

Daily God Walk

Promises

Volume Eight

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the New  
International Version (NIV). All other translations used will  
be credited using these abbreviations:

(KJV) – King James Version

(NKJV) – New King James Version

(TLB) – The Living Bible

(TM) – The Message

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## Have you considered hosting a Small Group Bible Study?

The Daily God Walk is written with a dual purpose. First it is a devotional tool that helps the reader grow in their walk of faith. But, a second purpose, is to be a tool to be used in leading a small group. For that purpose we offer a Study Guide Edition.

In the Study Guide Edition each devotion has a second page which has a dual purpose. It helps the reader deepen his faith walk and it gives material suitable for use in small groups Bible Studies.

### **The second page of each devotion in the Study Guide Edition**

- ✓ There is a section that focuses on the message brought out in the devotion. This section is an excellent tool for beginning a discussion about the devotion.
- ✓ The message section is followed by an affirmation. The affirmation is good to be used in prayer and meditation. When we personalize the principle by affirming it in prayer it becomes a part of us.
- ✓ The reflection section provides some very good material for discussion. This section usually gets to the heart of what is being taught in the devotion and contains statements or questions which help stimulate discussion.
- ✓ Finally, there is a section where the reader can share their thoughts on the devotion. This section is a very good tool to help the reader begin to journal on a regular basis. It is also good for a person to record their comments and questions about the devotion so they can bring them out during the small group discussion time.

For more information on how to use the Daily God Walk in the small group setting visit the website below: [www.dailygodwalk.org](http://www.dailygodwalk.org)



## **Take A Knee In Prayer 30 Day Challenge**

Have you bent your knee in prayer today? After hearing the story of a brother who was having trouble with his faith walk when he was challenged by a friend to “Take A Knee” every day for 30 days. He did that and his life was changed.

You are being challenged to Take A Knee In Prayer for 30 days... Do you accept?

**Get more information at  
[www.take-a-knee.org](http://www.take-a-knee.org)  
Check it out.**

Day One

## *Hope For Eternal Peace And Rest*

Devout men are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death. - Isaiah 57:1-2

I was conducting the funeral of a man who had several brothers, but only one who was a believer. As the family walked past the casket, some weeping uncontrollably, the believing brother whispered in my ear, "We grieve not as those who have no hope." He understood the meaning of our eternal hope.

We had a lady in our ministry who was not very attractive to look at. Life had been hard for her and it showed on her face. She had children who were drug addicts and some had been in prison. We arrived at the hospital minutes after she had passed away. I have never seen a more beautiful person in death. She had a serene look on her face; the stress wrinkles were gone - finally, she was at peace.

Our scripture for today tells us, "Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death." God has provided relief from the suffering of this life - and those who have made preparations receive his peace and his rest as they pass from suffering into glory.

Even in the darkest of times there is rest in God and peace in knowing that he has our best interest at heart.

"We have this hope as an anchor for our souls" (Hebrews 6:19). Our hope is in the eternal. Everything in this world is temporary, even the flesh that houses our life.

**Prayer:** Lord, I tend to focus on my grief in times of loss rather than the hope that is before us. Help me to place my hope in you and the promise you have given us of eternal rest in you. In Jesus name. Amen.

## *Hope For Eternal Peace And Rest*

**Message:** God has provided relief from the suffering of this life - and those who have made preparations receive his peace and his rest as they pass from suffering into glory. "We have this hope as an anchor for our souls" (Hebrews 6:19). Our hope is in the eternal. Everything in this world is temporary, even the flesh that houses our life.

**Affirmation:** As much as I can I have peace in this life, but perfect peace awaits me when I receive my eternal rest.

**Reflection:** It is interesting that so many whose hope is in this present world and who come to Christ, so often still hope for peace in the things of this world and expect God to give it to them. Yes, there are blessings for us in this temporal world, but our hope is in the eternal. Think about what that means to you in your walk.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Two

## *A Promise of Life – Now And Forever*

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” - 1 Corinthians 15:54-55

There is something really freeing about not having to worry about the future. Whether we are talking about tomorrow, or eternity, just knowing that our life is in the hands of the one who holds the future gives us peace about tomorrow.

When we become believers and accept the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and savior, we are changed from the inside out. We no longer live for this life, but we live for His life.

From the day we become believers we are moved from death unto life and regardless of what happens to this house (our body) we live in, we have eternal life.

This doesn't mean that we hide our head in the sand and wait to be transported into eternity. In fact, what it does mean is that we have a certain sense of destiny that drives us to live righteously and to do what we can to help others receive this blessed hope.

Death holds no sting for those whose hope is not in this life but in the life that is eternal. God has given us hope in him – in this life and in the life to come.

***Prayer:*** Lord, I am grateful for the hope you have given me, but I tend to live with more concern for my natural life than for my spiritual life. Help me to live in the hope you offer rather than just hoping that I can make in this life. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.





Day Three

## *One Season Ends And Another Begins*

I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. - John 16:7

The disciples were just beginning to understand Jesus and now he is telling them that he is going away. They were saddened by the idea of him leaving them, and probably a little frightened too. What were they going to do?

Jesus was trying to tell them that a season was ending and a new season was beginning. His lesson was this; if you don't release the present season you cannot move into the next season. Jesus was preparing the disciples for the release of the Holy Spirit into them, but he had to ascend back to heaven before that could happen.

Some years ago a ministry that we had founded was coming to an end. We could see it was the end, but we were having a hard time of letting it die. Have you ever been there? You've worked hard and poured your heart into a project, then it is over; it's time to move on to the next season, but you are still attached the old season.

Jesus was teaching his disciples, and us, that in order to have God's best we must be willing to surrender all that we are, even the good that we are, and be prepared to go forward into the next thing he is doing.

Every season has its blessings - but it is just a season. We can't hold so tightly to the present that we can't move into the future. We enjoy the present with God, but we must be willing to release it to him so that he can lead us into the future he has planned for us.

