

Receiving Life:
A Biblical Guide to Knowing God
and Walking with Him

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Chapter 1: Who is God?

God is the creator of the heavens and the earth. He has always existed and has no beginning and no end.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty. Darkness was on the surface of the deep and God's Spirit was hovering over the surface of the waters. God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Genesis 1:1-3

"You are my witnesses," says the LORD, "With my servant whom I have chosen; that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am he. Before me there was no God formed, neither will there be after me. I myself am the LORD. Besides me, there is no savior.

Isaiah 43:10-11

Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other. I am God, and there is none like me. I declare the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done. I say: My counsel will stand, and I will do all that I please.

Isaiah 46:9-10

I am the LORD, and there is no one else. Besides me, there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not known me,

Isaiah 45:5

"Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel my called: I am he. I am the first. I am also the last. Yes, my hand has laid the

foundation of the earth, and my right hand has spread out the heavens. When I call to them, they stand up together.
Isaiah 48:12-13

He sends springs into the valleys.
They run among the mountains.
They give drink to every animal of the field.
The wild donkeys quench their thirst.
The birds of the sky nest by them.
They sing among the branches.
He waters the mountains from his rooms.
The earth is filled with the fruit of your works.
He causes the grass to grow for the livestock,
and plants for man to cultivate,
that he may produce food out of the earth:
wine that makes the heart of man glad,
oil to make his face to shine,
and bread that strengthens man's heart.
Psalm 104:10-15

LORD, how many are your works!
In wisdom, you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, great and wide,
in which are innumerable living things,
both small and large animals.
Psalms 104:24-25

God the Father created all things through His word, manifested through the working of God's Holy Spirit, making up the three aspects of the Godhead, or Trinity: Father, Son (who is the word of God) and Spirit.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty. Darkness was on the surface of the deep and God's Spirit was hovering over the surface of the waters. God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
Genesis 1:1-3

"Come near to me and hear this:
"From the beginning I have not spoken in secret;
from the time that it happened, I was there."
Now the Lord GOD has sent me
with his Spirit.
Isaiah 48:16

You send out your Spirit and they are created. You renew the face of the ground.
Psalms 104:30

By the LORD's word, the heavens were made: all their army
by the breath of his mouth.
Psalms 33:6

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him. Without him, nothing was made that has been made
John 1:1-3

For as the rain comes down and the snow from the sky,
and doesn't return there, but waters the earth,
and makes it grow and bud,
and gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater;
so is my word that goes out of my mouth:
it will not return to me void,

but it will accomplish that which I please,
and it will prosper in the thing I sent it to do.
Isaiah 55:10-11

He has made the earth by his power. He has established the world by his wisdom. By his understanding he has stretched out the heavens. When he utters his voice, there is a roar of waters in the heavens, and he causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and brings the wind out of his treasuries.
Jeremiah 51:15-16

God is an all sufficient being wherein each person of His character – Father, Son (the word of God) and Holy Spirit, has loved the others in perfect unity and harmony for all eternity. There is natural submission within the Godhead, meaning that the Son is subject to the Father and the Spirit is subject to both the Father and Son. The relationship between members of the Godhead is a relationship of love because God is love. Love means to have a fondness and affection for another, which for God, is a perfect love that is unconditional.

He who doesn't love doesn't know God, for God is love.
1 John 4:8

Yes, he loves the people. All his saints are in your hand. They sat down at your feet. Each receives your words.
Deuteronomy 33:3

The LORD appeared of old to me, saying, "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore I have drawn you with loving kindness"
Jeremiah 31:3

He brought me to the banquet hall.
His banner over me is love.
Song of Solomon 2:4

In the Godhead, the will of the Father, Son and Spirit is to do what is best for the other members. This is the essence of God's character – to desire what is best for others. God's love is selfless.

The LORD is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and of great loving kindness. The LORD is good to all. His tender mercies are over all his works.
Psalms 145:8-9

Love is patient and is kind. Love doesn't envy. Love doesn't brag, is not proud, doesn't behave itself inappropriately, doesn't seek its own way, is not provoked, takes no account of evil; doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will be done away with. Where there are various languages, they will cease. Where there is knowledge, it will be done away with.
1 Corinthians 13:4-8

God says His lovingkindness is better than life (Ps. 63:3). Lovingkindness means a demonstration of love. So God tells us that His lovingkindness is better even than the lives He has given us and anything in our lives. God's love is the greatest blessing in the universe.

How precious is your loving kindness, God! The children of men take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
Psalms 36:7

Because your loving kindness is better than life,
my lips shall praise you.

Psalms 63:3

God also describes Himself by the name Yahweh meaning "I AM," which is His way of saying that He is complete, absolute and eternal, thus meaning that His love is complete, absolute and eternal. He is self-existent (see reference 3). He is also omnipresent, meaning He is everywhere at once, He is omnipotent, meaning all powerful, and He is omniscient, meaning all knowing. God is the Most High and He is King. His kingdom rules over all. Some Bible translations use the name LORD in all capitals to designate the name of Yahweh.

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM," and he said, "You shall tell the children of Israel this: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Exodus 3:14

The LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, "The LORD! The LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness and truth, keeping loving kindness for thousands, forgiving iniquity and disobedience and sin; and who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the children's children, on the third and on the fourth generation."

Exodus 34:6-7

Can anyone hide himself in secret places so that I can't see him?" says the LORD. "Don't I fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD.

Jeremiah 23:24

“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for me?

Jeremiah 32:27

God has spoken once; twice I have heard this, that power belongs to God.

Psalms 62:11

LORD, God of Armies, who is a mighty one, like you? LORD, your faithfulness is around you.

Psalms 89:8

Yes, since the day was, I am he. There is no one who can deliver out of my hand. I will work, and who can hinder it?”

Isaiah 43:13

“To whom will you compare me, and consider my equal, and compare me, as if we were the same?

Isaiah 46:5

I declare the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done. I say: My counsel will stand, and I will do all that I please. Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other. I am God, and there is none like me.

Isaiah 46:9-10

For the LORD is our judge. The LORD is our lawgiver. The LORD is our king. He will save us.

Isaiah 33:22

For you, LORD, are most high above all the earth. You are exalted far above all gods.

Psalms 97:9

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens. His kingdom rules over all.

Psalms 103:19

God is also holy, which means that he is perfect, pure and undefiled.

One called to another, and said, "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of Armies! The whole earth is full of his glory!"

Isaiah 6:3

There is no one as holy as the LORD, for there is no one besides you, nor is there any rock like our God.

1 Samuel 2:2

The LORD is high above all nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the LORD, our God, who has his seat on high, who stoops down to see in heaven and in the earth?

Psalms 113:4-6

The LORD is great in Zion. He is high above all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. He is Holy!

Psalms 99:2-3

God is good. Goodness means to have intent to benefit others while evil is to have intent to harm others; therefore, good is that which helps and evil is that which harms.

For the LORD is good. His loving kindness endures forever, his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalms 100:5

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever.

Psalms 118:1

For the LORD's word is right. All his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice. The earth is full of the loving kindness of the LORD.

Psalms 33:4-5

A Poem by David. Preserve me, God, for I take refuge in you. My soul, you have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord. Apart from you I have no good thing."

Psalms 16:1-2

Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except one—God.

Mark 10:18

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation nor turning shadow.

James 1:17

In God and His goodness there is knowledge, wisdom, understanding and discretion which bring security and protection from evil. The fear of the Lord, meaning the high and awesome view of Him and almighty and all powerful, is the beginning of knowledge and understanding. There is a progression – the fear of the Lord leads to knowledge (truthful facts), then to wisdom (application of knowledge), understanding (how and to what purpose you use knowledge and wisdom) and discretion (what is relevant for a given situation and what is not).

The fear of the LORD leads to life, then contentment; he rests and will not be touched by trouble.

Proverbs 19:23

But whoever listens to me will dwell securely, and will be at ease, without fear of harm.”

Proverbs 1:33

For wisdom will enter into your heart. Knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will watch over you. Understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the men who speak perverse things, He lays up sound wisdom for the upright. He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, that he may guard the paths of justice, and preserve the way of his saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path.

Proverbs 2:7-12

God is also a just God and repays all things fairly, further showing His goodness.

“Therefore listen to me, you men of understanding: far be it from God, that he should do wickedness, from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity. For the work of a man he will give to him, and cause every man to find according to his ways.

Job 34:10-11

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

Lamentations 3:25

Vengeance is mine, and recompense, at the time when their foot slides, for the day of their calamity is at hand. Their doom rushes at them."

Deuteronomy 32:35

Also to you, Lord, belongs loving kindness, for you reward every man according to his work.

Psalms 62:12

A common question is if God is good, why is there so much pain and suffering in this world? In the next chapter we will discuss the origin of evil but first, it must be understood that God is an eternal God. This means that there is an existence beyond the present world that we live in that all humans will be a part of because God created us as eternal beings. Therefore, a decision that is good in light of an eternal mindset may not be viewed a good with a focus on the present world. An example of this is if you consider children attending school. One could say that it is cruel to force a child to have to undergo hard work and difficulty by going to school when it would be better and less difficult for them to not attend school. But adults have the understanding to realize that children will grow up and need to provide for themselves and their families some day and therefore need to be educated so that they will be able to be established in society in some kind of stable way. When school is viewed from a lifelong context, the hardship of going through it is minimized by the reward offered by finishing. God's view is similar to this in that He considers eternity to be of more weight than the present world which will be passing away.

