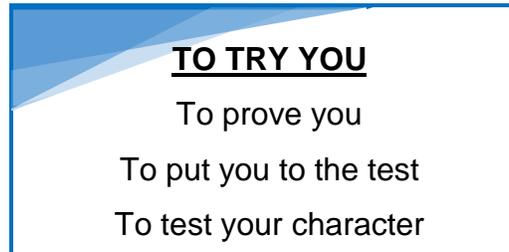
Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; My (own) peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.)

If you will make a quality decision to not allow yourself to be disturbed, God will help you to do it.

20. Do not be surprised when tests come.

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is **to try you**, as though some strange thing happened unto you.



Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be amazed and bewildered at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to test your quality, as though something strange (unusual and alien to you and your position) were befalling you.

21. Do everything without murmuring.

Philippians 2:14 Do all things **without murmurings and disputings**.

Without murmurings and disputings...

- ...Without murmuring and questioning
- ...Without complaining and arguing
- ...Without grumbling and fault-finding

You do not need to murmur and complain because you know God is on your side and brings you out victorious.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but God is greater than the thief and has come to give you life in abundance.

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

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

1 Corinthians 10:13 For no temptation (no trial regarded as enticing to sin), (no matter how it comes or where it leads) has overtaken you and laid hold on you that is not common to man (that is, no temptation or trial has come to you that is beyond human resistance and that is not adjusted and adapted and belonging to human experience, and such as man can bear) But God is faithful (to His Word and to His compassionate nature), and He (can be trusted) not to let you be tempted and tried and assayed beyond your ability and strength of resistance and power to endure, but with the temptation He will (always) also provide the way out (the means of escape to a landing place), that you may be capable and strong and powerful to bear up under it patiently.

It takes work and dedication to commit to God's Word.

2 Timothy 1:12 ...keep that which I have committed unto him.

Psalms 56:4 ...In God I have put my trust...

Faithful people do not need to worry because they know the end result. God has not promised the believer a life without adversity, trials, and tests. He has given you His book, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit to guide and help you to know what to do when adversity comes. Tests and trials come to all believers. What you do and how you live during and between these tests will determine the outcome.

A burden is anything that takes the place of your faith.

22. Paul had to deal with things without and within.

Paul had people attacking from the outside. He also had the emotional stresses that came to him from the inside.

2 Corinthians 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

2 Corinthians 11:28 And besides those things that are without, there is the daily (inescapable pressure) of my care and anxiety for all the churches.

23. Put your trust in God, not in yourself or other people.

1 Corinthians 1:8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

The Greater One is on the inside of you. He will give you strength and victory as you put your trust in Him.

24. Trusting in the Lord protects you from the enemy.

Jeremiah 17:5 Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.

6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.

8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

25. Trusting in the Lord brings perfect peace.

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

26. Trusting in the Lord brings Divine guidance.

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

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

27. Keeping your eyes on Jesus will cause you to walk victoriously in the midst of tests and trials.

Matthew 14:19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

RIGHT AND WRONG THINKING

The Bible teaches us specifically how to think correctly. Philippians 4:8 instructs us to think about things that benefit and build us up.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

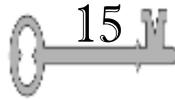
Emotions follow thoughts. Your thoughts affect your mood and attitude. Wrong thinking causes you to feel bad. God instructs you how to think because He knows what is best for you. Take time to examine yourself as to what you are thinking.

Satan deceives people into thinking that the source of their unhappiness or trouble is circumstances or another person's actions rather than what the cause really is. A person's unhappiness and having troubled feelings and emotions is a result of what is going on inside that person, inside their thoughts. When you think correctly and have your thoughts under control, unpleasant surroundings and wrong actions of others will not cause you to be miserable and unhappy. Whether people are doing things that please you or not, you will not be affected when you choose to think correctly and have the right attitude. You can bring victory, happiness, and success to your own life when you choose to think on the right things.

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

I take every situation and circumstance to God in prayer.
I am not anxious about things because I know God
is working on my behalf to answer my prayer.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
TAKE HEED HOW YOU BUILD



God has provided salvation, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit to us. It is up to each of us what we do with the many things He has made available for us. We are the ones that decide how we build our lives.