**Prayer:** Lord, I don't understand why good things must end, but you have a purpose. Grant me the grace to accept the changes that you desire to make to fulfill your purposes. In Christ's name. Amen.



Day Four

## *Diligent Service Releases The Promises*

We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. - Hebrews 6:11-12

The diligent pursuit of God produces great reward, but those who only look to him as a means of escaping their issues of life will find that there is very little available for them. God's best is reserved for those who will wholeheartedly surrender themselves to his divine purposes.

The writer is contrasting diligence and laziness in this passage. Diligence produces the reward, but laziness does not. In his warning about laziness he instructs the reader to "imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised." It seems that what he is saying there is to put your shoulder to the wheel and keep at it until the promise is manifested.

Some are content to celebrate that the promise has been given and others are committed to doing what is necessary for the promise to be fulfilled. We are being called to be among those who by faith and patient diligence in service see the promise begin to be fulfilled.

We have been given examples - follow them. When we follow the examples of faith and patience of those who have gone before us the promised inheritance is released to us.

Diligent service gives us confidence in the promises. We must stand in the confidence of knowing that God will complete his work in us as we are committed to serving him.

***Prayer:*** Lord, grant me a heart to be diligent in service to you and to your kingdom. Place within me a desire to follow the examples of those who have served well in your kingdom. I ask in Jesus name. Amen.

## *Diligent Service Releases The Promises*

**Message:** Imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. We have been given examples - follow them. When we follow the examples of faith and patience of those who have gone before us the promised inheritance is released to us.

**Affirmation:** I am faithful to the commands of Christ and diligent to follow them. Because of that I have hope in the promised reward.

**Reflection:** It is interesting that some people salvation in Christ, but do not adopt a lifestyle of Christ-likeness, then they complain because the promises do not manifest in their life. Give some thought to that.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Five

## *His Grace Is Sufficient*

He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. - 2 Corinthians 12:9

This passage about a thorn in the side of Paul has been the source of much discussion among Bible scholars. Some believe the thorn in his side was the care and concern for the churches, some believe it was a physical condition, others believe it may have been a recurring sin or temptation. What the thorn actually was is not the issue; the issue is that Paul had a particular weakness that he could not effectively deal with and God told him, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

All of us have a certain weakness, or at least some limitation in our flesh, which leaves us unable to complete the task before us in our own ability. Whether it is a physical condition or a sin condition the result is the same; we can’t handle it alone. God, in his grace, has declared that he has more than enough resources to handle the job.

God is calling us to surrender our weakness to him and allow him to be our strength. When Paul said, “I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses,” he was not boasting in himself - he was boasting in God’s ability to be strong in him.

God’s grace is more than sufficient to reinforce us in our weaknesses. By acknowledging our weaknesses we release God’s power to work in us.

**Prayer:** Father God, I am no more than a man of flesh, a weak man at that. I need your grace to have the strength to live a victorious life. I will boast in your ability to be strong in me. In Jesus name. Amen.



Day Six

## *Kindness To Our Enemies is Rewarding*

If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.

- Proverbs 25:21-22

Every time I read this passage I am reminded of the story of a woman who went to her pastor for counsel. Her husband was treating her badly and she wanted to know what she should do. With this passage in mind the pastor asked her, "Have you tried heaping coals on his head?" Her answer was, "No, but I did hit him with the frying pan once."

Don't miss the point in these verses. God is not asking us to mess with an enemy by being kind, he is simply teaching us that we should be kind, even to our enemies.

All too often we tend to respond "in kind" rather than with kindness. There was once a person who was treating me very badly and had betrayed a trust. At first I began to treat this person with the disrespect that "they deserved," then I realized that I was allowing this person to change me into someone I didn't like. I made the conscious decision to respond to this person with kindness.

A mutual friend observed what was happening and asked why I was kind to this other person. I answered, "I refuse to allow that person's weakness to affect who I am." That is what God is calling us to - Let Christ shine through you at all times.

Kindness to our enemies in their time of need produces a double blessing. Our enemies are blessed and our kindness releases God's blessings upon us.

**Prayer:** Grant me the grace to respond with the love of Christ in every situation. In Jesus name. Amen.





Day Seven

## *The Lord Preserves The Faithful*

Love the Lord, all his saints! The Lord preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. - Psalm 31:23-24

It is the pride of man that keeps him from knowing the salvation of the Lord. God withholds his blessing from those who arrogantly feel they don't need him. As long as we believe that we can do it on our own we can only produce what man can produce, but when we surrender to the guidance of the Lord God we are given access to heaven itself - All the resources that God has are released to those who will trust him.

The Message paraphrase Bible reads like this, "God takes care of all who stay close to him, but he pays back in full those arrogant enough to go it alone." That makes it pretty plain; trust God and receive his care and protection - trust yourself and you are on your own. Humbly submit to the care of God and confess that you can't make it without him.

On the positive side of this passage the Message reads, "Be brave. Be strong. Don't give up. Expect God to get here soon" (v24). Be encouraged my friend, and don't entertain the idea of giving up because the Lord is on his way.

Humbly submit to the care of God realizing that we cannot make it without him. Be encouraged and do not entertain the idea of giving up because the Lord is on his way.

**Prayer:** Lord, you have put so much creativity into man that we find it hard to surrender to you our "good ideas" about how things ought to be done. I am no different than others. I need your grace to trust you in all things and to not rely on my own ability. I need you daily to be my provider and my provision. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.



Day Eight

## *God Protects The Faithful*

If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you. - Exodus 15:26

It is in this passage that God reveals his name, *Jehovah Raphe*; The Lord who heals you. However, this passage is about more than healing. God is promising to protect Israel from the plagues and diseases that he sent upon the Egyptians if they paid careful attention to the teaching of Moses and walked in obedience.

This promise is about preventive maintenance. God is telling his people that if they will listen to what Moses is saying and follow with a whole heart, he will release his best upon them. Not only is there healing in *Jehovah Raphe*, but there is also protection from disease.