There is also the importance of choice. If God created all humans with no free will, love would have far less meaning because there would be no assurance if one truly desired another for who they are but only because that was the only option. For there to be free will, there must be the opportunity to not obey God and therefore,

not experience His goodness and love. Therefore, difficulty, pain and suffering were not what God directly created Himself, but what He allowed in His creation for love to be real.

Also, God's system of justice provides punishment in equal level to disobedience. This means that children are affected by the actions of their parents, whether it is with positive or negative consequences, with some consequences lasting for multiple generations. Just as physical traits can be passed down to children from their parents, spiritual traits can be passed down as well. Regardless of the situation, God provides a chance for everyone to reach out to Him and receive deliverance. Deliverance may not be how we want it to be, and may ultimately be a deliverance that will come in eternity, but it is still promised by God nonetheless. For those that die before having an opportunity to choose God such as infants, God provides provision in His Word to assume that these people will be shown mercy by Him and be accepted eternally, which is seen in a passage where King David of Israel states that he will go to his son but his son will not return to him (2 Samuel 12:23). To those who have the capacity to do so, God promises that those who seek Him with all of their heart will find Him.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28

Oh how great is your goodness, which you have laid up for those who fear you, which you have worked for those who take refuge in you, before the sons of men! In the shelter of your presence you will hide them from the plotting of man. You will keep them secretly in a dwelling away from the strife of tongues.

Psalms 31:19-20

The LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, "The LORD!
The LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger, and
abundant in loving kindness and truth, keeping loving
kindness for thousands, forgiving iniquity and disobedience
and sin; and who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting
the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the
children's children, on the third and on the fourth generation."
Exodus 34:6-7

The heavens shall declare his righteousness, for God himself
is judge. Selah.
Psalms 50:6

Call on me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you
will honor me."
Psalms 50:15

They reel back and forth, and stagger like a drunken man,
and are at their wits' end. Then they cry to the LORD in their
trouble, and he brings them out of their distress. He makes
the storm a calm, so that its waves are still.
Psalms 107:27-29

But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back
again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."
2 Samuel 12:23

I sought your favor with my whole heart. Be merciful to me
according to your word. I considered my ways, and turned
my steps to your statutes.
Psalms 119:58-59

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you," says the LORD, "thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you hope and a future. You shall call on me, and you shall go and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You shall seek me and find me, when you search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Since God is our creator and is over all of heaven and earth, we do not have a full understanding of everything about Him and do not always know the reasons for why He does what He does. This is only fitting because if we were to fully understand all aspects of God, He would not be God. He is an infinite God.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9

You turn things upside down! Should the potter be thought to be like clay, that the thing made should say about him who made it, "He didn't make me;" or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

Isaiah 29:16

But now, LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay and you our potter. We all are the work of your hand.

Isaiah 64:8

Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past tracing out! "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has first given to him, and it will be repaid to him again?" For of him

and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory for ever! Amen.

Romans 11:33-36

God is wise in heart, and mighty in strength. Who has hardened himself against him and prospered?

Job 9:4

Hear, oh, hear the noise of his voice, the sound that goes out of his mouth. He sends it out under the whole sky, and his lightning to the ends of the earth. After it a voice roars. He thunders with the voice of his majesty. He doesn't hold back anything when his voice is heard. God thunders marvelously with his voice. He does great things, which we can't comprehend.

Job 37:2-5

Great is our Lord, and mighty in power. His understanding is infinite.

Psalms 147:5

Chapter 2: How Do We Know God?

Although God is infinitely vast, we can still come to know Him in a meaningful and profound way. We know God exists and we know His nature first through what we observe in ourselves, because just as God has multiple aspects of Himself, so do we. First, we have a heart, which is the seat of our desire, understanding and belief. The heart refers to the innermost part of who you really are, what you really desire and what you really believe. The heart of God is one of love. This heart of love is shared by all three persons of the Godhead. All humans have a deep desire to love and be loved. We

also have an innate desire for purpose and meaning in our lives, meaning that even if you have the core essentials of food, water, clothing and shelter, there can still be great emptiness without loving relationships. This is because God as a relational being created humans in His own image as relational beings as well.

God created man in his own image. In God's image he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

The LORD, your Redeemer, and he who formed you from the womb says: "I am the LORD, who makes all things; who alone stretches out the heavens; who spreads out the earth by myself;

Isaiah 44:24

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it is the wellspring of life.

Proverbs 4:23

Like water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man.

Proverbs 27:19

so as to turn your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding;

Proverbs 2:2

You offspring of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.

Matthew 12:34

Make the heart of this people fat. Make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, hear with their

ears, understand with their heart, and turn again, and be healed.”

Isaiah 6:10

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Don’t look on his face, or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for I don’t see as man sees. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7

In addition to the heart, we also have a spirit, soul and body. This is because just as God is a three part being with His heart at the center of His being, we also are made in the same way. Each aspect is separate but connected to the others such so that what happens to one influences the other.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

The earth was formless and empty. Darkness was on the surface of the deep and God’s Spirit was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Genesis 1:2

A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but an aching heart breaks the spirit.

Proverbs 15:13

A cheerful heart makes good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Proverbs 17:22

The spirit of man is the LORD's lamp, searching all his innermost parts.

Proverbs 20:27

"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light.

Matthew 6:22

He made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the surface of the earth, having determined appointed seasons and the boundaries of their dwellings, that they should seek the Lord, if perhaps they might reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live, move, and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also his offspring.'

Acts 17:26-28

Every person has his or her own spirit which is given to them by God. But because God has designed His creation to be in relationship with and dependent upon Him, we continually need to receive spirit, or breath, from God in order to live. Breathing is the act of giving and receiving spirit. The reason we breathe is because God breathes. His breath, which is the act of Him giving us His Spirit, is what creates us initially and continually sustains us. Also, the Holy Spirit has seven different aspects of Himself which are listed in Isaiah 11:2. Although there are seven different spirits listed, these spirits are all a part of the Holy Spirit as a whole and can be thought of as different characteristics describing who He is.

The LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 2:7

The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Job 33:4

But there is a spirit in man, and the Spirit of the Almighty gives them understanding.

Job 32:8

If he set his heart on himself, if he gathered to himself his spirit and his breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would turn again to dust.

Job 34:14-15

"Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher. "All is vanity!"

Ecclesiastes 12:8

The LORD's Spirit will rest on him: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

Isaiah 11:2

We also have a soul, which encompasses our mind, will and emotions. It is your active state of consciousness. If you have ever had a very stressful or intense experience where you seem to be "out of body," your consciousness which seems to separate is your soul. In Genesis 2:7, which states "man became a living being," the word being means soul. This means man became a living soul when God formed him and breathed into him the breath of life. There is a great thirst that exists in the human soul until God is found. This thirst is attempted to be quenched by all manner of things, relationships and experiences but is never met until the soul is satisfied by God.

The LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 2:7

For you formed my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful. My soul knows that very well.

Psalms 139:13-14

For the Chief Musician. A contemplation by the sons of Korah. As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants after you, God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

Psalms 42:1-2

"Hey! Come, everyone who thirsts, to the waters! Come, he who has no money, buy, and eat! Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which doesn't satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in richness. Turn your ear, and come to me. Hear, and your soul will live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Isaiah 55:1-3

We next have a body, which is obviously the physical aspect of our beings and contains our blood. As we breathe, we breathe in air which gives nourishment to the blood. Blood is what carries air throughout all aspects of our beings. Contained in the air we

breathe is God's life giving Spirit. God's Holy Spirit is all around us and is breathing, providing the breath of the Spirit of life for us to breathe. Therefore, life is in the blood because blood contains God's Spirit. As a side note, the soul is actually contained in the blood as well which is why the Bible states the soul can be poured out unto death. Our beings are carefully intertwined by God so each part is separate yet still connected to the other parts of the being.

For the life of the flesh is in the blood. I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement by reason of the life.

Leviticus 17:11

All on the dry land, in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died.

Genesis 7:22

It is the spirit who gives life. The flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and are life.

John 6:63

But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of God's mouth.'"

Matthew 4:4

Where could I go from your Spirit? Or where could I flee from your presence?

Psalms 139:7

Therefore I will give him a portion with the great. He will divide the plunder with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was counted with the transgressors; yet he

bore the sins of many and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:12

At this point we need to understand what life is. Life can be thought of as God's genetic coding, or His imprint in the form of His Word. Words are how we as humans are programmed. Words are our genetic coding. Desires and character traits are structured as words which are manifested as our spirits and result in what we see as our bodies. God's word is life; therefore, God's desire to love results in his desires manifested as His Word, which is in turn manifested by His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives His life to us. Therefore, the Word of God is life, which is given to us by the Holy Spirit.

It is the spirit who gives life. The flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and are life.

John 6:63

Remember your word to your servant, because you gave me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, for your word has revived me.

Psalms 119:49-50

My son, attend to my words. Turn your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes. Keep them in the center of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and health to their whole body.

Proverbs 4:20-22

Or don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

1 Corinthians 6:19

Make the heart of this people fat. Make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and turn again, and be healed.”

Isaiah 6:10

For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

Man also has a conscience, which is an awareness of right and wrong due to God’s law that has been written on each person’s heart. Eternity has also been placed in the heart of all people, as evidenced by the fact that nearly all cultures believe in an afterlife of some kind.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in their hearts, yet so that man can’t find out the work that God has done from the beginning even to the end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

(for when Gentiles who don’t have the law do by nature the things of the law, these, not having the law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience testifying with them, and their thoughts among themselves accusing or else excusing them)

Romans 2:14-15

For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are

made, even his everlasting power and divinity, that they may be without excuse.

