

**Anywhere
Everywhere
Devotion**

By Michael O'Malley

**A PRAYER TO ACCEPT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS
YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR
AND FOLLOW HIM AS YOUR LORD.**

“Dear Heavenly Father, You have called me to Yourself in the name of Your dear Son Jesus . I realize that Jesus is the only Way, the Truth, and the Life; and is the only Mediator between You and man.

I acknowledge to You that I am a sinner. I believe that Your only begotten Son Jesus Christ shed His precious blood on the cross, died for my sins, and rose again on the third day. I am truly sorry for the deeds which I have committed against You, and therefore, I am willing to repent (turn away from my sins). Have mercy on me, a sinner.

Cleanse me, and forgive me of my sins as I forgive anyone who has ever sinned against me.

The Bible Says, **“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ...” I Timothy 1:15**

Make sure that you read the Scriptures regularly and attend your local church

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DAY 1 The Holy Spirit, Our Teacher

1 Corinthians 2: 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

1 John 2: 27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

As we endeavor to understand the things of God, let us recognize that the Lord has given us the necessary equipment to grow up in Him. He has a vested interest in our maturity. Here we see that the Holy spirit is our teacher. Let me tell you, you won't find a better teacher than the Holy Spirit.

In 1 John 2:27 we see that God's anointing (search this out and find that this is the Holy Spirit) abides in you and that anointing teaches you concerning all things!

Seek out the truth, brothers. Go back into the Word, which is living and abiding, and see for yourselves!

DAY 2 "Abiding"

John 8: 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free?'" 34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

John 15: 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 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.

I want to present you with a brief excerpt from a book by Watchman Nee.

"How do we abide? 'Of God are ye in Christ Jesus.' (1 Corinthians 1:30) It was the work of God to put you there and he has done it. Now stay there! Do not be moved back on to your ground. Never look at yourself as though you were not in Christ. Look at Christ, and see yourself in Him. Abide in Him. Rest in the fact that God has put you in His Son, and live in the expectation that he will complete his

work in you. It is for him to make good the glorious promise that 'sin shall not have dominion over you.' (Romans 6:14)"

Here is 1 Corinthians 1:30 (Amplified Bible) But it is from Him (God) that you have your life in Christ Jesus, Whom God made our Wisdom from God, [revealed to us a knowledge of the divine plan of salvation previously hidden, manifesting itself as] our Righteousness [thus making us upright and putting us in right standing with God], and our Consecration [making us pure and holy], and our Redemption [providing our ransom from eternal penalty for sin].

Abide! Do not let yourself be moved from what God has made you to be, back into your flesh, lest someone say to us as Paul said to the Galatians, "Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?" Rather let us say, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me"

DAY 3 Hid in Christ

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

‘...For ye are dead...’ Do you see, saints, that you are dead? Have you reckoned yourself dead to the old man, to the bondage of the world, to law of sin and death, to the pattern of this world? Paul, in speaking to Christians, says “Ye are dead.” We know physically they weren’t dead, but rather, were buried with Christ, with him in his death, that like as Christ was raised, so also we might walk in newness of life. Now our “life is hid with Christ in God.”

The Devil’s primary goal when attacking a Christian is to get him to reckon himself subject to something other than Christ, out of that place of hidden refuge and back into ourselves. In Christ we cannot be defeated. In Christ we are always victorious. That is why Christ urges us to abide in Him. Only in abiding in the safety of his death, burial, and resurrection are we able to walk as Christ walked.

As you continue to abide, you will find what we know to be true of Christ will supernaturally become true of us. The longer abide on the vine, the more like the vine our fruit will be.

DAY 4 In Christ

Colossians 2:1 For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; 2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; 3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. 5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

This beautiful passage in Colossians continues our discussion on abiding in Christ. We have seen that we must abide in Christ. We have seen that the devil will try to get us out of Christ. We have seen that the Holy Spirit teaches us how to abide in Him. Now look at the riches and blessing found in Him.

In Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. In him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead. And in Him you are complete. The gospel of John says “in him was life, and that life was the light of men.”

If we draw a logical conclusion from our study we find that if I am in Christ, and Christ is in me, than in me dwells the fullness of God, in me are hid the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. In me is life and that life is the light of men. I am complete in Him.

Do you see why Paul urges the saints at Colosse, “as you have received Christ, so walk ye in Him,” and later “beware, lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”? The world has a ten-step program or self-help model to get you through, but God has one answer for everything. CHRIST! He was God’s great answer to man kind’s need, and let me assure you, in Him, you will always, always, always, find your answer.

DAY 5 Christ, our Sufficiency

2 Corinthians 3:1 Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? 2 You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; 3 clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.4 And we have such trust through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, 6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit;[a] for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

As we begin to come into the realization of all that we are in Christ, we must be mindful of the fact that our sufficiency is always in Christ, that of ourselves we provide nothing. Our sufficiency is from God.

Think on this: A flame may burn brightly, but it must know without a source it would soon be extinguished. But God is a source Who has no end, so, if we remain in Him, the flame of our lives should never sputter or dim.

Look what God has also made you: a sufficient minister of the new covenant, not of the law (letter) but of the Spirit. To declare yourself to be an unworthy minister of the new covenant would be unbiblical. Today we are sufficient minister who ministers life to those around us.

So, my fellow Epistles, “Go.” Be known and read of all men. Be a sufficient minister of the new covenant to those around you.

DAY 6 In Jesus Name

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 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 whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

In the middle of verse 17 we find an important reminder along the lines of abiding. "...do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...". By His sacrifice we have the ability to do what we've been called to do. You are "in His name." It isn't a phrase that the apostle here is referring to, but a position, a state of being. Isn't that powerful. Your living is in His name, your being is in his name, your going is in his name, your coming is in his name. Whatever you do in word or deed... That doesn't leave much room for anything else does it? On the basis of what Jesus has accomplished, we have our position in him.

Look at Ephesians 2 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

As you go through your day, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, living IN HIM, content in all situations, because in all situations you are never separated from the love of God IN CHRIST.

You are God's workmanship and you are blessed in Him.

DAY 7 Importance of Position

Acts 19:13-16 (New King James Version)

13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We[a] exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” 14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered[b] them, and prevailed against them,[c] so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

You can tell from the way they handle Jesus that the sons of Sceva had no relationship with Christ. They say, “Jesus, who Paul preaches.” Not, “Jesus, my savior,” or “Jesus, the Christ.” They had not entered into the covenant. They were not hid in Christ or abiding in Christ. They knew the name of Jesus because Paul had preached it boldly. They used his name like a charm or mantra, hoping to achieve results based on the simple repetition of a phrase.

Yet, why did the spirits know Paul?

Paul knew his position as a believer. “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20) They knew Paul because Paul knew Christ.

Have you established a reputation in the spirit realm?

If you are asked the question, “Who are you?”, the answer should be “I am a child of God, hid in Christ, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Continue in Him. Be bold in the spirit knowing who you are in Christ. Remember, “in the name of Jesus” isn’t just a phrase, it’s a position.

DAY 8 That Jesus Christ is In You

2 Corinthians 13:3 Since you desire and seek [perceptible] proof of the Christ Who speaks in and through me. [For He] is not weak and feeble in dealing with you, but is a mighty power within you; 4 For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He goes on living by the power of God. And though we too are weak in Him [as He was humanly weak], yet in dealing with you [we shall show ourselves] alive and strong in [fellowship with] Him by the power of God. 5 Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it. Test and prove yourselves [[a]not Christ]. Do you not yourselves realize and know [thoroughly by an ever-increasing experience] that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you are [counterfeits] disapproved on trial and rejected? (Amplified Bible)

2 Corinthians 13: 5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. 6 But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified. (New King James Version)

2 Corinthians 13:3 since a proof ye seek of the Christ speaking in me, who to you is not infirm, but is powerful in you, 4 for even if he was crucified from infirmity, yet he doth live from the power of God; for we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him from the power of God toward you. 5 Your own selves try ye, if ye are in the faith; your own selves prove ye; do ye not know your own selves, that Jesus Christ is in you, if ye be not in some respect disapproved of? (Young's Literal Translation)

Here we see that although the Corinthian church had numerous manifestations of the Holy Spirit and his gifts, Paul still

urged the Corinthian church to examine themselves and realize that the power was not of themselves but in Christ.

I ask you the same question Paul asked those Christians.

Do you not realize through an ever-increasing experience that Jesus is in you?

Test and prove it. And He is not just in you, but he is mighty in you, and He is powerful in you. For although you were crucified with Christ in weakness, now we live in power.

Are you a counterfeit? If you think you are strong of yourself and your works can bring you a right standing with God, then you will never be at a place where God can be mighty, not just in you but through you. But when you see that through Christ and in Christ you are already made righteous, and you find yourself to be entirely incapable of producing a right standing with God, you will find the manifest glory of God at work in your life and in the lives of those around you.

DAY 9 Stir up

2 Timothy 1: 3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Stir up your gift! I grew up drinking kool-aid, and we know that as kool-aid sits, all the sugar settles to the bottom. So you get out your wooden spoon and stir it up so that the taste is right. We are drink offerings, and we need to stay stirred up so that when someone is thirsty we have the sweet taste of Jesus and the Holy Spirit ready to quench their thirst. The gift is in you! And it is not of fear, but power, love and a sound mind.

The world has a way of getting us to settle. But I urge you to remember the things that God has done in your life, the gift he has given you. As we heard: You are a treasure in a field, a purchased possession, an inheritance for the Lord. You bless the Lord! God loves you and longs for you to operate in all He has made available to you in His Son.

Remember, YOU stir up your gift.

DAY 10 What Manner of Love

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God![a] Therefore the world does not know us,[b] because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (New King James Version)

Behold! Look and see the manner of love God has given you! He calls you a child of God. You are a child of God! View yourself as a child of God because that is how God views you! And when everything is revealed, you will see that you are like Him, our marvelous savior Jesus Christ, who lives now and forever, both in you and in heaven.

Can you imagine a child walking around wondering if he was loved? Doesn't the thought break your heart? Don't wonder; BEHOLD!

Child, you are loved! And you are free to be what God created you to be!

The world might not know you, the world might not like you. Rejoice because of it! It means you are just like Him.

Be blessed as you abide.

DAY 11 Because you are sons

Galatians 4: 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Once we begin to REALIZE the Spirit’s presence with us, we can begin to RELEASE his power through us. You have the Spirit because you are a son and an heir through Christ.

Every prudent man, before he spends his own money or writes a check, verifies that he has the money in his account to spend. After verifying that your account is in the positive, you have confidence and power to spend what you possess. A man who doesn’t have a positive balance is fearful when he spends, never being sure if he will be declined or turned away.

As an heir of the kingdom of heaven, you have a positive balance in the Spirit. You needn’t be fearful, but confident, full of faith. Why? How? Realizing that you are a son, and as a son, you have the Spirit in your heart by which you can shout along with the Spirit, “DADDY!”

To me, being baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues is a way to continually verify my balance.

Brothers, be confident of your spiritual funding, that you may also be confident of your spiritual spending. The power you release, I promise you, will never be more than heaven can afford to spend.

DAY 12 Communion with the Holy Spirit

John 14: 15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

John 16: 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

Has Jesus departed? Yes, of course, and He is glorified at the right hand of the Father. Now, don’t you think he did what he said? He has sent the Holy Spirit to YOU, child of God.