1. Jesus Christ is building His Church.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will **build** my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

<u>BUILD</u>	
Form	Construct
Compose	Establish
Make larger	Bring to maturity

God is building His Church today. The Church is made up of every person around the world that has received Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. You are a co-labourer with God.

2. As a co-labourer with God, take heed how you build.

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's **husbandry**, ye are God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

HUSBANDRY

A field under cultivation

God's garden

3. It is up to you how you build upon the foundation which is Jesus Christ.

Being in Christ gives you the assurance of heaven, but not of walking in victory in this life. To have victory on earth requires that you be an obedient hearer **and** doer of the Word of God!

Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand.

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

James 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

The Holy Spirit will help you as you build upon the foundation of Jesus Christ, but He will not do it for you. The choice of what is built and how it is built is up to you.

4. Being a doer of God's Word, not just a hearer, is what brings success.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

The Bible guides you as to what to do, but you must do the doing. You must put the Word of God into practice in your own life.

5. God has given you the tools, but you must do the building.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as 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:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

2 Peter 1:2 May grace (God's favor) and peace (which is perfect well-being, all necessary good, all spiritual prosperity, and freedom from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts) be multiplied to you in (the full, personal, precise, and correct) knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

3 For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that (are requisite and suited) to life and godliness, through the (full, personal) knowledge of Him Who called us by and to His own glory and excellence (virtue).

4 By means of these He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape (by flight) from the moral decay (rottenness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature.

It is up to you to be responsible and appropriate (take and use) the victory and benefits that Christ Jesus has already made available to you. God's responsibility was to provide salvation, peace, prosperity, protection, healing, and many other blessings to give you victory. It is up to you to possess and appropriate what He has made available to you!

- 6. Every step you take in acting on the knowledge of God's Word puts you a step forward toward spiritual maturity. You walk one step at a time.**

Walk in the light.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Walk in the truth.

3 John 1:3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

Walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Walk by faith, not by sight.

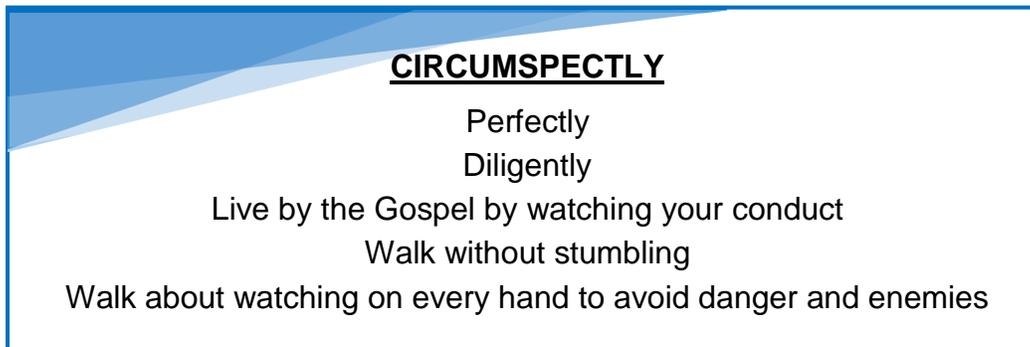
2 Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight.)

Walk in love.

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Walk circumspectly.

*Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk **circumspectly**, not as fools, but as wise.*



CIRCUMSPECTLY
Perfectly
Diligently
Live by the Gospel by watching your conduct
Walk without stumbling
Walk about watching on every hand to avoid danger and enemies

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without.

Colossians 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

7. God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Diligence is not religious busy work. Diligence is characterized by steady, earnest, painstaking effort and application of God's Word.

*Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that **diligently** seek him.*

<u>DILIGENCE</u>	
Perseverance	Exactly
Prompt	Mindful
Obedient	Attentive to
See to it	Doing completely
To do correctly	Finishing the assignment

It is your responsibility to study God's Word, seek Him, listen to His voice, and fulfill what He called you to do. You, not someone else, are responsible as to how you build and conduct your life.