Romans 1:20

God said, "Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed, which is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree, which bears fruit yielding seed. It will be your food. To every animal of the earth, and to every bird of the sky, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food;" and it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

Genesis 1:29-31

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. The heavens declare the glory of God. The expanse shows his handiwork.

Psalms 19:1

A Psalm by David. The earth is the LORD's, with its fullness; the world, and those who dwell in it. For he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the floods.

Psalms 24:1-2

The God who made the world and all things in it, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, doesn't dwell in temples made with hands. He isn't served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself gives to all life and breath and all things.

Acts 17:24-25

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back; and your reward will be great, and you will be

children of the Most High; for he is kind toward the unthankful and evil.

Luke 6:35

that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.

Matthew 5:45

Additionally, we know God exists and what His nature is through His written Word given to mankind – the Bible. God's Word was written by man through the inspiration and leading of God's Holy Spirit. Written by over 40 authors over a span of around 2,000 years, the Bible maintains literary consistency and does not contradict itself (see references 1 and 2). The Bible is historically accurate also with archaeological finds again and again confirming the truth of what is recorded in the Bible (see reference 1). There are also sources outside the Bible that mention Biblical people and events such as the Jewish historian Josephus and the Roman historian Tacitus who both mention Jesus (see references 1 and 5). The Bible is prophetic and has accurately confirmed future events. For example, major events concerning the ancient kingdoms of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and others were all prophesied accurately before the events occurred (See reference 1 and Nahum, Isaiah 10, 13, Daniel 2, 7-9, 11). Cyrus the Great was also spoken of by name well before he lived as the one who would bring about the rebuilding and of Jerusalem and the Jewish Temple after the Babylonian exile of the Jews (Isaiah 44:28). Many historical records of the nation of Israel, as well as specific prophecies concerning the return of Israel as a nation both after the Babylonian exile and the second return of the Jews to the Holy Land are also contained within the Bible (Isaiah 11, Jeremiah 29-33, Ezekiel 36-37, Zechariah 2, 10, 12-14).

It is important to emphasize that God's word accurately prophesied both returns of the nation of Israel to their own land. The nation of Israel has a storied past beginning with Abraham, the father of the nation, called by God to leave his country and heritage to pursue God, along with his son Isaac and grandson Jacob whose twelve sons became the twelve tribes of Israel. God promised to give to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his twelve sons the area of land in the middle east known as the promised land.

Israel was originally one kingdom but was split into two kingdoms early in the nation's history after the reign of King Solomon. The northern ten tribes were known as Israel and the tribes of Judah and Benjamin in the south became Judah. Due to disobedience towards God, Israel was eventually taken captive by Assyria and afterwards Judah was taken captive by Babylon, events which God warned through His prophets to be imminent if the people did not turn back to God, but ultimately happened as the people refused to listen. In His mercy and faithfulness, God also spoke through his prophets that Israel would return from captivity. The first return prophesied was for Judah to return from Babylon after a seventy-year period of captivity which occurred accurately with the decree of Cyrus the Great for Israel to return to their land and to rebuild the temple.

Moses, the man used by God to lead Israel out of slavery in Egypt and to receive His laws and ordinances; David, the king and warrior who united the nation, established a dynasty and won great victories, among a myriad of other men and women used by God in powerful ways. The people of Israel were called by God and chosen because they had faith to seek God, hear Him and obey Him. Jacob's name, which means heel-catcher or deceiver was changed by God to the name Israel which means governed by God

(see reference 4) at a time when Jacob had struggled living life his own way. Jacob struggled against God but ultimately submitted to Him as the authority over His life and was therefore brought into a loving, covenant relationship that God had desired for him all along, which would be a life full of blessing and fruitfulness.

God said to him, "Your name is Jacob. Your name shall not be Jacob any more, but your name will be Israel." He named him Israel. God said to him, "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations will be from you, and kings will come out of your body. The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you, and to your offspring after you I will give the land."

Genesis 35:10-12

It will happen in that day that the Lord will set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Isaiah 11:11-12

Say to them, 'The Lord GOD says: "Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. One king will be king to them all. They will no longer be two nations. They won't be divided into two kingdoms any more at all.

Ezekiel 37:21-22

Many attempts have been made to disprove the Bible or to discount it as a collection of writings that have been continuously altered over time. For someone who makes these claims, an easy way to determine the real reason someone doesn't want to believe the Bible would be to ask if they have ever done any research into the historical accuracy of Biblical texts and the consistency of the Biblical manuscripts (see reference 6). If someone has not thoroughly researched these topics but still claims the Bible cannot be trusted, it is usually due to a personal issue such as not wanting to make lifestyle changes or having an issue with God Himself; however, just because one may not want to believe something does not impact its truth. Truth is established regardless of personal opinion.

The voice of one saying, "Cry out!" One said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, because the LORD's breath blows on it. Surely the people are like grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God stands forever."

Isaiah 40:6-8

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Matthew 24:35

knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20-21

Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness,

2 Timothy 3:16

All of your words are truth. Every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever.

Psalms 119:160

I will bow down toward your holy temple, and give thanks to your Name for your loving kindness and for your truth; for you have exalted your Name and your Word above all.

Psalms 138:2

Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth.

John 17:17

In God's word we learn that the first humans He created were named Adam and Eve. These two people had perfect fellowship with God. They were in the garden of Eden and enjoyed a world without pain, trouble, sin or death. Their perfect with God was fellowship was broken by the deception of Satan (the adversary), a spiritual being God created who chose to exalt himself because of His beauty and prominence, and in doing so, fell from his position of a servant of God to an enemy of God. Satan deceived Adam and Eve into disobeying God, which resulted in the sin, death and darkness entering the world. A curse – a bestowal of evil – came upon the world and Satan who deceived them.

Now the serpent was more subtle than any animal of the field which the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Has God really said, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden'?"

Genesis 3:1

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took some of its fruit, and ate.

Then she gave some to her husband with her, and he ate it, too.

Genesis 3:6

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed above all livestock, and above every animal of the field. You shall go on your belly and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

Genesis 3:14

Although Adam and Eve had perfect fellowship with God and beheld the perfection of what He had created, the other crucial aspect of God's character – His love – had not yet been directly displayed to them. Satan's primary deception was on God's character, stating that God was withholding good from them and that He didn't want humans to become like Him. God designed this entire situation and planned it so He could ultimately reveal His nature, in that He would be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice – His own life – for the sake of His creations to show who He really is and that He is worthy of our praise. This demonstration of love would be accomplished by the Father sending His only Son, the Word of God who became flesh, Jesus Christ, to die as a sacrifice to cover the sins of the entire world, thus enabling mankind to be brought back into loving relationship with God. This is God's ultimate purpose – for His creation to know Him and love Him. These topics will be explored in greater detail throughout this book.

The serpent said to the woman, "You won't really die, for God knows that in the day you eat it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:4-5

By this we know love, because he laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

1 John 3:16

The Word became flesh and lived among us. We saw his glory,
such glory as of the only born Son of the Father, full of grace
and truth.

John 1:14

But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we
were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only born Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have
eternal life. For God didn't send his Son into the world to
judge the world, but that the world should be saved through
him.

John 3:16-17

Sin is Satan's character manifested as a spirit which covers the
whole earth and indwells all from birth, holding the world in
bondage to selfishness instead of God's love. It is the power which
holds the whole world under the sway of evil and corruption. This
spirit of sin is contending with God's Spirit.

In which you once walked according to the course of this
world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit
who now works in the children of disobedience. We also all
once lived among them in the lusts of our flesh, doing the
desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature
children of wrath, even as the rest.

Ephesians 2:2-3

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

1 John 5:19

Sin produces death. Death is the lack of life. The immediate consequence of sin upon Adam and Eve resulted in spiritual death, meaning that they lost the connection with God's life giving Spirit. Physical death ultimately resulted as well. Sin first begins in the heart as evil, selfish desire. This desire is called lust when it is desire towards something external and pride when it is the desire for one's own glorification. When we act on the evil desire it becomes sin, which is the evil action that we take.

But you shall not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; for in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die."

Genesis 2:17

Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death passed to all men because all sinned.

Romans 5:12

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed. Then the lust, when it has conceived, bears sin. The sin, when it is full grown, produces death.

James 1:14-15

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—isn't the Father's, but is the world's. The world is passing away with its lusts, but he who does God's will remains forever.

1 John 2:16-17

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Did then that which is good become death to me? May it never be! But sin, that it might be shown to be sin, was producing death in me through that which is good; that through the commandment sin might become exceedingly sinful.

Romans 7:13

He said to them, "You are from beneath. I am from above. You are of this world. I am not of this world. I said therefore to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am he, you will die in your sins."

John 8:23-24

All humans die because of sin in the body and the death that is produced by it. God's Spirit in us, which enables us to live, only strives with sin and death for so long. When sin entered the world, our air was corrupted because sin is a spirit that is also covering the earth that brings death, meaning that the spirit of life as well as the spirit and death and bondage are among us. This bondage also influences all plants and animals who are now subjected to death as well.

The LORD said, "My Spirit will not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; so his days will be one hundred twenty years."

Genesis 6:3

Therefore, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death passed to all men because all sinned.