Do you realize that Jesus sent us a ‘Him’? We hear the term Spirit and automatically think of something misty or cloudy or unformed. But the Holy Spirit is a person. HE has come and we are supposed to be communing with him every moment. What does it mean to commune? To be in relationship with. As a person.

The person of the Holy Spirit dwells in you, and he abides with you forever. Praise God! You are not powerless. You are not alone. You are not abandoned of God.

Today I urge you to recognize the Holy Spirit as a person sent specifically to you, Christian. Realize his constant presence and his continual ministry in your life.

DAY 13 As He Walked

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. 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

What will be the result of our abiding? We will walk even as He, the Lord Jesus, walked. Why? Because every seed that is planted reproduces its likeness. A seed of corn produces corn. A seed of wheat produces wheat. And as we abide in Him, and his Word abides in us we bear fruit unto him and the fruit is the likeness of Him.

How do you tell if you are abiding? Look at the crop you are harvesting. Is it doubt? Is it death? Is it sin? Is it impurity? Is it despair? Or, is it life? Is it peace? Is it love?

Examine the way Jesus walked through the world. With confidence. With boldness. With love. With compassion. With power. With mercy. With grace. As he walked, so also are we to walk.

And what followed in his footsteps? Miracles. Deliverance. Healing. Liberty. Life. Friends, continue to abide in Him. Let the seed you've planted take root and spring up to life. Let the Word dwell in you richly.

You are blessed.

DAY 14 Rumors of Jesus

Luke 7:16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

17 And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about.

Can I start some rumors? Do you mind if I bend your ear for just a moment?

Have you heard Jesus still heals today? Have you heard he delivers? Have you heard he binds up the broken-hearted? Have you heard the dead are still raised, the lame still leap, and the deaf still hear?

Have you heard he defeated the Devil? That He conquered the grave? That Death is done for?

Have you heard he sits at the right hand of the Father, interceding on your behalf?

Praise God! The rumors are true. He's alive and lives forevermore! He abides in our hearts and lifts us up with Him! As He is, so are we in this world.

It's time the people here start hearing some of these rumors. And when they come into contact with us, they say, "Surely, God has visited his people."

DAY 15 Astonished at His Doctrine

Luke 4:32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power. 33 And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, 34 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God. 35 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not. 36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out. 37 And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about.

In Sunday's devotion, I touched on how we ought to walk as Jesus walked (1 John 2:5). It only makes sense that if the life we live, we live by the faith of the Son of God (Galatians 2:20), that we would also do what he did. He lives and abides in us, after all (John 15:4). The apostle Paul even urges us to be imitators of God (Ephesians 5:1).

Look now at how Jesus walked as a man of authority. He didn't just speak. His word was with power! His word had authority. His word was deliverance. His word was forgiveness. And His actions always reflected his words.

He didn't merely preach healing. He delivered it. He didn't only speak life. He gave it!

I hope as I walk through this life there are those who are astonished at my doctrine, and say "What a word is this! For with authority and power he commandeth..." Walk on, brothers.

DAY 16 With or Without?

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Luke 1: 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

My prayer is that we truly realize that without Christ we can do nothing. Oh, we can have activity and good works and motion all in the name of Christianity. We can have prayer meetings and services and fasting. We can do all the things we feel a Christian is obligated to do. But to do them without Christ is to be doing nothing at all. All the striving, all the motion, all the effort is as nothing in Christ's eyes.

But, bless God, with God through Christ, nothing shall be impossible for us. With God, the littlest activity possesses unimaginable power, the shortest sentence speaks life, and the smallest seed can bear the greatest fruit.

Be ever-mindful of the abiding presence of Christ in you and you in Him as you go into this world to do as He commanded. Because the difference between with and without is the difference between "nothing impossible" and "nothing at all".

DAY 17 In Christ's Stead

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

We have been taught the term 'ambassadors for Christ', that we are sent out from one kingdom to another for the sake of establishing relationship. Let's here key in on the term 'In Christ's Stead.' Paul is saying, "Christ couldn't be here, but we've been sent in His place, to reconcile you unto God." You have the authority and the obligation to reconcile people to God through Christ.

Your life here is being lived in Christ's stead. People see you instead of Christ. You reach people instead of Christ. You preach instead of Christ. But what is it that we are supposed to be reflections of, in word, deed and life? CHRIST!

God didn't just give you a command: He gave you the authority and power to carry out the command. He says, "Go!", but don't just go, "Go in power, and in Christ's stead."

For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. (1 Corinthians 4:20)

DAY 18 Christ, Who is Our Life

Colossians 3:4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Dear Christians, it is time we stopped trying to find our life in anything else but our mighty risen Savior, Jesus Christ. As a Christian, you have NO life outside of Christ, and to try to draw life from any other source is to be perpetually frustrated and inevitably defeated. You are known by God, so how can you turn back to a world that is worthless and weak and beggarly? Don't turn back.

Press on.

The world has nothing for you. Its charm is all a lie using smoke and mirrors. Can't you hear Paul urging the Ephesians, "Awake, thou that sleeps! Arise from the dead! And Christ shall give you light!" In Christ is life, and that life is the light of men. As you abide in Him, you will find it virtually impossible to have a faith that is dead and a life void of power.

You once were a slave. You've been set free. You've been given a new name. You've been made an citizen and heir of the greatest kingdom that ever existed. You've been adopted by the King. You've been commissioned to go out to a foreign land (the world) and do the work of your new Father. You have been sent as a warrior into a battle where victory is already assured. You are clothed with the Son, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Go in boldness and power, in the stead of a risen Christ.

Also see Galatians 4:9, Ephesians 5:14, John 1:4

DAY 19 He Who Dwells

Psalm 91: 1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (KJV)

Psalm 91:1 HE WHO [a]dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand]. (Amplified)

My heart keeps coming back to this. As I've urged us to go, I want to reiterate the importance of abiding, of dwelling. Dwelling and abiding are constant choices we make throughout our day. You, as a conscious individual, are always aware of whether or not you are abiding in His love and staying Hid in Christ. The Devil can't make you not abide. The world can't make you not abide. Your spouse can't make you not abide. Only you can choose whether or not to abide.

Paul says we are hid in Christ. Isn't it beautiful? Jesus Christ is the secret place of the Most High, made manifest for us so that we can abide in the shadow of the Almighty. Be constantly aware of the abiding, glorious, life-bringing presence of Christ, and the place you have with Him, and you will be stable and fixed, set upon a Rock which cannot be moved.

DAY 20 Freely Give

Matthew 10:8 (New King James Version)

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead,[a] cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

We are commanded to give that which we have received to all who have need of it. Yet we can only give in the manner we were given that which we now possess. The problem arises in our lives because we are unaware of the way God blessed us and what exactly He blessed us with.

You see, it isn't "what", but "who." You received CHRIST. And He is who you are to freely give to all men. You cannot parcel out Christ to people any more than Christ was parceled out to you. What do I mean? There is only one answer for you, and one answer for all who have need. Christ! Have you need of patience? Have you need of virtue? Have you need of healing?

Know Christ, and through the knowledge of Him you will receive freely all things. Because He is in all and before all. There is nothing in Him you don't need, and there is nothing you need that can't be found in Him.

So when you go to the world, don't go as a salesman, attempting to proffer some merchandise. You are in the ministry of making known to the world the glorious Son of God, risen and exalted at the right hand of an Almighty God, who forgave sin and made accepted the unacceptable into a most holy Family.

If you lift up Christ in His fullness, people will be changed and their needs will be met.

DAY 21 Entering the Ark

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us[e] to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited[f] in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us— baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

Once Noah entered the ark, all work ceased. Death and destruction reigned outside of the ark, yet the ark kept Noah and his family safe and secure. He rested in the ark. Can you imagine, after being in the Ark, getting out to swim, thinking he could save himself? It would have been ridiculous! He had to know that the only hope of his salvation was remaining inside the ark itself.

Christ's death was the opening of the doors to His Ark, and once we are inside, we must rest from our efforts to save ourselves. Christian, you are inside the Most Holy Ark, don't get out and swim. Remain in Him. He suffered divine judgment in your stead so that you could walk IN HIS STEAD. He brought you to God. Amazing.

A side note on the Flood: The very flood waters that were destroying the unrighteous, also caused the ark to rise above the mountains and valleys, above the death and destruction. The ark

wasn't beneath the flood. It rose above it. Praise God. You aren't meant to be under your circumstances. You are meant to rise above them, in the Ark of Christ.

For us, it is no longer a question of 'sink or swim,' but rather, 'rest and rise' or 'sink'. There is no swimming in the coming flood.

DAY 22 It Pleased the Father

Colossians 1:9 For it pleased the Father that in Him (Jesus) all the fullness should dwell

Colossians 2:9 For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. 10And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].

Oh, to please the Father! Isn't that the heart's cry of every Christian? To be pleasing to the Father of All Creation?

When Christ walked the earth, what did a voice come from Heaven saying? "This is my beloved Son, in whom I'm well pleased. Hear Him!"

And now, by Christ's sacrifice, we are made accepted into the beloved, and it pleases God that in US should all fullness dwell. Look at Colossians 2:9 in the Amplified bible. In Christ, you too are full of the Godhead. It pleases God that Christ in you, full of the Godhead, dwells. He dwells in you and walks in you. If you stop and grasp this, your life will never be the same. It cannot be.

Christ in you, powerful in all fullness, complete and entire, lacking nothing, has made you His living sanctuary. And it pleases the Father.

The realization of this truth is the true beginning of effective

Christianity. Why? Because “Him abiding in You” is the only way to secure the miracle of the new birth, with all its power and grace. And “You abiding in Him” is the only way to manifest Christ to the world, who desperately needs what(or rather, Who) you now possess.

DAY 23 Seeing and Hearing

Acts 4:18 So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

Those things that you have seen and heard, you will tell about. It’s inevitable. Whatever your heart is overflowing with, (and it will overflow with what you fill it with), you will speak out of your mouth. And unless you have seen and heard the things of God, you will be unable to tell them.

You may say, “Well, I haven’t seen Jesus do these things, so how can I tell them?”

Therein lies the problem. You don’t fully know that the Word is ALIVE. When you read the Word, you must see it as though you were there with Jesus, with Him showing you as He showed the disciples. It isn’t a dead letter. It’s the living, vibrant account of YOUR LORD. And it should be as real to you as if you were there.

What are you hearing? You may justify your actions throughout the day. Maybe you ‘don’t listen to the lyrics.’ Maybe you ‘aren’t affected by the jokes.’ Maybe you aren’t bothered by the script. Really? Is that your final answer? If you fill your heart with the world, don’t be surprised when you are subject to the things of the world.

Am I trying to put you under the law? Not at all. I am trying to encourage you to abide in the Word, so you may manifest the Word to a world that is lost and dying.

I urge you, if you desire to manifest the presence of God, HEAR the Word of God. If you want to manifest the world, watch and listen to the world. You will bear fruit from your seeds either way.

DAY 24 Jesus Laid Hold of Me

Philippians 3:12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul, in an honest confession, lays out the fact that even he hasn't attained all there is in Christ. BUT.

Realizing that it wasn't by his own effort he was saved, Paul here states, "Jesus laid hold of me." Awesome. Jesus has taken hold of you. He has grabbed you in His mighty hands. He has, of His own power, snatched you from the kingdom of death and darkness, and thrust you into the kingdom of His marvelous light!

What did this revelation do for Paul? It gave him the ability to rise above every circumstance and press on to the mark of his high calling, so he might take hold of everything that was his in Christ.