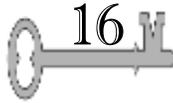
BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

I apply the Word of God to every area in my life.

I am sensitive and obedient to God's leading.

I take heed how I build my life with the things God has provided me.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
BECOMING A LEADER



God is looking for strong leaders today. He is looking for those that will submit to Him and allow Him to put His leadership abilities and qualities into them.

1. Leadership Qualities

- the ability to influence others
- not achieved by reducing people to one's service, but by giving one's self in selfless service to them
- concerned more with the service you can give others than with what you can extract from them
- aim to put more into life than what you get out of it
- more than supervising or managing
- maintaining character and inspiring the confidence and trust of others

2. God is looking for strong leaders. They are needed in difficult and trying times.

Jeremiah 5:1 Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgement, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it.

Ezekiel 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

Quality leadership brings peace and prosperity to a nation, community, and home. We are commanded to provide leadership to nations.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

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

Men and women were created to dominate and not be dominated by circumstances, the world, people’s opinions, etc. God created mankind to rule, govern, control, and influence the earth. We were designed to be ruled only by God’s Spirit in our hearts. We were created to be led by the Spirit of God, not by another spirit or circumstances.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

3. Leadership Contrasts

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP	NATURAL LEADERSHIP
Trusts God	Trusts self
Knows God	Knows people
Seeks God’s will	Does own will
Finds and uses God’s methods	Uses own methods
Likes to obey God	Likes commanding others
Dependent on God	Independent

4. Qualities Needed in a Leader

- Able to set priorities
- Able to overcome their own weaknesses
- Able to sit back and avoid getting immersed in details
- Accepts opposition to personal viewpoint without considering it a personal affront and acting accordingly
- Allows subordinates to be at ease in your presence

- At ease in the presence of superiors or strangers
- Calm in crisis
- Can do little things well
- Controls self in times of testing
- Faces impossible situations with the right attitude
- Handles criticism objectively and remains unmoved by it
- Handles discouragement properly
- Has intensity
- Has the power of clear decision
- Has the power of growth
- Inspires confidence
- Knows how to take advantage of momentum
- Must be able to select people well
- Must know where he/she is going
- Must not be petty or pompous
- Must rally others to a common cause
- Must maintain character that inspires confidence
- Must secure cooperation and win the respect of others
- Must secure disciples without resulting to a show of authority
- Must think independently while using the thoughts of others to the fullest
- Must not be unduly dependent on the praise and approval of others
- Must be able to hold a steady course in the face of disapproval and even temporary loss of confidence
- Must be interested in people of all types and races and not have respect of persons or racial prejudice
- Possesses a strong and steady will that does not vacillate
- Readily forgives injuries done to you
- Reasonably optimistic

- Resolute in adversity and disappointment
- Singleness of motive and objective
- Trusts those under them and lets them get on with their job without interference
- Uses disappointments creatively
- Uses leisure time wisely
- Welcomes responsibility

The following questions could be used as a test to check your attitude toward people as an indication of your capacity for leadership.

- Do other people's failures annoy or challenge you?
- Do you use people or cultivate people?
- Do you direct people or develop people?
- Do you criticize or encourage?
- Do you shun the problem people or seek them out to help them?

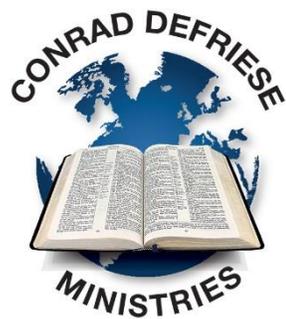
Do not get in a hurry to become a leader. Take adequate time to allow God to equip and train you in His ways and His Word so that you can be a vessel unto honor and equipped to lead others effectively.

BELIEVE IT! SAY IT! PRAISE GOD FOR IT!

I surrender myself to the Holy Spirit to work and develop in me the attributes that I need to be an effective leader.

I pray that these Bible lessons will shine the light of God's Word on your path. As you become not only a hearer but a doer of the Word of God, the power that is in the Word will be activated and bring victory in every area of your life. Continue to meditate and feed on the Word to give you daily strength and wisdom.

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