Romans 5:12

that the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of decay into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now.

Romans 8:21-22

Sin is in all humans and it is the nature we are born with. Humans apart from God can love, meaning can have fondness and affection for something or someone, but this love is ultimately conditional and self-seeking without God. This means that even though we may care for others and want to do good because we are made in God's image, there is still a selfish root in all that we do and what our desires truly are. This selfish root is called lust, which is the evil desire in the heart resulting from indwelling sin. If you were to carefully analyze the motives behind why you do what you do, you would see a common thread of a desire for one's own personal benefit. This may be a startling to realize but is true nonetheless. A way to help understand this is how all humans lack sufficiency in one way or another. We are dependent upon external forces and relationships in order to live and have a sense of meaning and purpose, such as air, water, food, family and romantic relationships, friendships, possessions, etc. It is not wrong to have these things but looking to these things for fulfillment instead of to God, who is the one who provides every good thing in the first place, is called idolatry. Sinful human nature does not pursue things because we are already complete but are in a search for completion through using something or someone to provide us with fulfillment and happiness. This is the internal corruption of the heart which results in outward sinful actions. This is further evidenced by asking yourself the question "Am I perfect?" If so, you must state confidently that you have never lied, stolen, cheated, coveted, lusted, used God's name in vain, held onto bitterness towards

anyone, or a whole number of other sins. Also, you must state that you never committed any of these things, or any other evil desires, in your heart even if you did not carry them out in person. Such a standard, or law, is impossible to achieve except for God Himself, which is the entire point – to show us that we need to be saved.

The LORD looked down from heaven on the children of men, to see if there were any who understood, who sought after God. They have all gone aside. They have together become corrupt. There is no one who does good, no, not one.

Psalms 14:2-3

Behold, I was born in iniquity. My mother conceived me in sin.

Psalms 51:5

The heart is deceitful above all things and it is exceedingly corrupt. Who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:9

But I tell you that everyone who is angry with his brother without a cause will be in danger of the judgment. Whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' will be in danger of the council. Whoever says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of Gehenna.

Matthew 5:22

but I tell you that everyone who gazes at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 5:28

But the things which proceed out of the mouth come out of the heart, and they defile the man. For out of the heart come

evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual sins, thefts, false testimony, and blasphemies.

Matthew 15:18-19

Because by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight; for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:20

There is therefore a problem of sin for all of mankind. An indwelling sinful nature and a weight of personal sins we do not possess the power of ability to be released from the power of sin. As opposed to sin, God is love, and love produces life. Jesus Christ Himself is life because He is the Word of God who became flesh.

The Word became flesh and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the only born Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will not be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:35

As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on me will also live because of me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven—not as our fathers ate the manna and died. He who eats this bread will live forever."

John 6:57-58

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.

John 14:6

While love, which is selflessness, and sin, which is selfishness, are descriptions of character, life and death are manifestations of those characters. Manifestation means a revealing of something. Character is manifested as words, meaning that out of the intent of the heart, words are spoken accordingly. Words are then manifested as spirit – what we actually perceive with the senses. An example of this is if you had a desire to write the word “Yes” on a piece of paper. The desire to write the word comes from the heart which is the seat of desire. Next is the will to decide to write the word, which comes from the soul. The word “Yes” is then formulated by you as a collection of letters that has meaning to express what you are intending, which corresponds to the Word of God. You then physically write the word “Yes” on the piece of paper which corresponds to the Spirit, resulting in a physical manifestation of the word that already existed in your mind. The three part nature of God works in a similar way in that each member of the trinity has a different part to play in the manifestation of what God does. The Father manifests His will through the Word and the Word manifests Himself through the Spirit, which is what is actually perceived.

That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we saw, and our hands touched, concerning the Word of life (and the life was revealed, and we have seen, and testify, and declare to you the life, the eternal life, which was with the Father, and was revealed to us); that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us. Yes, and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:1-3

He who has the Son has the life. He who doesn't have God's Son doesn't have the life.

1 John 5:12

One who believes in the Son has eternal life, but one who disobeys the Son won't see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

John 3:36

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life.

John 6:68

holding up the word of life, that I may have something to boast in the day of Christ that I didn't run in vain nor labor in vain.

Philippians 2:16

And because life is God's Word, life and death are in the power of the tongue – spoken words.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue; those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 18:21

Therefore, love (God's will) gives life (God's Word) through light (God's Spirit). Sin (Satan's will) gives death (lack of God's Word) through darkness (lack of God's Spirit). Love and sin are the two driving motivations behind everything that happens in the world.

"Most certainly I tell you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and doesn't come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. Most certainly

I tell you, the hour comes, and now is, when the dead will hear the Son of God's voice; and those who hear will live.
John 5:24-25

"Behold, God does all these things, twice, yes three times, with a man, to bring back his soul from the pit, that he may be enlightened with the light of the living.
Job 33:29-30

We perceive light – the manifestation of God's Word, which is spirit – through the senses. Light can be received for example by reading a Bible, hearing His Word spoken or taking in the beauty of nature or the stars and planets in the night sky.

The entrance of your words gives light. It gives understanding to the simple.
Psalms 119:130

for this people's heart has grown callous, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have closed their eyes; or else perhaps they might perceive with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and would turn again, and I would heal them.'
Matthew 13:15

ALEPH Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the LORD's law. Blessed are those who keep his statutes, who seek him with their whole heart. Yes, they do nothing wrong. They walk in his ways. You have commanded your precepts, that we should fully obey them.
Psalms 119:1-4

What was sown on the good ground, this is he who hears the word and understands it, who most certainly bears fruit and produces, some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty.”

Matthew 13:23

Therefore, putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with humility the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

James 1:21

In summary, all humans, although breathing in the breath of the spirit of life, are still dead because life has not yet been received into the heart due to the bondage of sin which has corrupted our entire beings. The decision to receive God’s Word (Jesus Christ the Son of God) into our hearts is what enables us to be brought back into fellowship with God through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit, meaning to become born again. In the next chapter, we will discuss how this marvelous plan of God to restore mankind back to Himself was foretold and carried out.

Again, therefore, Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12

Seeing you have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth through the Spirit in sincere brotherly affection, love one another from the heart fervently, having been born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which lives and remains forever.

1 Peter 1:22-23

Chapter 3: What is God's Plan?

God sees what all humans experience on earth. He knows what we go through, knows our pain and suffering and wants to heal and help us. His desire is to deliver us from the bondage of Satan, whom He has allowed to operate in order for His will to be accomplished, for us to have a choice of whether we want God or not, and for His true nature to be displayed in what He would sacrifice to bring us back to Him. The first group of people God personally called and revealed Himself to was the nation of Israel. The oppression of the Israelites, who were slaves in Egypt and were delivered from bondage by God working through His servants Moses and Aaron, foreshadows the bondage of sin and the deliverance from it that He would provide for all people.

The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

Exodus 3:7

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and in his pity he redeemed them. He bore them, and carried them all the days of old.

Isaiah 63:9

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us for our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his loving kindness toward those who fear him. The LORD executes righteous acts, and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness. He will not always accuse; neither will he stay angry forever.

Psalms 103:6-11

God promised that the Savior for all of mankind would be a descendant of Abraham. He would be the Messiah (Christ), meaning anointed one, who would be anointed with the Holy Spirit in a unique and powerful way. The Messiah would bring salvation to Jews and Gentiles meaning it would be universal for all people who have ever lived. God Himself would provide the sacrifice of atonement – reconciliation – on our behalf. This was foreshadowed by God testing the faith of Abraham by asking Him to offer up his son Isaac as a sacrifice to God. Abraham obeyed and prepared to do so but was stopped by an angel who told him he should not kill Isaac. His faith had been confirmed and God provided a ram instead, giving a picture of the future sacrifice God would provide of His own son Jesus. The first use of the word love in the Bible is to describe the relationship Abraham had with His son Isaac, which is as metaphor for God's love of His own Son whom He was willing to give up for the sake of the sins of mankind . God promised to Abraham that in him all of the families of the earth would be blessed in that the Messiah would be one of his direct descendants. As a side note, one of the next uses of the word love in the Bible is used to describe the fondness that Isaac has for a particular soup that he liked to eat, showing the carnal nature of human love compared with the divine nature of God's love.

I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who treats you with contempt. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 12:3

The Lord GOD's Spirit is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the humble. He has sent

me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to those who are bound,

Isaiah 61:1

"Behold, my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights: I have put my Spirit on him. He will bring justice to the nations.

Isaiah 42:1

Indeed, he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel. I will also give you as a light to the nations, that you may be my salvation to the end of the earth."

Isaiah 49:6

I will sow her to me in the earth; and I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; and I will tell those who were not my people, 'You are my people;' and they will say, 'You are My God!'"

Hosea 2:23

He said, "Don't lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and saw that behind him was a ram caught in the thicket by his horns. Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering instead of his son. Abraham called the name of that place "The LORD Will Provide". As it is said to this day, "On the LORD's mountain, it will be provided."

Genesis 22:12-14

Make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat, and that my soul may bless you before I die.”
Genesis 27:4

By mercy and truth iniquity is atoned for. By the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.
Proverbs 16:6

The descendants of Abraham, who became the nation of Israel, were held in slavery by the Egyptians for a period of 400 years. God brought them out by his power and gave them His law instruct them in His holy ways. This law was very detailed and contained many requirements for sacrifices to make atonement, or covering for sins. Ultimately, the law was unable to be kept because of the inclination of the people to disobey. God used the law to show the people that they were unable to keep an external set of commandments and therefore needed a Savior to forgive their sins to make an internal change within them.