You have obtained salvation and redemption through Christ. As a Christian, everything in Christ is yours. Now, we forget those things which are behind us and press on to attain all that Christ has set before us, all that He would have us to be and do through Him. And we do it, not by our effort, but by the same power that raised Christ from the dead, which works mightily in YOU. Absolutely tremendous.

Pressing on in Him.

DAY 25 That Which is Wellpleasing

Hebrews 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Such a beautiful verse that sums up so much of the Christian life. Here we have God, who is a God of peace, bringing Jesus back from the dead, accepting his sacrifice for us, forever. And in verse 21 it is God who is performing the action of making us perfect, working in us what is wellpleasing in His sight. Like so many other verses in the Bible we find ourselves coming back to this point of how it works- Through Jesus Christ.

Do you see how the whole Christian life revolves around your being in Christ? Not just accepting Him as Lord and Savior, though that is surely the first step. We continue abiding in Him that the working of God might be made perfect in us.

Yesterday we read how it pleased God to have his fullness in Christ. God is working His fullness in us through Christ. Why? To do His will. What a tremendous empowering this is! God is working in me so that I may do His will!

No wonder His yoke is easy and his burden light. He is the one providing me the strength to bear it!

Abiding in His Word
His Word abiding in Me
Bearing much Fruit

DAY 26 Reckon Yourselves

Romans 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ is raised from the dead.

We as Christians know this and attest to it. His resurrection is our hope of glory. What we haven't fully grasped, or reckoned, is that we also died and are raised from that death so we can live our lives for God, through Christ. 'Likewise reckon'. In similar fashion know. Just the same as Christ was raised, understand it's the same for you.

Do you see the absurdity now of a Christian being subject to sin and death? Is Christ subject to these things? Is He despairing, is He emotionally confused, is He worried? Is He rebellious, is He lustful, is He a slave to sin? We could never imagine it to be so. Why? Because He is raised from the dead, and the life He lives is unto God. How then can we, with Christ in us, be subject to these things?

Our enemy is a liar, and he is good at what he does. Satan will lie to you about your position in Christ, he will lie to you about your blessing, he will lie to you about your victory. But the power isn't in the lie. The power is in our believing the lie.

Know this. Through Christ, you are dead to sin and alive to God. Outside of Christ you cannot please God. In Christ you can and will. That's why we abide.

DAY 27 Absent of Everything

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. 32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Isn't this what we long for as a church today? If we heard about this group of people, who spoke with boldness, who walked in unity, who operated in power, wouldn't we desire to go there and be a part of what was going on?

Yet, if we examine, we'll find that this church was absent of almost everything we think a good church should have. There was no sound board. There wasn't any advertising. They didn't have a website. Nothing they did was tax free. There was no record of giving. They didn't have a puppet team. Or a dance team. They didn't have seminary taught preachers. They didn't even have evangelism as we know it.

Oh, but what they did have was Jesus, displayed and made manifest through the Holy Spirit. And they clung to Jesus like a babe clinging to her mother's neck. They knew nothing except Christ and him crucified. They were absent of everything, but Jesus.

All of those things we have now aren't wrong, unless they replace Jesus. To a Christian, Christ is entirely and utterly, irreplaceable, and to be absent of everything except Him, is to be blessed beyond compare.

DAY 28 Of His Fullness

John 1:16 For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift [heaped] upon gift. (Amplified Bible)

Do you realize, dear Christian, that you have received of HIS fullness? You have drank of the stream of life. You have partaken from the bread of life. You have received life out of the fullness of Christ's life. All of the blessings of heaven abide in you. You are a joint heir with Christ.

Then, you may ask, why do I thirst, and why do I hunger, and why do I despair? The book of Romans holds our answer to this. "To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." The world and our flesh are constantly keeping us focused on the carnal aspect of life. What does it mean to be carnal? If you are governed by your senses, you are carnal. If you obey the flesh and its appetites, you are carnal. If you are more inclined to believe what you see or hear or touch, rather than the Word of God, you are carnal.

But praise God! Of His fullness have we received. Romans also says a few verses later "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." If you are a Christian, you have the Spirit of God in you. And He, that is, the Holy Spirit, wrestles against your flesh so that you can walk in life and peace.

BELIEVE that you've received of His fullness and don't let the enemy, your flesh, or your friends, talk you out of it.

DAY 29 Looking Back

Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Brothers, as Christians we have put our hand to the plow. Now, we like Paul must say, “One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.”

Back there is nothing for you. There is work to be done, and longing for the things of the world which are behind you will not accomplish it. Because surely, as we press forward to the mark of His calling in our lives, the world is behind us.

Or does the world still appeal to you? Its riches, its fame, its pleasure? Its lies, its webs, its death? Don't you see you are dead to the world and it is dead to you?

You must, absolutely must, see God as your only option. Anything else is a compromise of the Christian life. It is a hard message, but it isn't mine. It's Christ's.

Take time to imagine the possibilities that lay before you in Christ. Where does your heart go? What does your heart see? See the potential that rests in Christ. Do you think it's the enemy giving you such lofty ideas? I can nearly guarantee your thoughts aren't along the lines of material possessions or prestigious positions, rather, they are on lives touched and souls changed by the power of the gospel.

Your hand is on the plow. Don't look back.

DAY 30 Not Outside

Colossians 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

I love this. Why? Because when I see there's an 'outside', I know there's also an inside, and thank Jesus, we ARE inside! Doesn't that bless you to know that God has made you accepted into the 'beloved'?

This verse also gives us a sense of urgency concerning those who aren't inside Christ like we are. Redeem the time. Don't let your moments pass by without a purpose behind them. Invest your time, don't waste it. A heart of compassion rises within me when I think about those around me being 'outside'. Outside of life, outside of joy, outside of peace. Outside of purpose, outside of relationship, outside of true health.

But you aren't outside. You are inside and those things, through Christ and your consequent faith, are yours.

DAY 31 Is and Is not

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 (Amplified Bible)

4 Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. 5 It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].

I like when the Word gives me definites. Not what something should or shouldn't be, but what it is or isn't. Not 'it might or might not', but rather, 'it shall or it shall not.' For me there is a security, a confidence that comes with such an absolute. The absoluteness a certain thing eliminates the possibility of any failure of that thing. If love is, than it always is, otherwise, it isn't love.

Love is this. Love isn't this. Love does this. Love never does this.

The love of God HAS BEEN shed abroad in our hearts. If God's love does this, or is this, then that type of love, that possibility is already inside of you. What a wonderful hope. Look at all the things love does. This isn't a lofty ideal.

See, love isn't a verb. It's a Person. And that wonderful Person dwells and abides inside of you. That Person inside of you will cause action if you dwell in Him. But outside of Him, you will never be able reach this standard. How could you? Let Love work in you to be what Love is. And you will bear much fruit.

DAY 32 Transformation

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The metamorphosis of a caterpillar is a great illustration of this verse.

A caterpillar has everything inside of it to form a butterfly already, yet despite the possession of the necessary components, it isn't a butterfly. We see that when a caterpillar forms its cocoon, there is no outside source that injects extra ingredients for the necessary transformation. Instead the caterpillar completely breaks down and transforms into a butterfly.

During the transformation process, the future butterfly is no good to the world. It is too far along to go back to being a caterpillar, but not far enough along to be functional as a butterfly. (Some Christians are in this state for their entire walk with Christ, a divine mush that is worthless to the world, and totally ineffective for Christ).

But, when the butterfly emerges from the cocoon, no one has to urge it to fly. The butterfly instinctively knows it cannot continue to live it's former life, but must now different.

Realize that Christ has placed inside of you all the necessary ingredients for a victorious Christian life. Yet, the transformation takes place by YOU renewing YOUR mind. Christ won't do it for you and if the world had its way, it would keep you wrapped in your cocoon for the rest of your life, never emerging as what Christ has created you to be.

The only way to renew your mind is through the Word. As you abide in Christ and His Words abide in you, transformation takes place, effortlessly. You will be completely broken-down and changed from your old man. Old things are passed away and all things are made new.

Christ is in you, or He isn't. Not maybe or maybe not. Either you are a new creation or you aren't. You are! Renew your mind to this position of yours.

Fly, butterfly, fly.

DAY 33 Continue in the 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; 32And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

We like verse 32. It's powerful. It's motivating. It's definitely true. But look at how it's true.

How will you know the truth? You will know the truth when you are disciples indeed. And when will you become a disciple indeed? If you continue in His Word.

I like that Jesus says 'continue'. Not just start. Don't just begin to plant the Word. You have to continue in your transformation. You have to persistently and consistently abide in the Word. And you will be a disciple. And you will know the truth. And the truth will set you free.

Most of us think we have to be a disciple before we get into the Word. Not true. Getting into the Word makes you a disciple. Getting into the Word makes you fruitful. Getting into God's Word makes you realize all that is in you and allows you to be transformed.

DAY 34 The Entrance of Thy Word

Psalm 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Is there something in your life you are unclear on? Is there an area in your life you are examining and unsure about? Is there some circumstance or situation you need light shed upon? The entrance of God's Word into an area always brings light, and it always gives understanding to the simple. Our lack of foundation in the Word often leaves us like a ship without a rudder as we navigate the seas of our lives. We do not need to fumble in darkness, or confusion, or deception. The entrance of God's Word gives light.

Your responsibility here is twofold. One, prepare the soil of your heart to receive the Word. Two, sow the Word into your life.

Here's another way of looking at it. You have a certain friend who is the 'life of the party.' When they are at a party, they light up the room with their personality. It's such a joy to have them around. Now, you want them at the party you are throwing on Friday. But you have a responsibility. You can't just assume they are going to show up because you want them to. No. You have to 1) Invite them over, and 2) Make sure the door is open when they arrive. Then when they enter into the party, that friend will do what they do best, light up the party.

Many times we as Christians will invite the Word in, but not unlock the door to our hearts, and Its light is never shed on our situation. And then we wonder why the Word doesn't work.

Let the Word shine its light in you, on you, and through you.

DAY 35 DO

Phillipians 4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

All that we see in the apostle Paul, all that we learn from him in scripture, all that we have heard about him- this is what we are supposed to do. And what did Paul say? “Follow me as I follow Christ.”

Look at the promise there as well. If we are doing what we have seen, heard, received, or learned, the God of peace will be with us. Haven't you found there is less peace in your life when you are working around the thing God is trying to get you to do?

Go through the book of Acts and see all that Paul did. It will lift your faith to see you are commanded to do the same things.

DAY 36 Take No Thought

Matthew 6:34 therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Mark 13:11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Wouldn't we like to know how everything pans out ahead of time? Our soul needs the reassurance of a plan. And we think when we have the plan, we'll step out in faith. But faith doesn't work that way, does it? Intuitively we know when faith is operating and when it isn't. Faith reaches out to grab the things of God. Naturally though, we want to see the way we are supposed to reach out.

In these verses, Jesus urges us to take no thought when it comes to the things of faith. He'll provide for you. He'll give you words to say. He is your portion and your strength. Isn't that enough? Or does Jesus need to be supplemented by your ability to plan?

Oh that we would truly walk by faith and not by sight. That we would be, as Abraham was, fully persuaded that God was able to perform what He had promised to do.

DAY 37 Buying Meat

John 4:8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

Look at the provision of the Lord in this verse. We read yesterday that Jesus said, “Take no thought.” And here we see that the Lord sent his disciples with enough money to buy them and Him food. Do you realize the Lord wasn’t broke while he was here on the earth? If he provided for His disciples here, how much more will He provide for us now that He is exalted at the right hand of the Father?