This verse also contains a warning. He is bringing to remembrance the judgment that came upon Egypt when Pharaoh refused to release the children of Israel. The Lord seems to be telling believers that if they want the protection and provision he has to offer then they must learn to live in obedience.

God's best is released upon us when we do what is right in his eyes and he will not bring judgment on those who obey his commands. One reason some people still struggle with feeling that God is withholding his blessing is because they don't know what is pleasing in his eyes.

Study God's word - in it you will find what pleases him.

**Prayer:** Lord, I want your best, but I am reluctant to obey you fully. Grant me the grace to give my whole heart to you and obey you without reservation. In Jesus name. Amen.



Day Nine

## *Faithful Service Produces Great Faith*

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." - Luke 17:5-6

This passage is often cited when we are talking about how much faith we have, or desire to have. Jesus seems to be saying that it doesn't take much faith to effect a result.

The real message, however, lies in the next verses. In verses 7-10 Jesus goes on to give a parable of a servant who works hard in the field all day long and comes back to the house tired and hungry. What does this servant do? Jesus said that before he could rest or eat he first had to care for his work animal, then, he must prepare a meal for his master. It is only when the work is done that he is able rest and eat.

Jesus concludes this parable by saying, "So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'we are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'" We all want to have great faith to move mountains and uproot trees, but Jesus was saying that there is a much greater principle at play here.

It is the principle of servanthood. It appears that Jesus was teaching his disciples to be good servants. If you want great faith become a great servant.

Even small faith can produce great things but great faith comes from faithfulness in service. When we are faithful to the calling of God in Christ our service releases great faith.

**Prayer:** Lord, I'm just like everyone else; I want great faith, but I am challenged by servanthood. Grant me the grace to faithfully do what you have called me to do. I ask in Jesus name. Amen.

## *Faithful Service Produces Great Faith*

**Message:** Faith comes from faithful service. If you want great faith become a great servant. Even small faith can produce great things but great faith comes from faithfulness in service. When we are faithful to the calling of God in Christ our service releases great faith

**Affirmation:** I am committed to being a faithful servant of God. He rewards faithfulness with great faith.

**Reflection:** Can you see how faithful service can produce great faith? Why do you think Jesus answered their request by giving his disciples the parable of a faithful servant? There is mountain moving faith and mountain climbing faith. You won't have mountain moving faith until you have mountain climbing faithfulness.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Ten

## *We Are God's Treasured Possessions*

Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name. "They will be mine," says the Lord Almighty, "In the day when I make up my treasured possession." - Malachi 3:16-17

Every once in a while I'll meet with an old friend that I haven't seen in many years. We talk and laugh about "the good old days." It is pleasant to remember those days. This passage deals with the idea of people coming together and remembering past times. It speaks of a scroll of remembrance being written.

I remember as a child being in awe of the stories of great blessing my mom and dad used to tell. There were stories of miraculous healings, even the dead being restored to life. There were stories of God providing when no one else around them had anything.

Were my parents super hero type Christians? No, they were just every day hard working believers who took God at his word. Of people like my parents Malachi says, "The Lord listened and heard."

The Lord says, "They will be mine in the day when I make up my treasured possession." What a promise. I encourage you to make it a pattern in your life that you get together with other believers and remember the blessings of the Lord.

Are you making treasured memories of God's grace?

**Prayer:** Thank you Lord for being so good to me and my family. You have filled my life with wonderful memories of blessings and your great favor. In the name of Christ I thank you. Amen.



## *We Are God's Treasured Possessions*

**Message:** You don't have to be a super hero to be a treasured possession of God, but He is blessed when we gather to share the stories of faith. I encourage you to make it a pattern in your life that you get together with other believers and remember the blessings of the Lord.

**Affirmation:** I have purposed to take every opportunity to speak of the goodness of God and his grace.

**Reflection:** You may not have realized the value of gathering with others to share your personal stories of faith. Hebrews 10:25 instructs us to gather often and encourage one another. Are you encouraging others?

**My Thoughts:**

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## *Be Quietly Generous*

Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets as the hypocrites do... They have received their reward in full. - Matthew 6:1-2

Jesus is giving some good advice here. If your goal is to be noticed by others for your generosity, then they will notice you, but that will be your reward. However, if your goal is to truly help others, then there is great spiritual and eternal reward for you.

There is no one in the universe with more ability to put on a show to impress people than the Lord God himself, but he doesn't do things to impress people. Everything he does is done with purpose. When we read the account of creation day by day he lists what he has done and the purpose for which he did it. Now we look at the magnificent display of his glory in creation and stand in awe - but he didn't do it for recognition, he did it with purpose.

Our acts of righteousness should be done with no less a sense of altruistic purpose. We may be recognized for what we have done, but recognition cannot be the purpose for doing good. Jesus gave because he was moved with compassion - why do you give?

We must remember that people who give to be honored are only honored as long as they are giving, but principled serving and giving produce spiritual satisfaction and an eternal reward.

**Prayer:** Lord, it is so easy to let ego guide the way I serve. Grant me the grace to serve out of a willing heart and not be influenced by the honor that men will bestow upon those who serve. In Jesus name. Amen.

## *Be Quietly Generous*

**Message:** Remember that people who give to be honored are only honored as long as they are giving, but principled serving and giving produce spiritual satisfaction and an eternal reward. We may be recognized for what we have done, but recognition cannot be the purpose for doing good

**Affirmation:** I serve without considering being honored or recognized, but simply because it is the right thing to do and I give for the same reason.

**Reflection:** Jesus speaks of a way of serving which is nearly invisible to the casual observer but such service is not invisible to God. Give some thought to your own service to others. Are you more satisfied with your service when others recognize what you are doing? Think about it.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twelve

## *We Are The “Amen” To God’s Promises*

No matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

- 2 Corinthians 1:20-22

Some doubt the promises of God based on their experience in the natural realm. What I mean by that is all of the experience we have as humans is in the temporal realm of a decaying system. The promises of God are from the eternal source of life. Without a spiritual awakening we cannot comprehend the power of God that is released through his promises.