Now we know that whatever things the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may be brought under the judgment of God. Because by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight; for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.
Romans 3:19-20

No weapon that is formed against you will prevail; and you will condemn every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the LORD's servants, and their righteousness is of me,” says the LORD.
Isaiah 54:17

In the deliverance of Israel from the slavery of Egypt, God foreshadowed the future salvation of all mankind. After a series of plagues against the Egyptians, a final plague decreed by God was the death of the firstborn of all Egypt. In order to be saved from this plague, Israel was instructed to sacrifice a lamb for each household and place the lamb's blood on their door posts so that the plague of death would pass over their houses, as well as to eat unleavened bread for seven days. Each year, Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are observed to remember the significance of God's deliverance. The Passover lamb represents the sacrifice of a lamb who would one day bring deliverance to the entire world and the unleavened bread represents the removal of sin which the sacrifice would bring, as leaven often represents sin in the Bible, and also the stripes and piercings on the bread which represent the suffering of the one who would be sacrificed. Three days after Israel was delivered from Egypt and were in the desert near the Red Sea, the Egyptians then attempted to come and destroy Israel. God miraculously opened the Red Sea for Israel to cross over on dry land but as soon as the Egyptians also attempted to cross through, God brought the sea back down upon the Egyptians to destroy them and give His people full deliverance. These two events – the Passover and the Red Sea crossing – foreshadow the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of the world and His resurrection from the dead on the third day to give us eternal life.

For I will go through the land of Egypt in that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and animal. I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood shall be to you for a token on the houses where you are. When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a memorial for you. You

shall keep it as a feast to the LORD. You shall keep it as a feast throughout your generations by an ordinance forever. "Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; even the first day you shall put away yeast out of your houses, for whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

Exodus 12:12-15

At the end of four hundred thirty years, to the day, all of the LORD's armies went out from the land of Egypt. It is a night to be much observed to the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, to be much observed by all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

Exodus 12:41-42

The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Speak to the children of Israel, that they go forward. Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. Then the children of Israel shall go into the middle of the sea on dry ground. Behold, I myself will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they will go in after them. I will get myself honor over Pharaoh, and over all his armies, over his chariots, and over his horsemen. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD when I have gotten myself honor over Pharaoh, over his chariots, and over his horsemen."

Exodus 14:15-18

The LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come again on the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen."

Exodus 14:26

He saved them from the hand of him who hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. The waters covered their adversaries. There was not one of them left. Then they believed his words. They sang his praise. Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power known. He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it was dried up; so he led them through the depths, as through a desert.

Psalms 106:8-12

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who don't walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death.

Romans 8:1-2

Jesus answered them, "Most certainly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is the bondservant of sin. A bondservant doesn't live in the house forever. A son remains forever. If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

John 8:34-36

God Himself is the only one who can make atonement for us because He only is a perfect sacrifice, one without sin to reconcile sinners to God.

"Remember this, and show yourselves men. Bring it to mind again, you transgressors. Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other. I am God, and there is none like me.

Isaiah 46:8-9

As for God, his way is perfect. The LORD's word is tried. He is a shield to all those who take refuge in him.

Psalms 18:30

For such a high priest was fitting for us: holy, guiltless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Hebrews 7:26

In many places throughout His Word, God promised to raise up a Savior who would be a blessing to all mankind. He would crush the serpent, and in doing so, suffer Himself by being rejected and ultimately crucified for the sins of the world.

I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will bruise your head, and you will bruise his heel."

Genesis 3:15

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him. He has caused him to suffer. When you make his soul an offering for sin, he will see his offspring. He will prolong his days and the LORD's pleasure will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light and be satisfied. My righteous servant will justify many by the knowledge of himself; and he will bear their iniquities.

Isaiah 53:10-11

The Lord GOD has opened my ear. I was not rebellious. I have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who plucked off the hair. I didn't hide my face from shame and spitting.

Isaiah 50:5-6

For dogs have surrounded me. A company of evildoers have enclosed me. They have pierced my hands and feet. I can count all of my bones. They look and stare at me. They divide my garments among them. They cast lots for my clothing.
Psalms 22:16-18

I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my son. Today I have become your father."
Psalms 2:7

Yes, truth is lacking; and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor. Therefore his own arm brought salvation to him; and his righteousness sustained him.
Isaiah 59:15-16

The prophesied sacrifice of the Savior would occur so that sins could be forgiven, breaking the power of sin and death over mankind.

They will no longer each teach his neighbor, and every man teach his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD;' for they will all know me, from their least to their greatest," says the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."
Jeremiah 31:34

I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake; and I will not remember your sins. Put me in

remembrance. Let us plead together. Declare your case, that you may be justified.

Isaiah 43:25-26

Sins overwhelmed me, but you atoned for our transgressions.
Psalms 65:3

Therefore by this the iniquity of Jacob will be forgiven, and this is all the fruit of taking away his sin: that he makes all the stones of the altar as chalk stones that are beaten in pieces, so that the Asherah poles and the incense altars shall rise no more.

Isaiah 27:9

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will also give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes. You will keep my ordinances and do them.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

I will ransom them from the power of Sheol. I will redeem them from death! Death, where are your plagues? Sheol, where is your destruction? "Compassion will be hidden from my eyes.

Hosea 13:14

Who is a God like you, who pardons iniquity, and passes over the disobedience of the remnant of his heritage? He doesn't retain his anger forever, because he delights in loving kindness. He will again have compassion on us. He will tread

our iniquities under foot. You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. You will give truth to Jacob, and mercy to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

Micah 7:18-20

Amazingly, the Word of God goes so far to actually pinpoint the exact day the Messiah would enter into Jerusalem to be received as a King but to be killed soon afterwards for the sins of the world. From the day the command was issued to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem as decreed by the Persian King Artaxerxes (detailed in Nehemiah chapters 1 and 2) until the day the Messiah would enter Jerusalem would be a timeframe of sixty-nine weeks, or sixty-nine seven year timeframes totaling 483 years. Even the method of how the Messiah would arrive, lowly sitting on a donkey was foretold. This prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as the rightful King of Israel who demonstrated His worthiness by submitting to His heavenly Father's will to suffer and die for the sins of the world (see reference 7). Jesus stated that due to the truthfulness of the Word of God, even if the people chose not to speak in declaring him as King that day, the stones would immediately cry out so that the word of God would be fulfilled.

"Seventy weeks are decreed on your people and on your holy city, to finish disobedience, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy. "Know therefore and discern that from the going out of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem to the Anointed One, the prince, will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. It will be built again, with street and moat, even in troubled times. After the sixty-two weeks the Anointed One will be cut off, and will have nothing. The people

of the prince who come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end will be with a flood, and war will be even to the end. Desolations are determined.

Daniel 9:24-26

I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem. The battle bow will be cut off; and he will speak peace to the nations. His dominion will be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King comes to you! He is righteous, and having salvation; lowly, and riding on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9-10

Blessed is he who comes in the LORD's name! We have blessed you out of the LORD's house.

Psalms 118:26

As he was now getting near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works which they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees from the multitude said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" He answered them, "I tell you that if these were silent, the stones would cry out."

Luke 19:37-40

For you will not leave my soul in Sheol, neither will you allow your holy one to see corruption.

Psalms 16:10

A Psalm by David. The LORD says to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool for your feet." The LORD will send out the rod of your strength out of Zion. Rule among your enemies.

Psalms 110:1-2

The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs. The obedience of the peoples will be to him.

Genesis 49:10

I see him, but not now. I see him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob. A scepter will rise out of Israel, and shall strike through the corners of Moab, and crush all the sons of Sheth.

Numbers 24:17

Out of Jacob shall one have dominion, and shall destroy the remnant from the city."

Numbers 24:19

For a child is born to us. A son is given to us; and the government will be on his shoulders. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end, on David's throne, and on his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from that time on, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will perform this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Therefore the Lord GOD says, "Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone of a sure foundation. He who believes shall not act hastily.

Isaiah 28:16

Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion. This is David's city.

2 Samuel 5:7

"Behold, the days come," says the LORD, "that I will raise to David a righteous Branch; and he will reign as king and deal wisely, and will execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely. This is his name by which he will be called: The LORD our righteousness.

Jeremiah 23:5-6

"Yet I have set my King on my holy hill of Zion."

Psalms 2:6

The LORD will be King over all the earth. In that day the LORD will be one, and his name one.

Zechariah 14:9

God revealed His name Yahweh, meaning I AM – that He is self-existent and has no beginning or end (see reference 3) – to the people of Israel because of His predetermined plan to bless all people through bringing a Savior into the world. The Savior would be the Anointed One, or Messiah – the only begotten Son of God – who would be anointed with the Holy Spirit to provide salvation to both Israelites and Gentiles to eventually rule over the earth. The Savior would not be created by God because as we have seen, only God Himself could offer a perfect sinless sacrifice for the sins of the

world. The Savior would be begotten meaning brought forth by God as the Word of God, the second person of the Godhead, in a body of human flesh. As God's Word is eternal, complete and absolute, it never returns void and accomplishes what He pleases, just as Jesus was sent and fulfilled the mission He was sent for. The name of Jesus means Yahweh saves (see reference 8). God the Son is the Word of God, who became flesh and was sent into the world to restore mankind back to God.