We also find later that Jesus told his disciples His meat was to do the will of the Father. Jesus met His disciples’ earthly needs while also demonstrating a higher way. Eventually we will move from seeking for our earthly meat, to partaking of heavenly meat by doing what the Father has prepared for us to do. I pray that our will becomes to only do the will of the Father, and not propagate our own! How blessed we would be as a body!

DAY 38 Run With Patience

Hebrews 12:1-2 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, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Today’s society expects results immediately. We see it in our diets, our workouts, our relationships. We want fast food, fast travel, fast cash. Often times this mindset carries over into our Christianity. We want results now, forsaking a process of growth and rooting. We want our fruit to burst forth over a day. The Word here says, You lay aside everything that is tripping you up and hindering you, and run with patience the course planned out.

Continue sowing the word in your heart. Continue abiding in Him. Don’t be weary in doing well. You will bear fruit. You will make progress.

And just Jesus, looking forward to his relationship with you, endured the cross, so you, enjoying that relationship with Him, endure as well.

Be patient as you run, knowing God’s Word works.

DAY 39 Opened Unto the Eyes of Him

Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

This verse is comforting and intimidating at the same time. On one hand we see that even our innermost being is naked in His sight, and He still loves us. All of our struggles, our situations, our hopes; these all are known to Him, yet He has made us accepted into His Beloved.

On the other hand we are aware of all of our missed opportunities, our resistance to him, our wasted time, our failure to love others; He sees all this as well. But it is our heart that condemns us in this. Not God. God is always drawing us forward to the mark of His High Calling, spurring us on to good deeds. Our heart is what halts our progress and keeps us from bursting forth in bloom.

Take comfort in God's unfailing, unconditional love. He sees you and loves you. He knows you. He desires your complete and utter surrender to Him. I thank God that it is with HIM we are acquainted, and not with a heartless, cruel and bitter master.

Stand up. Brush off. Move forward. The kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

DAY 40 What Saith the Scriptures

Galatians 4:30a Nevertheless what saith the scripture?

Look at what is said here. Nevertheless. Despite this. Not paying attention to the situation. Perhaps you can paraphrase this way, "Ignoring present circumstances, what does the scripture say?". The ultimate rule for our life is not defined by our experiences or lack of experiences. The Word of God is the end all for finding truth.

Did you have a blessed time in the presence of the Lord. Praise God for it, but don't let it define your interpretation of scripture.

Did the enemy succeed in stealing your health or prosperity or hope? That might be your experience, but it isn't your end if you know what the Lord has said on the matter.

Seek out His word and abide in it. All of the experiences I have had in and out of the Lord are not what define who I am in Christ. They don't define the effectiveness of His salvation or the redeeming power of His blood. No, let God be true, and every man with his experiences a liar if they contradict the Word.

Don't seek experiences for the sake of experiences. As you seek the Lord through His Word, you will begin to experience more than you can possibly handle, and you will be able to know without doubt it is of the Lord, rather than of the flesh or the devil.

Praise God for His Holy Word!

DAY 41 Give Thyself Wholly

1 Timothy 4: 15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

1 Thessalions 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.

First we must, and I truly mean must, understand who we are wholly: a spirit, soul and body. We are a three-part man, created in the image of a Holy God. Look at 1 Thessalonians 5. We are supposed to be sanctified (set apart) wholly, that is, in our spirit, soul, and body. The realization of this composition changes the way we live our Christian life. For today, I want you to realize you are a living spirit, with a soul, dwelling in this body.

Next, I urge you as Paul urged Timothy, to give yourself wholly, (and now we know that this means with our entire spirit, soul, and body) to the Word of the Lord which you have been entrusted with. As you do, your profiting, or spiritual growth and maturity, will appear to all who see you.

A half hearted committal to the Christian life is not a committal at all. That's a trial period, as though you are going to test it and see if it works, and if you find it unsatisfactory, return it for your money back. Don't think you will receive anything of the Lord this way.

COMMIT! And if you never see anything here in this life, so be it. The Word of God stands true, regardless. He is magnified and glorious, despite your experience. He is worthy of your living

sacrifice, independent of your results.

Give yourself wholly to the Way. Lay down on the altar of self sacrifice, willingly, never to climb off again.

DAY 42 Dividing Asunder

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Yesterday we looked at being ‘wholly’ committed to the Lord, that is, with our entire spirit, soul, and body. Here we see how the Word of God, which is alive and active, is able to divide between the soul and spirit. Why is this important?

While it impossible to condense the fullness of this concept into a brief segment I want to start with this question: Do you realized what happened at your ‘new birth’? Jesus said to Nicodemous, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the spirit is spirit.” When old things passed away and all things were made new, where did the transformation take place? In your flesh? Surely not! In your mind? Not possible. Where else, but in your spirit? Your spirit is joined with the Lord, and you are one with Him. Can you see it?

So where does the soul come in? Your soul is the seat of your emotions, of your will, of your desire, of your mind.

So why divide between your spirit and soul? Because any spiritual activity for God, any spiritual growth, any progress in the Christian life, any experience worth remarking on, must be a spiritual experience. It cannot be born of the soul or born of the flesh. You must learn to live and walk in the Spirit.

Your soul naturally follows the tendencies of the flesh, and is opposed to the operation of the spirit. By abiding in Christ, and abiding in His Word, you are retraining yourself (that is, your soul) to deny the flesh and follow after the Spirit. Ask the Lord to show you the areas where you are in the flesh versus in the spirit.

DAY 43 One With Him

1 Corinthians 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

In the light of your understanding of spirit, soul, and body, take a look at this verse. He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Absolutely incredible, isn't it? You and the Lord are one spirit. Isn't it a logical conclusion then to believe whatever is true of the Lord is also true of us?

It's the conclusion the apostle Paul came to when he addressed the Body in Colosse saying, "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power".

And the conclusion Peter came to when he wrote, "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..."

And John when he stated, "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

And most important of all, our Lord Jesus, when He prayed, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

That we may be one even as Jesus was one with the Father!
Picture it saints. Jesus prayed we would be one with Him, and can

you doubt that His prayer was answered, especially in the light of these scriptures and the many others I haven't listed?

Rejoice that you are one with the Lord in your Spirit!

DAY 44 God is a Spirit

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

There are two points I want to bring out here. We know that God is a Spirit. We also know that man was created in the image of God. So it stands to reason by this and by the scripture we've already studied that man is primarily a spiritual being. We see also in Hebrews that if any man wants to come to God, he must believe that He is. But what do you believe He is? He is a Spirit.

This brings me to the second aspect of this scripture. If you are going to come to God, you must do so on a spiritual level. You must worship Him in spirit. You must approach Him in spirit. Your unsubmitted soul cannot ascend the hill of the Lord, neither can your flesh offer Him anything pleasing. But, praise God, that though we were once separated and dead in sin, we are now alive unto God through Christ, and can approach Him with confidence, knowing Jesus has reconciled us through Himself.

What tremendous life we now have!

DAY 45 A Living Soul

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

When God breathed the spirit of life into man, he became a living soul. Our soul is what makes us uniquely human. Angels are spiritual beings, but do not possess a carnal body. Animals are carnal beings, but without a spirit. Man is the only being to be divinely connected both to God and to earth. This point of connection is our soul. Your soul is, of itself, neither good or bad

The bible speaks of how we cannot please God with the flesh. It speaks of how the flesh is enmity against God, and isn't subject to God, neither indeed can it be. However, the soul, as a seat of our consciousness, desire, will and choice, is influenced by the flesh and the spirit. If left unrenewed, the soul will be a slave to flesh. As you renew your mind, your soul becomes a servant of your spirit. In the book of James we see that our souls are still being saved by the engrafted Word of God (James 1:21).

The soul is not something to be despised or destroyed. But it must be touched by the sacrifice of Christ, who died so that we may partake of His divine nature in our bodies, souls and spirits.

DAY 46 Spiritually Minded

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

We have the ability to set our minds on one of two places: the flesh, and the spirit. To be carnally minded always will result in death. To be spiritually minded will always result in life and peace.

What do you get when you plant corn? Of course, the answer is corn. What about wheat or daisies or apple seeds? We know that whatever we plant we will in the end harvest. I don't need to be with you in the spring time to be sure of what you planted. If I am there in the fall what you planted will be evidenced in the fruit you bear.

Are you bearing death in your soul? In your body? You have been carnally minded. (This is excluding the work of our enemy the devil, who comes to steal, kill and destroy).

How can I be so certain? Because the Word says, 'to be spiritually minded is life and peace.' Carnality doesn't merely tend to lead to death. It is death. Spiritual-mindedness doesn't tend to lead toward life and peace. It is life and peace.

Look quickly at some other biblical expressions:

"Set your mind on things above"

"renew your mind"

"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways"

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit"

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind"

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"

Set your mind on spiritual things. And the only guaranteed spiritual thing is the Word. Jesus said, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Plant the Word, set your mind on it, and you will begin to harvest life and peace. That's bible.

DAY 47 God is Love

1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

We have seen from the gospel of John that God is a Spirit, and those that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:24). If we see from scripture that God is love, and God is a Spirit, can we not also conclude that true love is also always spiritual? Yet, many of us have not learned how to love from our spirit, but instead, we express the emotion we call love from our soul.

While we can indeed be describing a passionate feeling and fondness for someone, if we are honest with ourselves we can say it is not the standard of God's love. At times we may have experienced God's love, and maybe even shared it with someone for a moment, however, just as God is not inconsistent, neither is love. Just as God doesn't leave us, neither does His love.

A love born of the soul and not of the spirit can never manifest the fullness of God's love; it won't be able to entirely forgive your spouse for the hurt they've caused, or believe the best in a brother when a situation is confusing, or bear an offense given by an unsaved individual, or be kind to those who are your enemies, or be triumphant in any number of other situations we find ourselves in as we walk through this life.

Such a love born of yourself might seem godly for a time, and may even bear a similar fruit to that described in 1 Corinthians 13, but it will not last and there will something else added with it (for example, with forgiveness will be hesitation, with believing will be doubt, with bearing will be resentment, with kindness will be regret).

The question then is how do we love from the spirit, or for that matter, do anything from the spirit rather than the soul?

But that is a question for tomorrow.

DAY 48 The Alabaster Box

Mark 14:3 And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.

The alabaster box here represents our soul life- our will, thoughts, emotions, desires.

The ointment represents our spirit, pure and precious, joined to Christ, created to be as He is.

Until we take that box and entirely break it at the feet of Jesus we will be unable to live from our spirit. We will have all of the potential, and all of the promise, and all of the power, yet remain unable to live in it.

This woman, seeing who Jesus was, knowing her unworthiness, knowing how much she'd been forgiven, willingly cast herself at Jesus' feet. Others considered it a waste; they said it was over the top. Jesus said, "Let her alone; Why trouble ye her? She has wrought a good work on me."

This is our reasonable service as Christians. To break the box of our soul at Jesus' feet and allow Him to work through us. Only by living from your spirit will you be able to truly live the Christian life, and only by breaking your alabaster box will you be able to truly live from the spirit.

DAY 49 The Life I Now Live

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

When Paul in the book of Galatians says "I am crucified", we know for a fact he is not referring to his flesh. He is clearly not writing this while nailed to a cross. The "I" he is referring to is the soul-man. He has taken everything that he is and joined it to Christ on the cross. He has crucified himself, with all his desires, and all his affections, and all his hopes, and all his aspirations, to the end that he might be raised with Christ.

