

# The Triumphant Life: Repent & Follow

Changing our minds and following God to forever receive His blessings!

## 3 Keys for a Triumphant Life

***We left off with Jesus being baptized and receiving the Holy Spirit as a witness that God was with Him to John. Jesus never had to repent for anything, but He did have to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance.***

### **Matthew 4:1-11 New Living Translation**

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. 3 During that time the devil[a] came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'<sup>[b]</sup>" 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'<sup>[c]</sup>" 7 Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'<sup>[d]</sup>" 8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me." 10 "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'<sup>[e]</sup>" 11 Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

***Three Foundational Keys for a defensive stand against Satan, and an offensive progression into a triumphant life!***

#### **1. Matthew 4:4 New Living Translation**

But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'<sup>[a]</sup>"

#### **2. Matthew 4:7 New Living Translation**

Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’[a]”

### 3. **Matthew 4:10 New Living Translation**

“Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’[a]”

## Repent & Follow

### **Matthew 4:1-12-25 New Living Translation**

The Ministry of Jesus Begins

12 When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee. 13 He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. 14 This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah: 15 “In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee where so many Gentiles live, 16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light.

And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow,

a light has shined.”[f] 17 From then on Jesus began to preach, **“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.[g]”**

- **“Repent of your sins and turn to God.**
- **Repentance-** After being enlightened (made aware of truth), it’s a changing of the mind that leads to a turning of the heart. A person no longer pursues sin, but the focus becomes following (obeying) their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. True repentance must be accompanied by a change of mind and direction.
- **for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.**
- **Romans 14:17 New King James Version**  
for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- **“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.**
- “Hey, you’re headed for destruction in you keep following your sinful desires. Change your mind about what you’re doing and turn your heart to God. Follow His ways and He will save you and lead you to His Kingdom filling you with righteousness, peace, and joy. Instead of the wickedness, chaos, and despair you’ve now living with.

***Without repentance there it's impossible to live a Triumphant Life. Every soul that sins against God and doesn't repent and follow His Son Jesus Christ will will perish forever.***

The First Disciples/Followers

18 One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. **19 Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” 20 And they left their nets at once and followed him. 21 A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. 22 They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.**

- In order to be a disciple you must be a follower of Jesus.
- When you follow Jesus you will experience His Kingdom coming near you!
- The wicked are made righteous, those in the chaos and confusion of the enemy's destructive forces are instead given peace. Those grieving, wounded, weary, and in despair receive His joy.

Crowds Follow Jesus

23 Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness.

- **1 Corinthians 4:20 New King James Version**

For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

24 News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all. 25 Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns,[h] Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River.

- All who repent and turn to follow God enter into His Kingdom (righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit) and are triumphantly transformed by His power.
- He wants to bring us up to where He is both now and forever, this is true and eternal victory. He wants to take us up to high and holy places, often referred to as the mountain of the Lord. But who does He allow to come after Him, to ascend/climb? Only those who repent may follow.

## The Lord's High & Holy Places

**The first thing I recall the Lord saying to me this morning is that you can't have what Psalm 23 offers without going through Psalm 24.**

**What does He offer in Psalm 23?**

**Psalm 23 New King James Version**

23 The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not [a]want.

2 He makes me to lie down in [b]green pastures;

He leads me beside the [c]still waters.

3 He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will [d]dwell in the house of the Lord

[e]Forever.

- These are the blessings of following the Shepherd, but who is it that may follow Him here? To His high and holy house?

**(Stand, pray, read aloud)**

**Psalm 24 New Living Translation**

- 1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.  
The world and all its people belong to him.
- 2 For he laid the earth's foundation on the seas  
and built it on the ocean depths.
- 3 Who may climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who may stand in his holy place?
- 4 Only those whose hands and hearts are pure,  
who do not worship idols  
and never tell lies.
- 5 They will receive the Lord's blessing  
and have a right relationship with God their savior.
- 6 Such people may seek you  
and worship in your presence, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Open up, ancient gates!  
Open up, ancient doors,  
and let the King of glory enter.
- 8 Who is the King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty;  
the Lord, invincible in battle.
- 9 Open up, ancient gates!  
Open up, ancient doors,  
and let the King of glory enter.
- 10 Who is the King of glory?  
The Lord of Heaven's Armies—  
he is the King of glory.

***Who is it that can go to the Lord's high and holy places?***

**Psalm 24:3-4 New Living Translation**

- 3 Who may climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who may stand in his holy place?
- 4 Only those whose hands and hearts are pure,  
who do not worship idols  
and never tell lies.

## **Matthew 5 New Living Translation**

### **The Sermon on the Mountain/ High Place**

5 One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, 2 and he began to teach them.

- In Matthew 4 He begins preaching repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is right here for the taking. He also begins to tell people to follow Him.
- Now in Matthew 5 He walks up a mountain side and those who have repented are able to follow Him! Those who repented are able to what? Follow Him!
- They gathered around Him and He began to teach them.
- Psalm 24 - the sheep repent and are able to ascend the mountain.
- Psalm 23 - the sheep are led, seated, and fed.

***Now that they have repented and followed He is able to bless them through the three keys.***

1. Live only by the words that come from the mouth of God.
2. Live lives that don't put God to the test. Know that He is faithful to do what He promised but don't tempt Him.
3. Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.

#### The Beatitudes

3 "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,[a] for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

4 God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

6 God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,[b] for they will be satisfied.

7 God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

8 God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

9 God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

10 God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

11 “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. 12 Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Teaching about Salt and Light

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

14 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Teaching about the Law

17 “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. 18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. 19 So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

20 “But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

Teaching about Anger

21 “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’[c] 22 But I say, if you are even angry with someone,[d] you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an

idiot,[e] you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone,[f] you are in danger of the fires of hell.[g]

23 “So if you are presenting a sacrifice[h] at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, 24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

25 “When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. 26 And if that happens, you surely won’t be free again until you have paid the last penny.[i]

#### Teaching about Adultery

27 “You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’[j] 28 But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 So if your eye—even your good eye[k]—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your hand—even your stronger hand[l]—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

#### Teaching about Divorce

31 “You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’[m] 32 But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

#### Teaching about Vows

33 “You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the Lord.’[n] 34 But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne. 35 And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. 36 Do not even say, ‘By my head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. 37 Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

### Teaching about Revenge

38 “You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’[o] 39 But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. 40 If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. 41 If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile,[p] carry it two miles. 42 Give to those who ask, and don’t turn away from those who want to borrow.

### Teaching about Love for Enemies

43 “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’[q] and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies![r] Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. 46 If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. 47 If you are kind only to your friends,[s] how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. 48 But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.