Paul writes that it is through Him – through our faith in Christ, that we are able to give a strong “Amen,” to the promises. Carefully think about this for a moment: God has anointed us, put his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts. What he has already done for us is just a deposit which guarantees that all he has promised is going to come to pass.

We are to speak the amen – the “I agree, let it be so,” to the promises of God. It is our amen, our commitment in faith, to his promises that releases his power to perform.

We have read what God has said and we agree that it is true and it will come to pass because we know that the promises of God are true and they will be fulfilled. It is because we believe this that we become God's "amen."

***Prayer:*** Lord, I want to be your amen. Grant me the grace of faith that I might stand firm in believing your promises and walk in the hope they offer. I ask in Jesus name. Amen.



Day Thirteen

## *Asking The Wrong People*

David conferred with each of his officers... He then said to the whole assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you and if it is the will of the Lord our God... Let us bring the ark of our God back to us... The whole assembly agreed to do this because it seemed right to all the people.

- 1 Chronicles 13:1-4

The scriptures teach that there is wisdom in counsel, but if one receives unwise counsel then the result could be disastrous. The scripture passage for today begins a story of good intentions with tragic results.

We will spend the next 7 days looking at the story of David bringing the ark back to its' home.

David made a series of mistakes when he decided to bring the ark of the covenant home. The first mistake he made was seeking counsel in the wrong place. He called together his generals, as if he were calling a counsel of war, to discuss bringing the ark home. Then he called the people together to get their opinion. The collective opinion of his leaders and the people was that it seemed right to bring the ark home.

The problem was that nobody consulted the Lord. A lesson to learn here is that we can't seek human counsel for a spiritual act. David should have consulted with the priests and Levites; they would have given him wise counsel.

David discovered that the will of the people does not equate to the will of the Lord. Seeking direction from the wrong people leads to adverse consequences so we must be committed to seeking godly counsel and follow it.

Seeking counsel is wise - talk to the right people

**Prayer:** Lord, grant me the grace to seek counsel from the right sources. In Jesus name. Amen.



Day Fourteen

## *Celebrating The Wrong Thing*

They moved the ark of God from Abinadab's house on a new cart, with Uzzah and Ahio guiding it. David and all the Israelites were celebrating with all their might before God, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, cymbals and trumpets. - 1 Chronicles 13:7-8

Yesterday we addressed unwise counsel. Today we will address choices. It would be good to read the entire thirteenth chapter of 1 Chronicles.

David thought he would be giving proper respect to the Lord by placing the ark of the covenant in a new cart to move it to the City of David. However, had he consulted with the priests he would have learned that the ark was only to be transported by the priests and then according to a proscribed method. So David made his second mistake.

Then the people rejoiced, dancing, singing and making music. They thought they were doing a good thing by bringing the ark home. Listen to this point carefully; they were rejoicing based on faulty leadership. They were following a leader who had not consulted the Lord which cast a shadow over all that they did.

God was not blessing their efforts at moving the ark and their celebrating was just all emotion. We must learn to distinguish between an emotional response and a move of the Holy Spirit.

The people were excited about a seemingly good thing which went counter to what God had instructed. We must be careful we don't become excited about the wrong things.

**Prayer:** Lord, sometimes I make decisions based on what I think would be a good idea instead asking you, or taking spiritual counsel before deciding. Teach me to seek your wisdom. In Jesus name. Amen.



## *Celebrating The Wrong Thing*

**Message:** They thought they were doing a good thing by bringing the ark home. Listen to this point carefully; they were rejoicing based on faulty leadership. They were following a leader who had not consulted the Lord which cast a shadow over all that they did. We must learn to distinguish between an emotional response and a move of the Holy Spirit.

**Affirmation:** I am careful to be certain that those who are leading are following closely to God's Word.

**Reflection:** It is good to notice that excited rejoicing over what seems to be a good thing may not be inspired by the Holy Spirit. Can you think of any examples of folks having emotional enthusiasm over something that turned out to be a bad situation?

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Fifteen

## *Carelessness Produces Tragedy*

When they came to the threshing floor of Kidon, Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark, because the oxen stumbled. The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah and he struck him down because he had put his hand on the ark. So he died there before God. - 1 Chronicles 13:9-10

I have a friend who made a hasty decision in his business that later played a major part in the death of his business. He committed a significant amount of resources from his new company in an expansion project that seemed like a good idea, but turned out to be a disaster for his young company. He could have avoided this disaster if he had sought wise counsel before making the decision.

How often have we considered the options we could see on a matter and made decisions based on limited knowledge that later led to disaster? Most of us have had that misfortune. Doing a good thing does not equal doing the right thing.

David learned the hard way that touching holy things with unclean hands produces unwanted results. Not all of our decisions carry the possibility of consequences as serious as David faced, but nonetheless we should be prayerfully careful about our choices, especially in matters that affect our walk with God.

Be careful about touching holy things. Uzzah lost his life because he did not understand the consequences of touching holy things in a wrong way. Before we touch the anointed of the Lord we must be sure we are doing it in the right order.

***Prayer:*** Lord, grant me the wisdom to seek counsel from the appropriate people for the tasks that are before me. Give me a heart to seek your face and listen to your wisdom. In Jesus name I ask. Amen.



Day Sixteen

## *Out Of Place Blessings*

David was afraid of God that day and asked, “How can I ever bring the ark of God to me?” He did not take the ark to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. And the Lord blessed his household and everything he had.

- 1 Chronicles 13:12-14

David was now fully aware that he had offended God by moving the ark in a careless manner. He realized that doing a good thing does not equal doing the right thing.

He was angry about an innocent man dying because of his foolish decision. To his credit, David stopped the procession and placed the ark at the home of a near-by farmer.

An interesting aspect of this story is that while the ark was at the home of Obed-Edom his farm and his family enjoyed a blessing from the Lord. This farmer did nothing to earn the blessing, he just allowed the ark to be stored at his farm. Blessings come at the discretion of the Lord and not by our merit or by what we have done.