We see Jesus himself tell us we cannot come after him unless we deny ourselves, (not just our flesh, but our soul) and take up our cross. Truly if you seek to save your soul here, you will lose it.

Jesus poses the question, "What do you profit if you gain the whole world and yet lose your soul?" Sadly, many Christians may have experienced the new birth, and yet never had their soul saved, and consequently never manifest the present triumph of true Christianity. They have received forgiveness for their sins and walked away, following not after Christ, but after their own desires and will. Their souls are as lost as the day they came to Christ.

Until we as Christians regain the truth of our full crucifixion, we will be entirely ineffective for God.

But look at how Paul finishes. He is not miserable. He is triumphant! “The life I now live!” Whereas once he was dead in his trespasses, now he is truly alive. In the book of Romans we read, “that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

You cannot be raised from the dead until you have been crucified and buried. Until you taste of death, you will not partake of life. It’s time to break the alabaster box.

What is the life you now live?

DAY 50 Unless It Die

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

The secret of a seed is not in its shell, but in its innermost part. A seed will not produce fruit until it is planted in the ground, where first it dies, and then springs forth into life.

Similarly, our soul encases our spirit and, unless we plant our soul in Christ, buried with Him, we will never spring forth in His resurrection life. Many Christians are seeds that have never been planted, and will consequently never emerge into what they are truly supposed to be. An acorn isn’t meant to remain an acorn, nor is a mustard seed meant to stay a mustard seed.

So also, unless you fall to the ground and die, you will never reproduce the life of Christ in others, much less yourself.

Do you wonder why you don’t bear more fruit? Why you aren’t effective? Why you don’t seem to possess the very life Christ has promised?

Perhaps you have never fallen to the ground and died.

DAY 51 As Your Soul Prospers

3 John 1: 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

We have examined the breaking of the soul, comparing it to a seed that is planted, or to a box that is broken. It is easy in the light of these examples to view our soul in a negative light, as something that hinders us from becoming all that God wants us to be. While the soul does hinder us from accomplishing the entire will of God, it is not because of the soul's innate wickedness, but it is because of who the soul has been submitted to for so long.

In this verse we see John pleased to find this man's soul is prospering. Our soul can only be prosperous after having tasted death and being raised through Christ. Then, as we serve God from the newness of the spirit, our soul prospers. It is no longer a slave to sin unto death, but of Life.

As our soul prospers through this new life, we are able to truly prosper and be in good health. That which was hindering us from being a partaker of the Divine Nature is removed.

Imagine two rivers flowing into a lake. One river is polluted and corrupted, killing all of the fish in the lake. The other is sweet and fresh, carrying all the nutrients meant for life. But a giant dam was built over the life giving river, giving the polluted river free reign in the lake. Construction is underway to tear down the dam blocking the life giving river and simultaneously to build a dam on the polluted river. As the construction progresses, more life flows into the lake, and less pollution is able to enter, until eventually the lake is not polluted at all, but is flourishing with life.

The sweet river is our spirit, joined to God.

The polluted river is the flesh, which is joined to the world.

The dam is the soul, whose function is to control the flow into the lake of our existence. The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, joining with our cooperation and submission, is to at once tear down the old dam, and simultaneously to build up the new dam. God willing, we will examine this more tomorrow.

DAY 52 Put on, Put off

Colossians 3:2 (abridged) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth... 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 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:

Put off the old man! Cut off the old river!

Put on the new man! Let flow the new river!

Don't you see you were once 'that', but now you are something entirely different? Your life is hid with Christ in God, so it only makes sense to continually set your affections on things above, not on things of this earth.

If we have the hope that we are the sons of God, we purify ourselves, no longer identifying with the lusts of this flesh, with the corruptness that is of the world. We come out from among the dead, and separate ourselves unto God. We mortify our members and willingly lose ourselves for Christ's sake.

In doing this we simultaneously cut off the pollution that prohibits the fullness of God being manifested in our lives, and we release the power of God to be effective in our lives and to those around us.

Are you so attached to the things of this world? Are you so entangled in this flesh? Are you so engrossed in system of this age? Or have you discovered it's filthiness, and futility, and incipient death? Does the world still amuse you? Or have you cut through the fog and seen it's root?

DAY 54 Rivers of Living Water

Revelation 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Luke 6:19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

I have tied these three scriptures together to paint a picture of 1. The source of our rivers. 2. The existence of the river in the Believer. 3. The effect of the river when it flows.

Do you believe on Him? Then you have rivers of living water flowing out of you. Jesus was aware of His connection to God and because of it the virtue that was in God was also able to flow out of Christ into those in need. That same virtue can, and indeed should, flow out of you just as it flowed out of Christ. After all, we are supposed to walk as He walked.

Now we look at the third river in our analogy from the past few days. The third river flows out of the lake and waters the land around it, either for good or for bad. The third river has its source as the lake, and so its purity is dependent on the lake's purity.

If the lake is connected to the spirit and the spirit is joined to Christ, then you are joined to the pure river of water of life proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb (Christ). Conversely, If you are connected to the flesh, and the flesh is joined to the world, then you are joined to the Prince of this World.

Water that is living must always be flowing, otherwise it grows stagnant, and so our spirit needs to flow if it is going to maintain its vibrancy. In confidence you should be ministering to those around you. This confidence will only come when you are aware of your connection to God and your separation from the world.

(For the definition of the 'world', I turn to Christ who said "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.)

Be confident in your connection, and be protective of your separation.

Flow, mighty river, flow.

DAY 55 To the Uttermost

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he (Christ) is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

What a picture! Christ lives to make intercession for YOU! And because He is ever-present at the throne of the Father pleading your case, He is able to save you to the uttermost!

Is there any part of you that is left out of the 'uttermost'? Absolutely not!

God's desire is for you to be utterly and completely saved by being utterly and completely dependent upon the sacrifice of Christ. When you come to the place where you realize that your hand is too short to ward off the evils of this life, but at the same time the mighty hand of the Lord is never too short to save those who hope in Him, you will find you are in possession of life in abundance.

The Lord lives to save you from the inside out. Your spirit is already joined to Him, and you have put on the new man. Now let Him work in your mind and your body to deliver you from all the damage the devil has done or tried to do.

DAY 56 The Law of the Spirit

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Brothers, there's a new sheriff in town. There's a new law. Our lives used to be subject to an old law, a law of sin and a law of death. Praise God, a new lawman came to rescue us. In a mighty showdown, the two Laws squared off, and as the tumbleweed blew across the dusty road, and as the cowboy music played, shots rang out. When the smoke cleared, only one law was left standing.

The law of sin and death had been defeated and the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus had triumphed, and having spoiled the principality and power that once held us bound, he made a show of them openly.

Now anything in a Christian's life that doesn't line up with the new law can be dragged to the feet of Christ and made to submit. The new Law is greater! Quit inviting the things of the old law into your life, quit tolerating the things of the old law. Let sin and death be done away with in your life and let the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus reign.

DAY 57 Behold

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

My heart today is to just remind you how extravagantly the Father loves you. You are His son or daughter, and He loves you! Not as the world loves, but as only He can love.

Let Him love you. Look and see how much He loves you. Reflect and meditate, think and remember, retell all of the great and mighty things God has done for no other reason than because He loves you, and He wants you to be in His family, and He wants you to be glorified as Christ was glorified (John 17).

Don't just say "I know He loves me." KNOW He love YOU! You might remember another time we hear the Word behold. "Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world."

Child of God, He loves you.

DAY 58 Faith and Hope

1 Peter 1:21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

We must address the fact that faith and hope are two different actions of a believer. Many people will say they have faith for something they are actually only hoping for, while others have faith for something yet only know to describe it as a hope.

Why is this important? Primarily, if you are to receive anything from God, you must not have hope, you must have faith. Many people hope for healing, hope for blessing, hope for deliverance, hope for success, hope for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, yet through it all they have never actually had any faith to appropriate any of what they've been hoping for.

Hope is a godly trait. It is a necessary component of the Christian life. But it isn't faith. We know without faith it is impossible to please God, yet faith cannot replace the function of hope in the Christian life.

Let's continue to dig deeper into the relationship between faith and hope in the Christian life.

DAY 59 Faith: the substance

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Do you know the difference between hoping you get paid on Friday and knowing you get paid on Friday? When you first started working at your job, you might not have had confidence that you were going to get paid on time, that all of the requirements were met for your money to actually be deposited into your account. Yet, after getting paid a few times, you begin to expect it, to count on it, maybe even to write checks against it.

This simple, and in ways imperfect, scenario is similar to faith versus hope. Hope has a desire and even a certain amount of expectancy attached to it. You know that God is capable of doing wonderful things, so you have hope. You've heard of His miraculous power, so you hope.

Faith is what you have when you transition between hoping something happens and knowing something happens. Faith takes the very thing you are hoping for and appropriates it in this life. Faith substantializes your hope.

Faith isn't trying to believe something might happen. That's hope. Faith has already seen it happen. Faith already knows it has happened. Faith writes checks against God. Why? Because you know the treasury in heaven won't go bankrupt, and you know you have access to the heavenly account.

When you pray, are you praying the prayer of faith or the prayer of hope?

DAY 60 That we see not

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

To further demonstrate the difference between faith and hope I will use another parable.

There were two brothers who were farmers. In the spring the two brothers planted corn on their farm. Knowing what they planted and what they would harvest, they bought machinery to harvest corn, bought pesticide specific to corn, and entered into business agreements based on selling corn. They knew they would harvest corn.

During the summer, they inherited a farm from a relative in the south. The younger brother immediately went to tend the land there. When he arrived, he couldn't find any indication of what had been planted. He knew something had been planted, but he was completely unfamiliar with the plant. He wasn't there when the seed was planted, so he was unsure of his harvest. He hoped the proper seed had been planted, and that a harvest would come in the fall.

But, in order to be a diligent owner of the land, he dug up a plant and took it to a neighbor who had been there for years. The neighbor recognized the plant immediately as cotton, and told the young brother so. Seeing the young farmer was skeptical, the neighbor opened a book showing the younger brother the different stages of cotton growth. Now having seen the evidence, he was able to confidently tend to the cotton farm, and when fall came, he was prosperous because he was prepared.

And here is the meaning of the parable. The farmers are Christians. The seed is the Word. The field is your life. The book with evidence is the Bible. The harvest is the Word mixed with faith to give you life abundantly. The younger Christian had hope for his life, but unsure of what the Word said concerning him, couldn't have faith in what was already planted in him. He hoped for what he didn't see. As soon as he knew what was in him, he had faith, because he saw it.

You see, faith is based on what you know spiritually, and faith comes by hearing the Word of God. If you know what God has said on a subject, you can have faith for it.

If you are unsure of God's will on a subject, you will only hope for it because you cannot see it spiritually. God's will is His Word.

Many people have hope that God can forgive their sins- not faith.

Many people have hope that God will heal them- not faith.

Many people have hope that God can love them- not faith.

Many people have hope that God wants good things for them- not faith.

And the list goes on. Are you a farmer who knows what he has planted in him, and also what you will harvest? Or are you still a farmer hoping for a harvest of some blessing, not knowing what has been planted in you?

DAY 61 Hope we have as an Anchor

Hebrews 6: 19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus.

Up until now we might have seen Hope as a secondary player in our Christian walk, but here we see Hope playing a much greater part. We see Hope can be sure. Hope can be steadfast. Hope is an anchor to our soul.