So is my word that goes out of my mouth: it will not return to me void, but it will accomplish that which I please, and it will prosper in the thing I sent it to do.

Isaiah 55:11

"Come near to me and hear this: "From the beginning I have not spoken in secret; from the time that it happened, I was there." Now the Lord GOD has sent me with his Spirit.

Isaiah 48:16

The Word became flesh and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the only born Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

He is clothed in a garment sprinkled with blood. His name is called "The Word of God."

Revelation 19:13

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him. Without him, nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness hasn't overcome it.

John 1:1-5

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created in the heavens and on the earth, visible things and invisible things, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things are held together.

Colossians 1:15-17

Now, Father, glorify me with your own self with the glory which I had with you before the world existed.

John 17:5

Because all mankind have sinned, God therefore is the only one who could live a sinless life and make the necessary just payment for sin. But to also demonstrate His love, God also desired to partake in the same conditions which His creation had been subjected to and experience the same sufferings. Therefore, the Savior would need to be both God and man – divine yet in human flesh, born of a woman, and would experience the same conditions and sufferings as the rest of mankind. God clearly states in his Word that the Father, the first person of the Godhead, who describes Himself as the First and the Last, is eternal just as the Redeemer or Messiah is eternal. In Revelation 1:8, Jesus directly says that He is the First and the Last, indicating that He is equal to God the Father. Jesus also said that He and His father are one and the He is I AM, the same name God gave of Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:14. The Messiah's going forth would be from everlasting, meaning that He is the beginning and the end, One without creation and One without end.

This is what the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of Armies, says: "I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God.

Isaiah 44:6

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:8

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, being small among the clans of Judah, out of you one will come out to me who is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings out are from of old, from ancient times.

Micah 5:2

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin will conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

Jesus said to them, "Most certainly, I tell you, before Abraham came into existence, I AM."

John 8:58

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM," and he said, "You shall tell the children of Israel this: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Exodus 3:14

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you such a long time, and do you not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father. How do you say, 'Show us the Father'?

John 14:9

I and the Father are one."

John 10:30

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus,
1 Timothy 2:5

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering and
acquainted with disease. He was despised as one from whom
men hide their face; and we didn't respect him.
Isaiah 53:3

In promising a Savior, God's desire is seen in that He desires all to
be saved. And to show that He is true to His loving nature, God
Himself laid down His life for us. For God to only display His loving
nature through creating someone else to demonstrate love, there
would be no assurance that He actually is loving Himself; therefore,
Jesus, the Word of God who became flesh, laid down His life to
demonstrate God's love for all the world.

The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some count
slowness; but he is patient with us, not wishing that anyone
should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:9

For the Son of Man didn't come to destroy men's lives, but to
save them." They went to another village.
Luke 9:56

By this we know love, because he laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.
1 John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only born Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him.

John 3:16-17

This is His grace, in that He loves us, although no one is deserving of love because all have an indwelling inclination to only seek what is best for ourselves. God's grace provided the sacrifice of Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, who paid for our sins through sacrificing Himself on our behalf to become the Lamb of God, the necessary payment (the propitiation) who takes away the sin of the world, redeeming us to Himself so that we could receive life. The sins of the world were placed upon Jesus as iniquity, the physical manifestation of sin in the body. He was made to be sin and suffered the necessary payment for the sins of the world in our place. The just payment for our sins which we deserved, He took upon Himself. Therefore we can be justified, or made right, through Jesus.

Surely he has borne our sickness and carried our suffering; yet we considered him plagued, struck by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought our peace was on him; and by his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. Everyone has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6

The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

John 1:29

For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned. We have been in sin for a long time. Shall we be saved? For we have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteousness is like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, who stirs himself up to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have consumed us by means of our iniquities.

Isaiah 64:5-7

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

Titus 2:11

for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;

Romans 3:23

But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

But now apart from the law, a righteousness of God has been revealed, being testified by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe. For there is no distinction, for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God sent to be an atoning sacrifice

through faith in his blood, for a demonstration of his righteousness through the passing over of prior sins, in God's forbearance; to demonstrate his righteousness at this present time, that he might himself be just and the justifier of him who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:21-26

Jesus, or Yeshua (Joshua) as His name is in Hebrew which means Yahweh saves (see reference 8), lived a life that forever changed the world, both for the present and for all of eternity. Just before Jesus was born, God sent a prophet named John, known today by the title John the Baptist, to prepare the people for His coming by declaring a message of repentance and baptizing them in the Jordan River to symbolize the change in heart God desired to prepare the people to receive Jesus as their savior. Jesus was born of a virgin named Mary who conceived Jesus miraculously through the Holy Spirit. He lived among us in a humble manner and was a blameless person. He humbled Himself to leave heaven and become a man who lived on earth for thirty years as a person like all others, then for three and a half years ministered powerfully to those around Him through the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon Him. He went from town to town in the area of Israel preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, teaching, healing and casting out demons and great multitudes were drawn to him. Jesus even raised some from the dead, showing that He had power even over death. He appointed twelve disciples out of the group of believers that followed Him to be His closest companions and eventual leaders for the people. Jesus gave these twelve, as well as seventy others of his followers, power to heal and cast out demons as well to reach the vast multitudes with the good news of God's kingdom that brought liberation out of darkness and the entrance of light.

She shall give birth to a son. You shall name him Jesus, for it is he who shall save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me! The Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to his temple. Behold, the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, is coming!” says the LORD of Armies.

Malachi 3:1

“I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:11

The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore also the holy one who is born from you will be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:35

For there is born to you today, in David’s city, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Acts 10:38

Jesus went about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people. The report

about him went out into all Syria. They brought to him all who were sick, afflicted with various diseases and torments, possessed with demons, epileptics, and paralytics; and he healed them.

Matthew 4:23-24

He called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them out to preach God's Kingdom and to heal the sick.

Luke 9:1-2

Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will in any way hurt you. Nevertheless, don't rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Luke 10:19-20

So they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you listened to me. I know that you always listen to me, but because of the multitude standing around I said this, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" He who was dead came out, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Free him, and let him go."

John 11:41-44

After three and a half years of ministry, Jesus fulfilled what His ultimate purpose was – dying a sacrificial death for the sins of the world. The religious leaders of Judah who had become envious of Jesus and hated Him plotted with one of Jesus own disciples who

betrayed Him to have Jesus put to death. In the moments just before His arrest, Jesus endured great agony as He contemplated the suffering He was about to endure in dying as a sacrifice for sins, even to the point that He asked for the Father to take away the task that was given to Him. With the aid of an angel sent by God to strengthen Him, Jesus submitted to His Father's will and resisted the temptation to not submit, proving that He was a blameless sacrifice acceptable to pay for sins. Jesus was then arrested and falsely accused of being a blasphemer and deceiving the people. He was sentenced to death in an unfair trial without proper eyewitness testimony. Jesus was then mocked, beaten, scourged and ultimately crucified at a place called Calvary, a hill just outside of Jerusalem. Jesus died on the Jewish feast of Passover, in fulfillment of the death of the Passover lamb to provide blood on the houses of God's people, placed as a covering by faith to prevent death from coming to their firstborn, which was the final plague to come upon the Egyptians for their refusal to free Israel. Jesus willingly laid down His life as the Lamb of God. Jesus remained obedient to God the Father unto death and willingly laid down His life for us, enduring all the torments and humiliation of a brutal execution. When He breathed His last, His sacrificial work was finished – the price for the forgiveness of our sins had been paid. Satan's power over the world in the form of sin, death and darkness had been destroyed because the just payment for the sins of the world had now been paid, enabling unholy people to be redeemed to a holy God. Satan was cast out of his position of ruler of this world due to the complete and overwhelming triumph of Jesus at the cross.

Then Jesus said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with me." He went forward a little, fell on his face, and prayed, saying, "My

Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; nevertheless, not what I desire, but what you desire.”

Matthew 26:38-39

Now the chief priests and the whole council sought witnesses against Jesus to put him to death, and found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony didn't agree with each other.

Mark 14:55-56

Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do to Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said to him, “Let him be crucified!” But the governor said, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they cried out exceedingly, saying, “Let him be crucified!”

Matthew 27:22-23

They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They braided a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and a reed in his right hand; and they kneeled down before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. When they had mocked him, they took the robe off him, and put his clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him.

Matthew 27:28-31

When they came to the place that is called “The Skull”, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.” Dividing his garments among them, they cast lots.

Luke 23:33-34

He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he didn't open his mouth. As a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he didn't open his mouth. He was taken away by oppression and judgment. As for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living and stricken for the disobedience of my people?

Isaiah 53:7-8

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:30

Have this in your mind, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, didn't consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, yes, the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:5-8

I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, your transgressions, and, as a cloud, your sins. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.
Isaiah 44:22

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8

Now is the judgment of this world. Now the prince of this world will be cast out.

John 12:31

Since then the children have shared in flesh and blood, he also himself in the same way partook of the same, that through death he might bring to nothing him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might deliver all of them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Hebrews 2:14-15

On the third day, Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit, in fulfillment of God's promise to Him and to all of us. God proved that His power was greater than the power of death and darkness; life had conquered death! For Jesus' obedience, He received from the Father the keys to Death and Hades, meaning that He has power over death and the realm of the dead. Just as God had parted the Red Sea to allow the Israelites to escape the pursuing Egyptians in the morning three days after they had been freed from Egypt, and in so doing brought the sea upon the Egyptians destroying them, Jesus was raised from the dead in the morning of the third day, demonstrating his full authority over the power of sin and death and to give us the same all-powerful, eternal life that raised Him from the dead. Though Jesus died, He is now alive forevermore!