One thing we learn from this part of the story is that even a mistake can produce a blessing, but we can't expect that blessing to last forever. The ark was not in its' proper place at Obed-Edom's, and it would be moved soon, but while it was there a blessing would be upon him and his family.

A lesson which can be seen here is that we receive a blessing as the result of someone else's error, but we cannot count on that blessing continuing. Continue to seek God for his best while you enjoy the current blessing.

***Prayer:*** Lord, help me to understand that the blessings you bring into my life are at your discretion and not what I have earned. In Christ's name I ask. Amen.

## *Out Of Place Blessings*

**Message:** The ark was not in its' proper place at Obed-Edom's, and it would be moved soon, but while it was there a blessing would be upon him and his family. We may receive a blessing as the result of someone else's error, but we cannot count on that blessing continuing. Continue to seek God for his best while you enjoy the current blessing.

**Affirmation:** I am not content with being blessed because of another's failure. I will continue to seek God for his best.

**Reflection:** David had made a costly mistake, but Obed Edom was blessed because of it. Think of some examples of how one person has been blessed by another persons' mistake.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Seventeen

## *A Place Prepared For The Blessing*

After David had constructed buildings for himself in the City of David, he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it. Then David said, “No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, because the Lord chose them to carry the ark of the Lord and to minister before him forever.” - 1 Chronicles 15:1-2

We just spent a few days looking at the mistakes King David made in trying to move the ark. This chapter records David bringing the ark to its home in the tabernacle according to God’s plan.

First David “prepared a place for the ark.” He had learned that the ark was a sacred thing and it could not be placed somewhere carelessly. God will not dwell in a place that is not prepared for him. David was going to bring the ark home, and he was going to do it God’s way.

Today God’s dwelling place is in the hearts of mankind - God will not dwell in a heart that is not prepared for him.

Something to consider in this story is that only consecrated hands are worthy for the work of the Lord. David decreed, “No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, because the Lord chose them to carry the ark of the Lord.” It is only through the shed blood of Christ, and our faith in him that our hearts are made ready and we are consecrated to the work of God.

We must daily prepare our heart to receive God’s presence. Our hearts are prepared as we consecrate our motives, our thoughts, our words and our actions to the Lord. That done we are ready for His presence.

***Prayer:*** Thank you Lord for this valuable lesson about preparing our hearts and consecrating ourselves to your service. Amen.

## *A Place Prepared For The Blessing*

**Message:** Today God's dwelling place is in the hearts of mankind - God will not dwell in a heart that is not prepared for him. It is only through the shed blood of Christ, and our faith in him, that our hearts are made ready and we are consecrated to the work of God. We must daily prepare our heart to receive God's presence

**Affirmation:** I daily prepare my heart for the presence of God by asking forgiveness for any sins and submitting myself to God.

**Reflection:** Can you see the parallel between having a place properly prepared for the Old Testament Ark of the Covenant and the New Testament resting place for the Spirit of God? Have you prepared your temple to receive God's Spirit?

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Eighteen

## *A People Prepared for The Blessing*

So David and the elders of Israel and the commanders of units of a thousand went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the house of Obed-Edom, with rejoicing. Because God had helped the Levites who were carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord, seven bulls and seven rams were sacrificed. - 1 Chronicles 15:25-26

David had learned some valuable lessons in his failed attempt to bring the ark home. One of those lessons is recorded in verse 2, “No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, because the Lord chose them to carry the ark.” Not only were the Levites to carry the ark, but there was a particular way they were to carry it. Verse 15 records, “And the Levites carried the ark of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the Lord.”

Also, David called the Levites to consecrate themselves before carrying the ark. When we take the proper steps of consecration and obedience to God’s word, he releases blessing upon us. The verses for today report that they were able to bring up the ark with rejoicing, “Because God helped the Levites who were carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord.”

The most valuable lesson to be learned in this entire story is that doing a good thing in the wrong way leads to disaster. And a second valuable lesson to be learned is that when we take the time and make the effort to do things God's way he will honor it with his presence.

Do it God's way and you will never be sorry.

**Prayer:** Lord, I tend to become careless in my consecration, and all too often my way makes more sense to me than your way. Grant me the grace to surrender my will and my way to you. In Jesus name. Amen.



## *A People Prepared for The Blessing*

**Message:** When we take the proper steps of consecration and obedience to God's word, he releases blessing upon us. A to be learned in this entire story is that doing a good thing in the wrong way leads to disaster. Another lesson to be learned is that when we take the time and make the effort to do things God's way he will honor it with his presence.

**Affirmation:** I am living in obedience to God's word and He is honoring His word by releasing the blessing of His presence into my life.

**Reflection:** David and Israel learned a good lesson in a hard way as these last few devotions have shown. How can you see yourself applying these lessons to your life?

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Nineteen

## *Rejoicing With The Blessing*

David was clothed in a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who were carrying the ark, and as were the singers, and Kenaniah, who was in charge of the singing of the choirs. David also wore a linen ephod. So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouts, with the sounding of rams horns and trumpets, and of symbols, and the playing of lyres and harps. - 1 Chronicles 15:27-28

From the original effort to bring home the ark to actually bringing it back to Jerusalem there was a completely different atmosphere. At first David just decided he needed the ark of the covenant back in its proper place so he just went for it. He didn't make any special preparation; he just called the people together and went after it.

David had learned that handling sacred things requires special preparation. He consecrated himself and called the Levites to consecration. He put on a robe of fine linen and required the Levites to do the same. When it was time to actually move the ark it was done according to the instructions God had given Moses. They were prepared and God blessed.

The great lesson we learn in this whole story is that righteous preparation produces great joy and releases the blessing of the Lord. It is because of our faith in Christ that our heart has been prepared to be an instrument of service to our Lord. We have received him so let us rejoice.

***Prayer:*** I thank you Lord for giving us instruction on releasing your blessing into our lives. Thank you for calling us to consecration and giving us insight into your will. Now grant us the will and the courage to serve you in the way that you have called us. I ask in Jesus name. Amen.