When we have children, we cannot necessarily have faith in God concerning what their occupation will be. After all, He is the Potter of their lives and we are diligent stewards of them. Yet, as parents we have hope that they will grow up to reach the fullness of their potential. And the hope we have for their success, causes us to be steadfast in providing for them, to be sure of their well-being. Mothers always hope.

As Christians we have a hope that at the end of our days, we will lay aside our mortality and be clothed with immortality. That as Christ was raised from the dead, so also we will be resurrected and fellowship with the Father for the rest of eternity. This hope serves as an anchor for us, that as the trials and troubles come, we can say "it is well with my soul".

Hold your hope before you, and remind yourself that you can enter into the fullness of Christ because of what He has already done for you.

DAY 62 "The God of Hope"

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.

We see from this verse that God is a God of hope and that because of this we are supposed to abound in hope. The power of the Holy Spirit fills us with joy and peace in believing, and consequently we abound more and more in hope. As you begin to believe, your faith substantializes what was formerly your hope. As your faith is effective, you begin to hope for more of God's reality in your life. That hope will eventually become faith, and the faith will cause you to hope more. So we are then in a continuous uplifting circle which propels you in a deeper and deeper, yet higher and higher place of effectiveness in the Christian life.

Yet most Christians never enter into this upward spiral where our hope feeds our faith and our faith evidences our hope. Because they never distinguish between faith and hope, they lead a frustrated life of unanswered prayers and unrealized promises. This shouldn't be the case.

May the God of Hope through the power of the Holy Spirit, fill you with all joy and peace as you believe. And may you abound in hope so that you can continually believe more and more.

DAY 63 If thou Wilt

Matthew 8:2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

This leper had heard that Jesus was a great healer. Earlier, multitudes had been delivered and healed, and the leper, a societal cast away, a man who was once resigned to die in his condition, began to hope. Hope causes us to say, "If it be thy will, Lord, I know you can." But it isn't faith. It's hope.

Faith was when the woman with the issue of blood touched the hem of Christ's garment knowing if she did she would be healed, and instantly was made whole.

Here, Jesus caused the man to have faith saying, "I will".

When you see in scriptures what God has said "I will" about, or "I have" about, you will be caused to move from hope to faith.

When you pray, "Lord if it be thy will," you are admitting two things. 1. You don't know God's will on the subject you are praying about. 2. You don't have faith for the matter at hand, but hope. This isn't sinful. But it isn't full of faith.

Find what God's will is by reading His Word, then rest in His word, and watch your hope transition to faith as you hear His voice say, "I will."

DAY 64 Don't Grow Weary

Galatians 6: 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Don't give up! Press on toward the mark of His high calling. The season is coming when you will reap your harvest from all of the planting and watering we've done. Don't faint before the harvest! Don't give up before you have opportunity to bring in the crop! You have been faithful thus far, don't be weary, but be strengthened by might in your inner man, according to the Spirit that works in you. Press on, dear Christian!

DAY 65 Without Faith

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.

We see the imperative: you must have faith or resolve yourself to being unable to please God.

Upon reading this some of you will immediately put yourself in condemnation, declaring, "I will never be able to please Him if this is true!"

What you fail to realize is that you already possess God pleasing faith. That's why you are called a 'Believer.' Otherwise you are an "Unbeliever", and an unbeliever will surely never please God.

Faith has been portrayed as a lofty feeling only those enlightened few can possess. But I tell you, even if you are the least in the kingdom of Heaven you possess enough faith to make the impossible possible.

DAY 66 For the Word's Sake

Mark 4:14 The sower soweth the word. 15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. 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.

Brothers and Sisters, as you sow this Word or any Word in your heart you must be prepared to guard your heart with all diligence. The enemy, the devil knows that the best time for him to pluck any seed from your heart is before the roots have a chance to find depth. We must always hold fast to our confession of faith without wavering, believing that God meant what He said.

The enemy cannot just take the seed from you. He deceives you into being offended, and your offense is the door to his thievery.

The Word of God is true. The Word of God is forever established. It cannot fail. The Word is life and the Word is Truth. If the Word abides in you and you abide in Christ you WILL bear MUCH fruit.

We are about to delve into the truths of faith and uncover the lies of unbelief. As you see the truth in the Word, hold fast, don't take offense at the persecution that will arise.

You are blessed.

DAY 67 Grounded and Settled

Colossians 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Is your faith grounded and settled? Or are you still blown about by winds of doctrine? Do you still go up and down in your walk with Christ? Many Christians just think this is part of the Christian walk. And it very well might be a part of the average Christian walk, but it isn't part of the Normal Christian walk.

Is Christ unsure of His desire? Is He inconsistent? Is He emotionally unstable? Does His doctrine change? Does Christ go through highs and lows? The answer is obvious. And now, Christ lives inside of you and you have His consistency, His life, His power, His joy, His peace, His rest, inside of you. This is the spiritual life you are supposed to live out of. But our inconsistency comes from our living out of our carnal nature and not out of Christ.

Because of the busy nature of our lives, we seldom take time to let our faith settle. Have you seen the huge concrete mixing trucks, with the barrel that continually spins to keep the concrete from settling? If we would just be still and let our faith get settled and firm like the concrete, we would be swayed by the world much less. One day you believe in healing, the next day you think it may be just for some. One day you believe Christ is the only way, and the next you think as long as you are a good man, the Lord will understand. One day you believe Christ is your righteousness, and the next you are struggling to be your own righteousness.

The wise man builds his house (his faith, his spirituality, his

spiritual temple) on the rock of Christ Jesus. If your faith is grounded and settled on this rock you will never be ashamed, regardless of what the world, your peers, your superiors, or anyone else thinks of you.

DAY 68 Whosoever shall Be ashamed

Luke 9:26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.

Before I left Iraq I was discussing the difference between faith and hope. Now that I'm settled in, I'd like to bring the subject of faith up again.

When I was growing up, this verse in Luke used to intimidate me into action. I'd say, "I have to be bold, because when Jesus comes back, I want Him to be bold for me." Yet, I see now that this mindset was entirely wrong and it's why my boldness would never last. I never dealt with why I was ashamed of something, I just tried to force my way through it, not realizing that my ashamedness was really indicative of unbelief.

In this verse, Christ is giving us a way of determining whether we are in faith or doubt. I believe this verse is saying, "If you are ashamed of me and my words, you aren't really believing them, and I won't have a choice but to be ashamed of you, because you don't believe in Me, the only way, truth and life."

Paul said "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God to salvation." The same Paul also said, "I am fully persuaded".

If you are ashamed of the healing power of God, it's because you don't believe it. If you are ashamed of the salvation message, it's because you aren't fully persuaded of it. If you are ashamed of Christ in your life, you don't believe fully what He's done or Who He is.

Like King Agrippa, you might be ‘almost persuaded,’ but that’s the same as ‘unbelief.’

Some of you might say this is too harsh, but I’m telling you the truth. If you believe the gospel, you won’t be ashamed of it. One of the great lies of this age is the wrong-defining of faith. Saying you believe something doesn’t mean you believe it. We’ll get more into it later, but for now examine what you are and aren’t ashamed of.

DAY 69 Needeth not to be ashamed

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.

One of the reasons many people don’t have biblical faith is because they haven’t studied to show themselves approved. Being able to rightly divide the word of truth is a key to biblical faith, and also a key to being ‘not ashamed’.

Have you noticed that as you get more competent in any area of your life, you gain more confidence in that area as well? I notice this especially on Army Physical Fitness Tests. Soldiers who don’t have any confidence in their ability to pass the test (mostly because they haven’t trained) start making excuses about their performance days before they actually take the test! Yet there are other Soldiers who are confident in their ability to perform at any time, day or night. (The bible calls this being instant in season and out of season.)

It’s easy for Soldiers to have a natural faith in their ability, Their ability to perform or their inability to perform has been demonstrated time after time. Many Christians however don’t have any spiritual confidence in the Word of God, so they do not have any confidence in the ability of the Word to work for them. They have no faith.

If a Soldier wants to do more push-ups on a Physical Fitness Test, do you know what he does? More push-ups. If a Christian wants to know more of the Word, do you know what he does? Reads more of the Word. And the Word will bring confidence, and the confidence

will bring action, and the action will bring results, and in the end you will see that you need not to be ashamed to do or say what the Word says to do or say. Because you have faith.

DAY 70 Therefore Speak

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;

Many times I hear Christians say “My actions speak louder than words, so I’m just going to live a Christian life, and let people see Christ.” It is true that your actions are a real indicator of your beliefs. It is also true that you are living epistles, and that other people will know you by your deeds. But this is only half of a truth. According to this verse, if you believe, you will also speak, regardless of the personal consequences it might bring to your beloved reputation with unbelievers.

Over the years I have come across, and used personally, many great excuses for not shedding light during ungodly conversation. The best excuses for being quiet usually are religious ones, but as we examine our motives for not sharing the gospel we find that they are what they are: excuses. Our hearts and spirits prompt us to speak but our flesh and mind remind us of all the worldly reasons we shouldn’t speak. And in the moment we keep quiet we find we have more unbelief in our hearts than belief.

I have believed, and the more I’ve believed, the more I have spoken. What you truly believe you will openly speak. If you are afraid to speak something, you don’t believe it. Don’t tell me about casting pearls before swine, or ‘just letting your light shine.’ Remember others can’t believe unless they hear, and they can’t hear unless you speak, and you can’t speak in faith unless you believe.

Seeing might be believing for others, but speaking is part of believing for you.

DAY 71 Out of His mouth

1 John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

Revelation 19:11-15 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True....and his name is called The Word of God...And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword...

While there is much to be said on the topic, I will focus on this: The sword must proceed out of your mouth if you are going to vanquish your foes, if you are going to demolish your enemies. That is how Jesus operates, and this is how we must operate as well. The Word must go out of your mouth if it is going to accomplish what it must in your life. Can you imagine a samurai that never unsheathed his sword during war, but only asked his master to give him strength to fight? It's ridiculous. He'd say, "Use what you have and fight! People are dying!."

See this: As Jesus IS right now (that means the current state that Jesus resides in with his power and faith and grace and righteousness as a child of God) so are YOU in this world NOW. Operate that way. Live that way. See yourself this way. Let the sharp sword which is the Word of God go out of your mouth.

Speak it boldly, as you ought.

DAY 72 Resist

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Yesterday we talked about speaking those things you truly believe and I want to carry it over into this application. The devil doesn't want anything good for you. He hates you. Personally, he hates you. If God loves something, the devil hates it, no questions asked, no middle ground. The devil has it out for you and he will destroy you as best he can. He may bait you with a job that will suck all of your time, or give you money that will choke out your dependence on God, or give you a mate who will crush your spirit. That's right, the devil will give you these things as well as cancer, or arthritis, or lunacy, or death. And we passively accept everything that comes to us, like bottle-fed puppies who can't smell poison in the milk.

Every thing that comes your way isn't God. Every thought that pops in your head isn't yours, and every voice you hear isn't the Holy Spirit. Quit being blind. Resist the devil.

When the devil comes at you, yell at him. Out loud. Say, "Devil, you aren't giving me this pain." Or, "Devil, you aren't dragging me off into lust." Or "Devil, you aren't going to steal my money." You build up your own faith when you resist the devil, when you actively fight against the destruction he's trying to bring to your family, to your health, to your finances, to your marriage.

If you can be bold with everything else you can get bold with the devil.