He is not here, for he has risen, just like he said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying.

Matthew 28:6

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

whom God raised up, having freed him from the agony of death, because it was not possible that he should be held by it.

Acts 2:24

God raised him up the third day and gave him to be revealed, not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen before by God, to us, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that this is he who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him, that through his name everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins."

Acts 10:40-43

and the Living one. I was dead, and behold, I am alive forever and ever. Amen. I have the keys of Death and of Hades.

Revelation 1:18

The LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come again on the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it. The LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the middle of the sea.

Exodus 14:26-27

Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and said, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously. He has thrown the horse and his rider into the sea. The LORD is my strength and song. He has become my salvation. This is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Exodus 15:1-2

The ship rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on Ararat's mountains.

Genesis 8:4

Therefore the Lord GOD says, "Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone of a sure foundation. He who believes shall not act hastily.

Isaiah 28:16

Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice for us by submitting to the Father's will throughout His entire life and then enduring the horrors of crucifixion. Therefore, the God the Father has rewarded Him as giving Him all authority in heaven and on earth as King of kings and Lord of lords with the name that is above every other name. Jesus disarmed principalities and powers (the entire hierarchy of evil spirits) through His sacrifice and He is therefore exalted far above every spiritual power and every earthly power.

"I saw in the night visions, and behold, there came with the clouds of the sky one like a son of man, and he came even to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before him. Dominion was given him, and glory, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which will not pass away, and his kingdom one that will not be destroyed.

Daniel 7:13-14

Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.

Matthew 28:18

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, those on earth, and those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Have this in your mind, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, didn't consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, yes, the death of the cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him, and gave to him the name which is above every name, Philippians 2:5-11

and what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to that working of the strength of his might which he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, authority, power, dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come. He put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things for the assembly, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1:19-23

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that this is he who is appointed by God as the Judge of the living and the dead.

Acts 10:42

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know certainly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Acts 2:36

He has on his garment and on his thigh a name written, "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

Revelation 19:16

In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely. This is his name by which he will be called: The LORD our righteousness.

Jeremiah 23:6

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, those on earth, and those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore God also highly exalted him, and gave to him the name which is above every name, Philippians 2:9-11

wiping out the handwriting in ordinances which was against us. He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross. Having stripped the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Colossians 2:14-15

Because He had been raised from the dead and paid for our sins to be forgiven, Jesus could now give the Holy Spirit to those who believe in Him. Christ's sacrifice allows us to receive the Holy Spirit because Jesus paid the necessary requirement for us to be united together with God again and for Him to dwell in us, giving us peace with God. After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His followers stating this message of peace and that God the Father was now their Father and their God in a personal way. The Holy Spirit, who is the Helper and Comforter, whom the world cannot

receive, could now dwell in believers through what Jesus has done for us in bringing us back to God. Also, the same power that raised Jesus from the grave could now abide in all believers and raise us up from dead works to a living relationship with Him. Jesus remained on earth for forty days after His resurrection then ascended to heaven to His place of glory and honor in heaven at the right hand of the Father. He instructed His followers to wait in Jerusalem for the coming upon power of the Holy Spirit to be given to them by Him so that they could be witnesses for Him and share the good news of salvation with the entire world. On the feast of Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon His believers and they began their ministry, accompanied by signs that God worked through them to display His power, and ultimately led to the message of the gospel being spread throughout the world.

Jesus said to her, "Don't hold me, for I haven't yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

John 20:17

When therefore it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were locked where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the middle and said to them, "Peace be to you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples therefore were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus therefore said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit! If you forgive anyone's sins, they have been forgiven them. If you retain anyone's sins, they have been retained."

John 20:19-23

and what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to that working of the strength of his might

Ephesians 1:19

until the day in which he was received up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To these he also showed himself alive after he suffered, by many proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about God's Kingdom.

Acts 1:2-3

So then the Lord, after he had spoken to them, was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

Mark 16:19

Being assembled together with them, he commanded them, "Don't depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from me. For John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 1:4-5

Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all with one accord in one place. Suddenly there came from the sky a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. Tongues like fire appeared and were distributed to them, and one sat on each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.

Acts 2:1-4

'It will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions. Your old men will dream dreams. Yes, and on my servants and on my handmaidens in those days, I will pour out my Spirit, and they will prophesy.
Acts 2:17-18

Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are far off, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself."
Acts 2:38-39

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and prayer.
Acts 2:42

Those who believe in Jesus can now become adopted sons of God through His Holy Spirit. We can become part of the family of God! God the Father is our loving father, Jesus is our friend and brother, as well as the bridegroom of all His people whom He describes as His bride, and the Holy Spirit is our Comforter and Helper. All others who believe in Jesus are also now fellow brothers and sisters in Christ!

A father of the fatherless, and a defender of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. God sets the lonely in families. He brings out the prisoners with singing, but the rebellious dwell in a sun-scorched land.
Psalms 68:5-6

I will be to you a Father. You will be to me sons and daughters,' says the Lord Almighty."

2 Corinthians 6:18

As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you. You will be comforted in Jerusalem."

Isaiah 66:13

But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

Luke 8:21

For your Maker is your husband; the LORD of Armies is his name. The Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer. He will be called the God of the whole earth.

Isaiah 54:5

His Holy Spirit in us is what gives us rebirth and makes us alive together with Him. His character – His love – is given to us by His Word, through His Spirit so we can be like Him, love Him and love others the way God originally intended.

And hope doesn't disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 5:5

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will also give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes. You will keep my ordinances and do them.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.

Matthew 22:37-38

Now on the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, from within him will flow rivers of living water.”

John 7:37-38

You were made alive when you were dead in transgressions and sins,

Ephesians 2:1

The thief only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.

John 10:10

I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people will be satisfied with my goodness,” says the LORD.

Jeremiah 31:14

For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving. For it is sanctified through the word of God and prayer.

1 Timothy 4:4-5

For the creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation

itself also will be delivered from the bondage of decay into the liberty of the glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:20-21

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2 Corinthians 3:17

There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God.
Hebrews 4:9

“Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily 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

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast.

Ephesians 2:8-10

Against you, and you only, I have sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight, so you may be proved right when you speak, and justified when you judge.

Psalms 51:4

I acknowledged my sin to you. I didn't hide my iniquity. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Psalms 32:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought our peace was on him; and by his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness. You were healed by his wounds.

1 Peter 2:24

"Come now, and let's reason together," says the LORD: "Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isaiah 1:18

Forgiveness is the healing from sin. Because sin impacts all aspects of our being, the removal of its bondage upon us brings healing into our lives in a variety of ways. God's general desire for us is to be in a state of health and prosperity and desires for us to avoid the corruption that comes from evil, which is made possible by the life giving Holy Spirit within us.

To proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion, to give to them a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

Isaiah 61:2-3

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be healthy, even as your soul prospers.

3 John 1:2

They rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. As they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, so you will be established! Believe his prophets, so you will prosper."

2 Chronicles 20:20

They are more to be desired than gold, yes, than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and the extract of the honeycomb. Moreover your servant is warned by them. In keeping them there is great reward. The LORD's law is perfect, restoring the soul. The LORD's covenant is sure, making wise the simple. The LORD's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart. The LORD's commandment is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever. The LORD's ordinances are true, and righteous altogether.

Psalms 19:7-11

He heals our spirits by giving us His Holy Spirit who, as described earlier, indwells the believer. When one chooses to receive Jesus, we obtain the privilege of receiving His presence dwelling within us.

What agreement does a temple of God have with idols?

For you are a temple of the living God. Even as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk in them. I will be their God and they will be my people."

2 Corinthians 6:16

"It will happen afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; and your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions.
Joel 2:28

He heals our hearts (our desires, understanding, and deepest held beliefs),

He heals the broken in heart, and binds up their wounds.
Psalms 147:3

All the days of the afflicted are wretched, but one who has a cheerful heart enjoys a continual feast.
Proverbs 15:15

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me.

Psalms 51:10

The humble have seen it, and are glad. You who seek after God, let your heart live.

Psalms 69:32

As well as our souls (our mind, will, and emotions).

He restores my soul. He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalms 23:3

I said, "LORD, have mercy on me! Heal me, for I have sinned against you."

Psalms 41:4

Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a kind word makes it glad.

Proverbs 12:25

He who heeds the Word finds prosperity. Whoever trusts in the LORD is blessed.

Proverbs 16:20

Our bodies can also receive healing through changes in lifestyle that occur through freedom from sinful habits, thought patterns and addictions. His light enlightens us. He also of course heals through doctors and medicines, and sometimes, as He wills, will heal directly Himself in a miraculous way.

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."

Matthew 8:17

let's draw near with a true heart in fullness of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our body washed with pure water,

Hebrews 10:22

A cheerful heart makes good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Proverbs 17:22

The life of the body is a heart at peace, but envy rots the bones.

Proverbs 14:30

Don't be wise in your own eyes. Fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It will be health to your body, and nourishment to your bones.

Proverbs 3:7-8

The lasting, eternal healing of our bodies will come when we receive glorified bodies at Christ's return and we receive our heavenly inheritance. The raising of Jesus from the dead foreshadows our own resurrection from the dead that will come when He returns to raise us up and make us forever like Him. We receive life not only now, but for all eternity in heaven with Him.