## *Rejoicing With The Blessing*

**Message:** The great lesson we learn in this whole story is that righteous preparation produces great joy and releases the blessing of the Lord. It is because of our faith in Christ that our heart has been prepared to be an instrument of service to our Lord. We have received him so let us rejoice.

**Affirmation:** I have believed in Christ and have received him into my heart and now I am filled with righteous rejoicing.

**Reflection:** The joy of the Lord comes when we have prepared our heart to receive him. In one devotion we spoke of daily preparing our heart for the presence of the Lord. I encourage you to establish a daily routine of self-examination, prayer and Bible reading to prepare your heart to receive His presence.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty

## *Don't Be Like The Unconverted*

I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

- Ephesians 4:17-18

In this last half of chapter 4 Paul is contrasting the old attitude and way of thinking with the new attitude and way of thinking. The unconverted think through the veil of flesh which has darkened their understanding. Because they are ignorant of God's way they only know the way of the natural man. They fulfill the lusts of the flesh because the only hope they have is what the flesh can provide.

A darkened understanding has separated the world from the life of God. God offers a life filled with his bounty of love and goodness, but those outside of Christ, who have not been awakened to the truth of God, live in darkness.

We were once in that condition, but someone told us the truth. We became interested and finally believed. Because we have believed the darkness is lifted and we have access to the life of God.

We no longer think the way the world thinks - we now think God thoughts because our understanding has been enlightened. Christ followers are those Isaiah was referring to in Isaiah 9:2, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

**Prayer:** Lord, I once was blind but now I see and I thank you for the amazing grace that me insight to this wonderful salvation. Help me to guard my heart so that I don't go back to thinking the way the world thinks. In Jesus name. Amen.

## *Don't Be Like The Unconverted*

**Message:** A darkened understanding has separated the world from the life of God. We were once in that condition, but someone told us the truth. We no longer think the way the world thinks - we now think God thoughts because our understanding has been enlightened.

**Affirmation:** I am no longer blinded by the darkness of evil in this world but I am in the light of understanding and God's thoughts have become my thoughts.

**Reflection:** In what ways can you see that the world outside of Christ lives in darkness? How are believers in Christ enlightened and how has their life been changed by the light?

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty One

## *You Heard And You Were Taught*

You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught with regard to your former way of life to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires. - Ephesians 4:20-22

God has blessed us to hear the gospel. Most people in America have heard that Jesus died for their sins, but they don't really *know* it. All of their thinking is limited to what they know in the physical realm because their understanding is darkened to the realm of the spirit.

But you and I as believers really know that Jesus died for our sins. The eyes of our understanding have been opened to the spirit realm. When someone told us about Jesus we heard it and something happened inside us as we believed it and committed ourselves to its truth. Because we have come to know Christ in this manner the darkness that once ruled our life has been lifted.

As we have come to know Christ he has taught us that the way we thought as unbelievers would keep us in darkness so he has called us to live with a new attitude – an attitude based in love and light rather than the old attitude of self and darkness.

It is God's loving discipline which has shown us that we must put off our former way of life and it is His grace which gives us power to do that. Empowered by Holy Spirit we are continually putting on the new person, the Christ person.

Give thanks to God for the new life that is in you.

***Prayer:*** Thank you Lord for the light that I have and the life you have given me in Christ. Grant me the grace to fully surrender my old attitudes and to put on the new self – the new self that is the Christ in me. In Jesus name. Amen.



Day Twenty Two

## *A New Attitude And A New Self*

You were taught to... Be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. - Ephesians 4:22-24

As we begin to see the light, and the darkness that has been characteristic of our life begins to be lifted, we are becoming new creations in Christ. We have put off our old self and we are putting on a new self created to be like God.

Knowing the truth gives us a new attitude in our minds. Because there is a new light of understanding in us we look at things differently. Our attitude about the issues of life is different because we are new creatures in Christ Jesus.

The reason we live differently than the unbeliever is not because we have brought such great discipline into our lives; it is because we have been changed on the inside. We used to live to answer the call of the flesh for fulfillment, now we live to answer the call of God to righteousness and holiness.

We have put off the old self and the new self we have put on is created to be like God. We don't have to try to be righteous, we are righteous; we don't have to try to be holy, we are holy. We are righteous because he who is righteous lives in us; we are holy because he who is holy has called us to be holy.

The new self is created like God and is righteous and holy. We can say, "I am righteous because He who is righteous lives in me - I am holy because He who is holy has called me to be holy.

**Prayer:** Lord, I used to try to be good, but it didn't work. I tried everything and nothing worked. Then you gave me understanding and I trusted you to change me into your image. Thank you for the grace you extended to me. In Christ's name, amen.



## *A New Attitude And A New Self*

**Message:** We have put off the old self and the new self we have put on is created to be like God. We don't have to try to be righteous, we are righteous; we don't have to try to be holy, we are holy.

**Affirmation:** As I daily put on the new self I am being made new in the attitude of my mind and have a greater realization that I am created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

**Reflection:** Am I holy because I have set myself apart and have righteous works? If not, what is it that makes me holy? Some people live by what is often called a "holiness standard." What does that mean? How does one become holy?

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty Three

## *Don't Give The Devil A Foothold*

Each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are the members of one body. In your anger do not sin. Do not let the Sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

- Ephesians 4:25-27

Nobody said we couldn't get angry - we just have to remember to be righteous in our anger. Even Jesus became angry at times. It isn't whether we become angry, it is why we became angry and what we did while we were angry that is important.

The person we were when we were in darkness would probably respond to anger with a personal attack on the person who stirred our anger. The result would be a damaged relationship and there would be no resolution to the issue that gave opportunity for the anger.

We must remember that unresolved anger gives the devil a foothold in our life. When we become angry we must deal with the issues that caused the anger because we don't want the devil to have a foothold in our life.

When we allow ourselves to continue to be angry, even for a day, bitterness can begin to grow in our heart. We can't afford to let that happen so we must purpose not to carry grudges and allow bitterness to take hold in our heart.