Or did you want him to kill you? In the end will you just accept it as if death was from God's hand? That's a lie, and you should say, "Devil, I'm not buying your lies. God wants me well! God wants me blessed! God wants me holy! I don't need that drug. I don't need that sex. I don't need that lie you are selling me."

Some of you will think this is crazy. And you will never see positive results because you have never spoken to the mountain in your life.

Sidenote: When I say "Devil", I'm not talking about Satan himself. He's not God and he can't be everywhere at once. He is as limited as any other angel. He can't be two places at once, and none of us are so spiritual (yet) that the Old Serpent has taken notice of us. But we're moving that direction. Don't make the devil bigger than he is. He wants you to think how powerful and mighty he is, but truth be told, if he could have killed you outright, he would have done it already. The devil's strength is in deception. All a devil can do is get you to believe the lie he is selling. Don't fall for it. Stand on the Word.

DAY 73 With the Mouth

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Does your heart believe in it's righteousness? You may know the facts about righteousness, but does your heart believe it? Whatever your heart is full of, your mouth will speak. It is impossible to have a consistent confession if your heart isn't already overflowing with Christ, however, your consistent confession is important, for it is what brings about salvation for your body and soul. The solution to this isn't confessing more. The key is to get your heart full to overflowing with the knowledge of Christ, so that what your heart believes automatically overflows into your confession. The confession shouldn't be work (but it should work). It should be naturally springing forth from your heart.

So, seeing your confession is vital to your complete salvation (which you are entitled to through the finished work of Christ) you should pour the Word of God into your heart. Your confession will naturally follow your submission to the Word. Also notice, your confession can't only be with your heart, but it is with your mouth. That means it's out loud. Believe and confess.

I've included an excerpt from a commentary that I thought was interesting.

"Justification by faith lays the foundation of our title to salvation; but by confession we build upon that foundation, and come at last to the full possession of that to which we were entitled. So that we have here a brief summary of the terms of salvation, and they are very

reasonable; in short this, that we must devote, dedicate, and give up, to God, our souls and our bodies—our souls in believing with the heart, and our bodies in confessing with the mouth. This do, and thou shalt live. For this (v. 11) he quotes [Isa. 28:16](#), Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed; ou kataischynthe μ setai. That is, [a.] He will not be ashamed to own that Christ in whom he trusts; he that believes in the heart will not be ashamed to confess with the mouth. It is sinful shame that makes people deny Christ, [Mk. 8:38](#). He that believeth will not make haste (so the prophet has it)—will not make haste to run away from the sufferings he meets with in the way of his duty, will not be ashamed of a despised religion. [b.] He shall not be ashamed of his hope in Christ; he shall not be disappointed of his end. It is our duty that we must not, it is our privilege that we shall not, be ashamed of our faith in Christ. He shall never have cause to repent his confidence in reposing such a trust in the Lord Jesus.”

DAY 74 Accepted

Ephesians 1:5 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

We touched on this before, but I want to emphasize the working of God’s tremendous grace, which has made you accepted into his beloved family. Take a minute and reflect on the fact that you are accepted. You may have been rejected by your father, by your mother, your friends, your church, your secular society. From the time you were little you may have felt outcast and uncared for. But you are no longer rejected. You are no longer alone. You are no longer refused. You are no longer a mistake.

But now you are accepted. You have a family. You have a father. You have a friend. You have a brother. You have a body of which you are a part. When sin knocks at your door, understand you are accepted in the beloved. When offense comes your way, understand you are accepted in the beloved. When you see another Christian, know they are in the beloved. When you make your request to God, realize it’s from the stand point of the Beloved.

DAY 75 This is My Son

Luke 15: 21And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. 22But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: 23And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: 24For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

We are in the middle of the parable of the prodigal son, and we see here a very clear picture of our new position in Christ. First we see we are and cannot of ourselves be worthy to be called sons. But the Father clothes us with His best robe (the righteousness of Christ) and puts the ring of authority on our hands and girds our feet with the peace of the Gospel. And the Father was pleased to slay the calf (a symbol of Christ) before the eyes of the wayward son. Now because of this we can partake of heavenly blessings and be filled with joy unspeakable.

The Father saw us as dead; now we are alive again to him. He saw us as lost; now we are found. You once were dead in your trespasses. This is no longer the case. You are alive unto God. You are accepted in the beloved. See the value of Christ's sacrifice and see that you are now a partaker of heavenly blessings. You are accepted, not rejected by God. You are a son. You are clothed in Christ's righteousness, and bear His authority. God looks at YOU and says "This my son..."

DAY 76 For Me

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

I would like to focus on the end of this verse. Many are familiar with the beginning, and rightly so because of the power it holds. Yet I love here how Paul displays how intensely personal the gospel is to him. The Son of God loved ME. The Son of God gave himself for ME.

We know the gospel is for everyone. We know that God doesn't want anyone to perish. Yet sometimes we lose our position in the sheer scope of the sacrifice. Sometimes we miss how personal this is to us. Jesus saw you. He gave himself for you. Specifically you. Intentionally you. He purposefully loved you. He, full of the knowledge of who you were, are and will be, gave himself for you. Meditate on this. Chew on it. Think on it.

Now my goal, and I pray it's yours as well, is that through the faith in the Son of God, I can love him and give myself for him. Isn't it only reasonable to be as purposeful for him as he was for me and you?

DAY 77 The Fullness of the Blessings

Romans 15:29 And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

This is my goal. This is what I am aiming at. Could there be a better mission statement? Let me break down this verse a little more.

1. To be sure: this is full of faith, nothing doubting, convinced this is how things are going to be.
2. When I come unto you: There is movement, there is no stagnation, there is a promise and expectancy.
3. In the fullness: not just an aspect, not just a platform, not just a doctrine, not just a certain revelation. The entirety, the complete package, for the entire man.
4. Of the blessing: it isn't a burden, or a source of embarrassment. It's the power of God to salvation. The gospel is a blessing for the entire man, for every man.
5. Of the gospel: not of Judaism, not of Orthodoxy, not works. The blessing is of the nearly too good to be true news concerning Christ's work in our life.
6. Of Christ: this isn't about you or me. The gospel is of Christ. The gospel surrounds Christ and resolves around Christ. The fullness of the blessing comes through Christ. Always.

When I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ, bringing the benefits to your health, to your emotions, to your finances, to your spirit.

DAY 78 Making mention of you

1 Thessalonians 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

As I read the distribution list on this email, I am touched to have so many wonderful lives associated with my own. I could address you all by name and recount how each of you has encouraged me, or how the knowledge of your spiritual presence in this battle we wage strengthens me, yet time doesn't permit. However, know that I do make mention of you in my prayers and I am thankful for you all.

Leo, you have blessed me. Craig, be encouraged. Moses, burn brightly and boldly. Deon, be of good faith and embrace compassion. Tarus, come and see me. Dickie, it's time. Corei, don't give up. Be strong in His might. Jeff, you are mighty. Joey, you possess more than you know. Greet each other on my behalf.

Thank you all for being part of this body, which is His expression on earth. Be strong in grace and let the peace of God rule in your hearts.

DAY 79 The Land of the Living

Psalm 27: 13 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. 14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Many times we put the goodness of the Lord into a far off place, somewhere distant, somewhere we have yet to experience. For many Christians, there is little belief in seeing the goodness of the Lord here and now. We sing “one glad morning when this life is over, I’ll fly away”, and while heaven is a place of great rest for us, I find for many the reason to leave here is not because they long to see Christ and worship him, but rather because they long to escape the pains and troubles of this world. It’s selfish really.

You see, Christians are meant to be overcomers here, not cosmic escape artists. We are like Soldiers willing to abandon those in the foxhole next to us because life is hard. (this isn’t referring to those great saints who have lived long full lives and have fought a good fight). We are meant to bring the kingdom of heaven near to others so that they might be able to taste and see that the Lord is good as well. In fact, Jesus prayed that God’s will would be done on earth as it is in heaven.

As a Christian we are meant to be catalysts for the Kingdom. Don’t faint. Be of good courage. Expect to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Be a vessel of Kingdom victory to those around you as you possess the victory yourself.

DAY 80 Not as the Word of Men

Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

If the Word of God is to be effective in your life, you must receive it as that: the Word of GOD. You cannot receive it as the word of man. With all of today’s technology and ‘scientific enlightenment’, I find people everywhere who believe that the Bible is a remarkable book, but they will not receive it as the Word of God Himself. There is no power in this way.

The path to truly living a Christian life is can only be travelled by understanding that the Word of God is comprised of the very words of God, and He is speaking to you. His words are truth and life and health and blessing. You will find you can actually have bible faith when you see the Word of God for what it is.

However if you see the bible as the word of men, you will never be fully persuaded in your Christian walk. You will always reason against it, or find a way to get around it, or try to twist it to say something else. And it will not be effectual in you because you won’t be able to believe.

Take time to meditate on the fact, (and it is fact) that the Word of God was breathed by God Himself and He means it for you today. Receive it as God speaking to you.

DAY 81 Continueth Therein

James 1:25 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.

When we urge one another to feast on the Word, we must simultaneously urge, or as the writer of Hebrews phrases, spur one another on to being doers of the word as well.

Knowing the Word without taking action on what you know, causes an emaciated, sickly body. The Word received in meekness inevitably causes action. It is a cosmic catalyst, a vital part in our spiritual ‘chemical reaction’, without which, we would never be able to have true faith. However, doing a work without knowing the Word likewise causes injury to the body. We become a weight lifter untrained in proper form who strains and pulls at every part, trying to do what he cannot do in his own power. (Sidenote: many Christians have recognized the need for knowing the Word, and have become inactive because they feel ill-prepared. This however, is a deception.

Knowing and believing a single scripture can effectively change your life and atmosphere. Only believe!

Here is an excerpt from an Army training manual to help illustrate:

“the Army uses the shorthand expression of BE-KNOW-DO to concentrate on key factors of leadership. What leaders DO emerges from who they are (BE) and what they KNOW. Leaders are prepared throughout their lifetimes with respect to BE-KNOW-DO so they will be able to act at a moment’s notice and provide leadership for whatever challenge they may face.” (FM 6-22)

At the new birth God took care of the “BE” part. Who you are in Christ is the determinant for how you should act. The KNOW part is codeveloped by your love for the scripture and the Holy Spirit’s revelation in you. The “DO” part is entirely up to you. You will never be forced by the Lord to do what he commanded.

I’ll leave you with what the Army’s main publication (FM 1) says about doing. ”But character and knowledge—while absolutely necessary—are not enough. Leadership demands action—the self-discipline to DO what feels or is known to be right. Army leaders must act in both immediate conditions, which may be complex and dangerous, and over the long term, where the effects of decisions may not be readily apparent. “

DAY 82 Choose

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

This is what human existence boils down to. Choice. The ability to choose, or free will, is what defines us as unique beings in a created universe. We are not subject to mere instincts, nor are we compelled by a Divine Hand. Each person contains the ultimate power of choice.

No man is fettered by the forged chains of Fate, nor is any soul subject to the slavery of Situation. Our lives are crafted by what we choose to do and by what we choose not to do. There has yet to be crafted a chain strong enough to bind the heart and yet to be penned a law mighty enough to subject it.

You see, though God commands, He never compels. His will is, for this season of human history, tied to us. The responsibility for good that would be accomplished in our day is not resting in the hands of our Creator. It is resting in the sleeping bed of mainstream Christianity.

While we as Christians must do, we must first choose to do. What you choose to do will be determined by how you view yourself

in Christ. How you view yourself in Christ should be determined by the Word.

Because the Almighty has endowed us with free will, we are in the end doomed or set free by our choices, namely, what we choose to do with Jesus Christ. Whether we choose life in Christ or death outside of Him is entirely dependant upon us. Once we possess the riches that are in Christ what do we choose to do with them?

The world is waiting on our choices.

You are blessed in Him. I miss you all and pray for your continued prospering in the Lord. Abide in Him and you will bear fruit

DAY 83 This is the Record

1 John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

My dearest Friends, my cherished Overcomers, my fellow Beloved,

According to the grace of God let me encourage you according to the record of God, or according to what God has recorded about you. The record states that you have been given eternal life right now, in this present world, at this very moment, even while you read this. Eternal Life is flowing inside of you. And this eternal life is in Jesus. For those in Christ, there is no record of wrong. Only a record of eternal life. He that has the Son has life, and he that doesn't have the Son, doesn't have life. But you are not without the Son, but you are found in Him, you are hid in Christ, and Christ is life.

If you read this and find yourself without the Son, you are without eternal life, and should contact myself or someone else about discovering your purpose in Christ and how to receive Him.

Though your circumstances may try to convince you otherwise, though the devil may try to overwhelm you with doubt, though the world may try to seduce you away, I encourage you to recognize the truth according to God's Word. See, though there are many things about you I may not know, (I may not know your

current situation, I may not know the status of your bank account and I may not know your current state of health) if I know you have Christ I can boldly proclaim you are a possessor of eternal life, period.

A Christian must be in possession of eternal life. It is impossible for it to be otherwise, and you are not an exception. Our goal as Christians is to continually manifest that life of Christ in our existence and to impart that life to others so that God can be glorified.

So, my fellow life-possessors, do not despair, neither be discouraged. But trust in God's Word and hope accordingly.

DAY 84 Lay Hold on Eternal Life

1 Timothy 6: 11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.
 2 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Yesterday we talked about already being possessors of eternal life, yet here we have another portion of this revealed to us. “Lay hold on eternal life,” Paul encourages Timothy. The key is recognizing where you lay hold of eternal life. No longer are we rending the heavens and dragging God down. Lay hold on that which is in you already. Fight the good fight for your faith, for which you and the world will ever and always be at odds.

We look at heroes of the past and assume that they had some special anointing, like some assume of Michael Jordan and basketball. But we neglect to see the hours, days, and years they spent laying hold of that which Christ freely give them. John G. Lake, Smith Wigglesworth, Mother Etter, Paul, Peter, John Wesley, Charles Finney, Martin Luther, and countless others who have lived and died were men just like us, possessors of the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead.

Fight to let loose the Spirit of God that dwells in you by Christ and which alone is the answer for a sick and dying world. Maybe we aren't as good as Paul and the rest who went before us, or maybe we are just making excuses.

DAY 85 Fully Persuaded

Romans 4:21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he (was able also to perform. Do you know what God has promised? Have you seen it in the Word? Have you studied it for yourself?

Most of us can say that we know God has promised us health or prosperity or peace or a thousand other terms that often ring more as Christian clichés than as faith-founded statements, but do we know it as a vow made from the mouth of God Himself to us, or do we know it as a second hand saying that was phrased for easy repeating?

Abraham heard from God and acted out of (the promise of God. Abraham was fully persuaded that not only did God mean what He said, but that He could and would do what He said He would do. Abraham didn't consider his body, which physically was incapable of having children at this point, or his wife's body which was barren as well. Rather, He counted God faithful to provide a son as He had promised. Over the years I have learned the value of stopping and examining my own thoughts and comparing them to scripture.

I am sometimes amazed at how much junk has accumulated in my mind that is absolutely contrary to scripture. It wasn't sin, but it was a product of exalting circumstance or experience or man's wisdom over scripture. Or I exalted another man's teaching which was based on their experiences over scripture. And as I started to pump out that bilge from my system of thought, I began to realize something: God meant what He said! And I can be fully persuaded that what God has promised he is able and willing to perform in my life! Seek the Word. See what it promises. And believe it.

And all the other thoughts that plague your mind and cause fear and doubt, acting like so many fouling barnacles on the bottom a slow moving ship, must be scraped off and tossed back in the ocean of disbelief from whence they came.

DAY 86 Mindful of the Words

2 Peter 3 1This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

I have found myself recently swimming in a vast ocean of sources seeking to influence my life media, unsaved friends, secular wisdom, past experiences, well-meaning family, and an enemy who is ever(anxious to keep me from my destiny. which is why I am thankful for the advice Peter gave to the first believers concerning just such a(struggle. “I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.” Why our pure minds? A defiled mind can never make a choice for God. It is in moments of clarity brought about by the washing of the Word and the ministry of the Holy Spirit that we find an abiding peace and sense of direction in our lives. We can listen to teachers give us their opinions of the word, we can read Christian books, we can watch Christian TV, but if we aren’t mindful of the Word itself we will never receive an abiding stirring which causes us to do the will of God.

Once I found myself saying to a friend “Let me tell you a story about Jesus.” And though I was well intentioned, the Holy Spirit spoke to me with correction. I wasn’t telling a story, I was recounting the truest facts of human history. I was rebreathing God-inspired discourse which is the power of Salvation. Before I acted like I was merely recounting a story to benefit a listener. But the Word isn’t just a story. The Word is life, and we must see it as such. The bible isn’t a story book. It’s a piercing, living document that transcends time and space and cuts to the heart of an individual. It brings life where there

was death and health where there was sickness. Be mindful of the words which were spoken both in the Old and New testament. Don't let the Word depart from you, rather, let it bouy you up in an ocean of unbelief and bring you the peaceful rest of your destiny.

DAY 87 Chosen

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

We can easily exalt our free will to the place where we no longer have Christ's selection of us in the equation of our Christian life. Foolishly, we say, "I, in my wisdom, chose God," and we err. For though we surely have a choice to make regarding Christ, we must realize our choice is predicated on the fact that Christ chose us first.

When we realize that we are chosen of God in Christ, predestined to be conformed to His image, we find security and blessing in the Christian life. You were handpicked. You were uniquely sought out by your Maker. You have been purposely ordained by God to bear fruit. No wonder the devil fights so hard against you. No wonder the world tries to mold you into something else.

As I come to realize more and more how purposeful Christ was in setting His love on me, I cannot help but grow more and more confident in our relationship. Yes, I chose Christ, but my ability to choose Him came from being first chosen by His love. Why can we ask anything of he Father in His name, expecting to receive? Because Jesus chose and ordained us, and He never chooses poorly.

DAY 88 The True Vine

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

Have you been made a part of the true vine? Or have you been made a branch of a branch? Over the course of nearly two thousand years Christianity has transformed from being the way to being an organization, and we have succeeded more in bringing in members than we have in developing disciples of Jesus. We have been well intentioned by bringing in people to our denominations, yet by making branches of branches we have failed to become like Christ. Instead we have succeeded in becoming like each other and the doctrines held by(man, rather than those imparted by the Word. When we are a branch of a branch, we become subject to the limits of the branch. You will never be bigger, cleaner, more effective, more fruit bearing, or more sweet, than the branch to which you are attached. But when we are attached to the True vine, rather than to a branch of the vine, we will become more accurately representative of the vine's nature and of its fullness.

Every Christian, from every denomination, in every tongue, has this obligation: be grafted into the True vine. Our loyalty to Jesus should never be superseded by our loyalty to one of his ministers. Our willingness to believe the Word must never be usurped by exalting another man's interpretation of the Word. We must each examine ourselves. Do we identify more with a denomination than with Christ? Do we desire to know the Word above all? While we are urged to follow others as they follow Christ, we are never meant to be a branch of others as they are branches of Christ. In Him,

DAY 89 Let Not

John 14: 1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. This verse is a source of great comfort for me.

The Lord has put the ultimate responsibility for keeping our heart untroubled upon us, and because the responsibility lies with us, we have no one to blame for its current state besides ourselves. If our heart is troubled it isn't the situation's fault: it's ours. Sure there might be an outside influence trying to sway you in a certain direction through fear or deceit, but if you believe in God, and also in Christ, you can always keep your heart from being troubled. I can think of no verse where we see our Lord give a qualification for his commandments. He doesn't say "Let not your heart be troubled as long as you have money or friends or food." No, in all situations we are to keep our heart untroubled.

And He never said, "Go and make disciples, once you have the right material and a four year degree and an endorsement from an ecclesiastical organization." No, we are told to go regardless of how qualified we feel. I love this aspect of the Lord's commands because it means that you and I cannot wiggle our way out of obeying them.

We cannot say to the Lord, "Well, if I would have been more missions minded, or if you would have given me a more ompassionate heart, I would have went like you said." Or, "Lord, I know you said not to be troubled, but this situation was really bad, so I felt I could be a little troubled." No, for a society that loves to wiggle and find excuses, we find(ourselves unable to honestly proffer any. Your question should be "Do I believe in God and in Christ?" If you answer yes, you have likewise found the solution to whatever is ailing you.

DAY 90 If it were not so

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Today's society has made it acceptable to lie in certain situations. We sometimes try to omit the truth in hopes of getting around either the penalties or the supposed disappointment associated with the truth. Jesus wasn't this way. He told the truth unwaveringly and here we see how Jesus would have told the truth even if it would have stolen away the disciples hope of resurrection and reunion with Christ.

People are quick to put words in the mouth of God in order to explain away situations and circumstances. But if God's Word meant something other than what it says, He would have told us so. Jesus was acutely aware of the fact that the truth set people free, not omissions, not half-truths. In fact, Jesus, when questioned by Pilate, said the very reason He came into the world was to bear witness to the truth.

Power and effectiveness and growth and change and purity do not come in clinging to lies, but rather in wholeheartedly embracing the truth God put forth in His world as revealed fully in the person of His son. Praise God, we can believe what He said!

If it were not so, He would have told us.

DAY 91 The Same Thing

Philippians 3:1 To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

I would like to reiterate some things we've touched on before, which bear repeating as they are fundamentals of victorious Christian living.

1. The Word of God is your ultimate rule and guide book. It is not just another book, another good read or inspirational message. Nothing about it is ordinary or average. Nothing about it is superfluous or exaggerative. It is God trying to get a message to you. The Word is alive and it wants to be known by you and work on your behalf. You should love the Word and abide in it. Your depth of relationship with Christ will ultimately be determined by your depth of root in the Word.
2. Christ is your righteousness. He has clothed you and made you accepted into the beloved. You are a joint heir with Christ and sons of the Living God. You have authority and power. You are mighty in Christ. The devil will try to convince you to rely on yourself because if your eyes are on you they are not on the finished redemptive work of Christ. Keep abiding in Him and His work. Don't get sidetracked. Don't be deceived. Christ is our life, and apart from Him there can be no life.
3. Do not ask God to do something He has already done. Do not ask God to do something He has commanded you to do.
4. Do not be afraid to lose your life for the sake of Christ. And not just as a martyr. Lose TV shows. Lose bitterness. Lose pride. Lose

Anywhere Everywhere Devotion

false pretense. Lose music. Lose food. Lose the little things that entangle you and make you ineffective.

5. Be honest and assess whether you are in faith or in hope or in unbelief. And make adjustments according to the Word.

6. Abide in Christ.

7. Let the Spirit wrestle against your flesh.

8. Be baptized in the Spirit.

9. Do not grow weary in well doing, but fight the fight and press on to the mark of His high calling.