1 Peter 5:8 warns us to, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." Don't let anger be his opportunity.

**Prayer:** Lord, I need your grace to rescue me from my old nature that tries to take hold in my heart when I am angry. Give me the courage to resolve the issues that gave opportunity for anger in a righteous manner. I ask in Jesus name. Amen.

## *Don't Give The Devil A Foothold*

**Message:** The point isn't whether we become angry, it is why we became angry and what we did while we were angry that is important. When we become angry we must deal with the issues that caused the anger because we don't want the devil to have a foothold in our life.

**Affirmation:** I know that unresolved anger gives the devil a foothold, therefore, I will resolve the issues which cause anger in a timely manner.

**Reflection:** Unresolved anger can become bitterness. How can we resolve our anger in an appropriate manner? When resolving an anger issue it is important to focus on the issue not the person who is involved. Think about it.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty Four

## *Be Kind To One Another*

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

- Ephesians 4:30-32

I am constantly amazed at the numbers of people who claim Christ but who have a hard time in relationship with other believers. They continue to harbor bitterness and anger toward others. It's as if they had never been born again.

At the beginning of this chapter Paul establishes a theme of unity and peace and concludes in this final verse, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." We cannot fulfill this verse if we carry hard feelings and bitterness toward others.

We may try to be kind to those with whom we are at odds, but without forgiveness, our kindness becomes an empty façade spread over an injured spirit.

It is the spirit of the world to hold the mistakes of others against them and look for the day to get even, but such an attitude should never be allowed to rest within our spirit.

We should be careful to not take offense at the mistakes of others - we can't afford to allow hardness toward another to affect our walk with God. Examine yourself; if your kindness does not give you a sense of joyful fulfillment you probably need to forgive some people. Think about it.

**Prayer:** Lord, I struggle with those who have not treated me right. Grant me a forgiving heart that my kindness might produce joy. In Jesus name. Amen.



Day Twenty Five

## *Peace Beyond Understanding*

Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again; Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4:4-7

Paul seems to be saying here that if we will rejoice in the midst of trying circumstances, and if we will bring petitions to God concerning those trying circumstances and present them with thanksgiving, then a miracle takes place in our spirit. God will give us peace beyond human understanding.

Think about it. Even when things seem to be at their worst, and we make the effort to rejoice while we have an attitude of thanksgiving, God will give us peace.

There is a soundness of faith that is portrayed when we can be thankful in times that are difficult. Happy is the person who knows that regardless of the way things look, God is in control; and the God who is in control is working all things for our ultimate benefit (Romans 8:28).

One test of whether we are living in faith is whether we are at peace even in difficult circumstances. Can you rejoice and be thankful in the midst of your present circumstances?

Faith gives us confidence to seek His face when we are in difficult times and it is faith which gives us the ability to rejoice because we know he has our best interest at heart.

When His peace is in our heart we can bring our petitions before him with rejoicing and thanksgiving.

**Prayer:** Lord, too often I get to looking at the circumstances and forget that you are in control. Grant me the grace to trust you at all times. I ask in Jesus name. Amen

## *Peace Beyond Understanding*

**Message:** Even when things seem to be at their worst, and we make the effort to rejoice while we have an attitude of thanksgiving, God will give us peace. When His peace is in our heart we can bring our petitions before him with rejoicing and thanksgiving.

**Affirmation:** I rejoice, even in difficult circumstances, because I know that God is in control and He has my best interest at heart.

**Reflection:** Give some thought to the question of how a person can rejoice while going through difficult circumstances. How would you counsel someone to rejoice in such times?

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty Six

## *He Is With Us To The Very End*

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. - Matthew 28:18-19

At the very center of the kingdom message is hope for people in desperate circumstances. Jesus made a statement about his purpose in ministry in Luke 4:18, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach the good news...”

The message is that whatever our circumstances we don't have to go through it alone. If it is poverty, Jesus will walk us through it; if it is broken relationship, God will restore it; if it is a physical problem the Lord will heal it - That's good news.

His promise even goes beyond that. He is not a “love ‘em and leave ‘em” kind of God. Jesus promised that if we would come to him, receive his teaching, and commit to walk with him, he will never stop walking with us. He said that he would walk with us all the way to the end of time.

The gospel is not just a one-time shot in the arm kind of thing. Once we receive he just keeps on giving. Whatever our need he is standing right there saying, “Hey, I'm here - have faith, I'll see you through.” What a hope.

We can know with certainty that God will complete the work he began in us because we know that God doesn't start something he doesn't intend to finish.

**Prayer:** Thank you Lord for your commitment to me that you will never leave me. Grant me the grace to return that commitment to you and be able to say, “Lord, I will never forsake serving you.” Amen.



## *He Is With Us To The Very End*

**Message:** Once we receive His grace He just keeps on giving. Whatever our need he is standing right there saying, “Hey, I’m here – have faith, I’ll see you through.” What a hope.

**Affirmation:** Regardless of the circumstances I know I am not alone and His grace is sufficient to carry me through.

**Reflection:** Jesus promised that if we would come to him, receive his teaching, and commit to walk with him, he will never stop walking with us. Think of some practical ways that you can live which will demonstrate God’s grace in your life.

**My Thoughts:**

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Day Twenty Seven

## *A Growing Faith Produces Good Works*

We pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father. - Colossians 1:10-12

Many people miss the best part of knowing the Lord because they haven't seen the value of growing in their relationship with him. They have not established patterns of praying regularly, reading his word and meditating on the principles of faith. As a result they are weak in faith and inconsistent in their walk.

The test of whether we are growing in the knowledge of God is the fruit that our life produces. The passage for today speaks of, "bearing fruit in every good work." The fruit of spiritual growth is the good work that our faith produces. Apostle James in his writing told us that if we claim faith, but that faith does not produce good works, then our faith is dead.

Faith that is not used will atrophy. It will shrivel up and become useless. I have known believers in Christ who ceased to be a Christ follower because they failed to exercise their faith and finally discovered that their faith had shriveled to the point of being ineffective.

Serving in faith produces strength, endurance, and patience to continue our walk. Purpose to grow in service so that your faith will be made strong.

***Prayer:*** Lord, I enjoy my relationship with you, but I tend to be selfish with my time and energy. Grant me the grace to invest myself in serving others so that my faith will grow strong. In Jesus name. Amen.



Day Twenty Eight

## *The Lord Is The Light Of Our Life*

The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid? - Psalm 27:1

Throughout the day we will hear people say, "I'm just afraid that..." and they will express something that concerns them. It might be the weather, "I'm afraid it's going to rain." It might be the job, "I'm afraid I'm going to be laid off." It might be their marriage, "I'm afraid my spouse is cheating on me."

Fear is an indicator of having no faith in a situation. It is saying that I have no confidence that anything good is going to come out of the circumstances. Fear is based on a consciousness of the negative elements. It is looking at what could possibly go wrong.

This passage speaks about the Lord being the light of our life. When the truth of God is the light which guides our life there is nothing to fear. We need to affirm our confidence in God and his promises everyday so that we do not begin to look at the wrong side of things.

We gain strength and confidence when we put our trust in the Lord. The Lord becomes the stronghold in our lives when our hope is in him and no enemy can harm us. Verse three of this psalm reads, "Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear."

In Christ there is nothing to fear so do not look at what can go wrong but rather look to the promises of God.

**Prayer:** Lord, grant me the confidence to fully trust you and your word. Help me to make your truth the very light of my life and take refuge in the stronghold of your grace. In Jesus name. Amen.



Day Twenty Nine

## *The Yoke Of Christ Is Easy*

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

- Matthew 11:28-30

One of the challenges of life is to surrender to the yoke of Christ. Even when we are struggling and have great difficulty in life, it is still a great challenge to submit to the yoke of Christ.

Why is that so difficult? After all, his promise is that our burdens will be light and his guidance will be gentle, so why do we resist his yoke so much? The primary issue is that it is his yoke and not ours. It is just really hard for us to submit our will to another.

Jesus is telling us to take a look at our life. Has it been easy? Have you done such a good job on your own that you don't need help? He is telling us that he is a good teacher and we can learn from him. He is also telling us that he is a gentle leader; he will not be rough with us or inconsiderate.

The offer is the same today as it was when it was first extended; "Take my yoke upon you... for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Trust him – surrender yourself to him and rest in the fact that you are yoked with one who knows how to gently lead. It is not easy to submit ourselves to the yoke of another, but when we yoke up with Jesus life becomes much better.

**Prayer:** Lord, I am tired of trying to do things my way. Grant me the grace to submit to your yoke and allow you to gently lead me into the rest you have prepared. In Jesus name. Amen.



Day Thirty

## *We Can Rejoice – Even In Sacrifice*

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the lord. - Psalm 27:5

The book of Acts (Acts 16:16-40) tells the story of Paul and Silas in the jail at Philippi. They had been ministering at Philippi and because they had healed a demon possessed woman they were arrested. In prison, they were beaten and humiliated and were surrounded by their enemies. Their service to the Lord had come at a great price and sacrifice.

Paul and Silas, however, did not hang their head in shame, but rather they held their head high and sang the praises of God. The scripture says that at the midnight hour they were praying and singing hymns to God. When we know the Lord is on our side we can hold our head high – even when surrounded by our enemies. What a lesson of faith.

Those who hope in the Lord have a source of strength no one else has, and only the redeemed of the Lord can truly rejoice at the time of sacrifice. We have great peace in knowing that in his tabernacle, that is, in his presence, there is comfort and safety. We can rejoice and make music to the Lord because he has gloriously revealed himself to us.

It is difficult to rejoice in the time of extreme trial, but we who have been redeemed from the consequence of sin can rejoice in such times because we know that every trial is but a stepping stone to victory in Christ.

Rejoice, I will say it again, Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4).

**Prayer:** Lord, I thank you for the confidence to stand boldly in the presence of my enemies and declare the uncompromising truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for peace and confidence. In Jesus name. Amen.





Day Thirty One

## *How To Keep The Fire Alive*

Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. - 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

Paul issues a pretty tall order in this passage. "Do not put out the Spirit's fire" – how does one maintain the Spirit's fire? He gives four simple steps to keeping the fire going. They are 1) do not treat prophecies with contempt; 2) Test everything; 3) Hold on to the good; 4) Avoid every kind of evil.

There is a tendency today to treat those who give prophetic utterances with a bit of skepticism. I know, we have seen a lot of flaky people over the years claiming to be prophets, but that doesn't negate the true prophets in the church today. If we are too skeptical, and critical of prophecies we will put out the fire of the Spirit. That's why Paul tells us to test everything. Every word that is claimed to be God speaking should be put beside the matrix of the Bible to see if it compliments what God has already said. Then we should hold on to all that seems true.

Finally, Paul tells us to, "Avoid every kind of evil." Nothing throws water on the coals of revival and the Holy Spirit like unnecessarily exposing ourselves to things that are of the world, but not of God. We must be careful what we see, what we speak and where we go.

I tend to be a bit skeptical but I have learned that it is best to test everything rather than to just arbitrarily reject it. Hear it, accept it, keep the good, reject the bad. If we do these things we will keep the Spirit's fire burning in us.

**Prayer:** OK Lord, I commit to follow Paul's four step plan for keeping the Spirit burning in me – grant me the grace to do it. In Jesus name. Amen.



## New Hope Ministry Resources

We have many more resources for the Journey of faith at [www.nhmresources.org](http://www.nhmresources.org)

If you are interested in...

- ✓leading, or being involved in a small group.
- ✓Daily devotions.
- ✓Discipleship material.
- ✓Recovery material.
- ✓Writing and publishing Christian Material.
- ✓Evangelism training materials

Then you may want to check out our web site at:

[www.nhmresources.org](http://www.nhmresources.org)

[www.dailygodwalk.org](http://www.dailygodwalk.org)

[www.take-a-knee.org](http://www.take-a-knee.org)

Feel free to email me at any time.

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