Beloved, now we are children of God. It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him just as he is.

1 John 3:2

For our citizenship is in heaven, from where we also wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working by which he is able even to subject all things to himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up in the last day.

John 6:44

Chapter 4: How Do We Receive What God Wants to Give Us?

Now that we know God has done for us so that we could be reconciled to Him, how do we receive what Jesus died and rose again to give us – salvation and eternal life? Through faith. Faith, or belief, in the saving work of Jesus Christ is what makes us righteous before God. Not anything we could ever earn or accomplish ourselves.

One who believes in the Son has eternal life, but one who disobeys the Son won't see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

John 3:36

for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

We are justified – made right – with God by grace through faith.

For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God sent to be an atoning sacrifice through faith in his blood, for a demonstration of his righteousness through the passing over of prior sins, in God's forbearance; to demonstrate his righteousness at this present time, that he might himself be just and the justifier of him who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:23-26

Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

Before the time when Jesus was on the earth, God gave His chosen people through whom the Savior would come – the Israelites – a requirement of laws and ordinances for them to keep. The law includes the Ten Commandments which many people are familiar with. God did this to draw His people away from the sinful practices of the world and also to show His people their need for a Savior by revealing their inability to be perfectly righteous as God required. God was teaching them that righteousness comes from Him – through faith in Him. Jesus demonstrated this in His teaching that even if one were to keep the commandments outwardly, sin still exists in the desires of the heart. Justification through faith alone can therefore be offensive in that there is nothing we can do ourselves to be right with God. But Jesus promises to be a sanctuary to those who choose to believe in Him and receive His free gift of grace while those who do not will experience Jesus as a stumbling block. Grace is therefore a crucial issue as we cannot be made right with God without Him making the way possible for us through Jesus.

So that the law has become our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Galatians 3:24

For as many as are of the works of the law are under a curse. For it is written, "Cursed is everyone who doesn't continue in all things that are written in the book of the law, to do them."

Now that no man is justified by the law before God is evident, for, "The righteous will live by faith."

Galatians 3:10-11

and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith, Philippians 3:9

Behold, his soul is puffed up. It is not upright in him, but the righteous will live by his faith.

Habakkuk 2:4

No weapon that is formed against you will prevail; and you will condemn every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the LORD's servants, and their righteousness is of me," says the LORD.

Isaiah 54:17

The LORD of Armies is who you must respect as holy. He is the one you must fear. He is the one you must dread. He will be a sanctuary, but for both houses of Israel, he will be a stumbling stone and a rock that makes them fall. For the people of Jerusalem, he will be a trap and a snare.

Isaiah 8:13-14

But I tell you that everyone who is angry with his brother without a cause will be in danger of the judgment. Whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' will be in danger of the council. Whoever says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of Gehenna.

Matthew 5:22

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery;’ but I tell you that everyone who gazes at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 5:27-28

It is a common thought to think that although someone is not a “perfect person,” they are still good for the most part because they haven’t committed anything extremely evil like murder. It is also common to compare ourselves with each other and to think that because we haven’t done as much evil as someone else, then God will grade on a curve and consider us to be righteous. As we see in God’s word, God does not view sin as we do because He is a perfect God. Any sin, in any form, is still considered sin and makes us unrighteous and unholy in His eyes because He is a perfect God.

For whoever keeps the whole law, and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

James 2:10

There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 14:12

For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:14

Because of our inability to be righteous on our own, we need our sins to be forgiven, or taken away, in order to have righteousness and purity. Therefore, faith is required on our part to believe that God can cleanse us from our sin. We are therefore righteous by receiving His righteousness which is given to us, instead of what

we are attempting to achieve ourselves. Righteousness is therefore imputed, or given to us through faith. Abraham believed God's promise to bless him and make his descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky at a time when he had no son. Because Abraham believed, his belief was accounted to him as righteousness.

Those who do have faith in Him and receive His righteousness are called blessed, and know that without Him they are poor, or lacking in spiritual purity. To be righteousness means that they are in a state of uprightness, are walking correctly, and are in a state of prosperity due to God cleansing them. The forgiveness of sins allows for an internal change through the removal of sin and the allowance of God's Spirit to dwell within us, resulting in righteousness that comes from God Himself as opposed to our own efforts.

The LORD brought him outside, and said, "Look now toward the sky, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." He said to Abram, "So your offspring will be." He believed in the LORD, who credited it to him for righteousness.
Genesis 15:5-6

Yet, looking to the promise of God, he didn't waver through unbelief, but grew strong through faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what he had promised, he was also able to perform. Therefore it also was "credited to him for righteousness." Now it was not written that it was accounted to him for his sake alone, but for our sake also, to whom it will be accounted, who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up for our trespasses, and was raised for our justification.
Romans 4:20-25

But to him who doesn't work, but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin."

Romans 4:5-8

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 5:3

God has relationship with His creation through covenants. A covenant is a formal agreement that is established through an offering, thus creating a relationship that provides mutual benefit. The old covenant, or the law, was created by God to guide His people in His ways while at the same time showing them that they were unable to obtain God's standard of perfection. The law ends with Jesus because Jesus fulfilled the law through His perfect sinless life, sacrificial death and resurrection from the dead, thereby satisfying the requirement for an offering that met God's standard of perfection. In Jesus we are now under the new covenant of grace where the righteousness of God, given to us through Jesus, is within us, as God has made us new. It is no longer an outward effort of trying to meet a perfect standard of laws but an internal change that has allowed us to be righteous from within. God foretold through his prophets of this new covenant that would be established when Jesus Christ would come and be the sacrifice for our sins to establish the new covenant of grace.

“Don’t think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I didn’t come to destroy, but to fulfill.

Matthew 5:17

For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

Hebrews 8:7

“Behold, the days come,” says the LORD, “that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah, not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, which covenant of mine they broke, although I was a husband to them,” says the LORD. “But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” says the LORD: “I will put my law in their inward parts, and I will write it in their heart. I will be their God, and they shall be my people. They will no longer each teach his neighbor, and every man teach his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD;’ for they will all know me, from their least to their greatest,” says the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Jeremiah 31:31-34

He took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.” Likewise, he took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

Luke 22:19-20

The blood of Jesus Christ is what cleanses us from sin and is the foundation of the new covenant of grace that God has established.

His blood speaks for us before God the Father as our source of purification to enable us to be reunited with a perfect God. The blood of Jesus gives us life because life is in the blood and the blood carries life to one's whole being. Our conscience, meaning our self-awareness, is also cleansed through the blood of Jesus from pursuing dead works to serving the living God.

In him we have our redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

Ephesians 1:7

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's wrath through him.

Romans 5:9

For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify to the cleanness of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without defect to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, since a death has occurred for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, that those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 9:13-15

to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better than that of Abel.

Hebrews 12:24

To review, the below verses provide a brief summary of what Jesus Christ has done for us. Although the Bible is a very detailed book with many passages to read, the primary message that God wants us to understand is simple.

For we were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love toward mankind appeared, not by works of righteousness which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy, he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior; that being justified by his grace, we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:3-7

But I am afraid that somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve in his craftiness, so your minds might be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:3

I fell down before his feet to worship him. He said to me, "Look! Don't do it! I am a fellow bondservant with you and with your brothers who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy."

Revelation 19:10

Most certainly, I tell you, whoever doesn't receive God's Kingdom like a little child, he will in no way enter into it."

Luke 18:17

The faith in Jesus Christ which brings salvation – forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God – requires repentance. Repentance is a decision to change or turn from sin towards God. Repentance is required for salvation because it shows what belief is truly in the heart. God's goodness towards us and the sorrow that we have over our sin produces repentance.

And saying, "The time is fulfilled, and God's Kingdom is at hand! Repent, and believe in the Good News."

Mark 1:15

I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all perish in the same way.

Luke 13:3

"Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, so that there may come times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord,

Acts 3:19

Or do you despise the riches of his goodness, forbearance, and patience, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Romans 2:4

For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, which brings no regret. But the sorrow of the world produces death.

2 Corinthians 7:10

"Come! Let's return to the LORD; for he has torn us to pieces, and he will heal us; he has injured us, and he will bind up our wounds.

Hosea 6:1

Seek the LORD while he may be found. Call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him return to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, to our God, for he will freely pardon.
Isaiah 55:6-7

Faith therefore goes together with repentance. Faith is a belief that results in action – a true and genuine belief in your heart that results in the action of confessing the name of Jesus. This faith will result in repentance – turning – from sin to God’s love. True faith means that you are willing to deny yourself and fully commit your life to the one who died for you and rose again. It is a submission of yourself before God and a willingness to no longer live for your own desires and interests.

For with the heart one believes resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, and is rich to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” But the righteousness which is of faith says this, “Don’t say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart;” that is, the word of faith which we preach: that if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:6-13

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever will lose his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what will a man give in exchange for his life?
Matthew 16:24-26

He died for all, that those who live should no longer live to themselves, but to him who for their sakes died and rose again.
2 Corinthians 5:15

Because faith results in action, faith is evidenced by works. Without works, faith is dead because there is no evidence of having any faith.

Yes, a man will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one. You do well. The demons also believe—and shudder. But do you want to know, vain man, that faith apart from works is dead?
James 2:18-20

But the word is very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.
Deuteronomy 30:14

Just as we have faith in the need for food, water, shelter and clothing to live a healthy productive life, we do the works of having a job, going shopping and seeking a place to live in order to meet these needs. Works naturally result from faith and the decision to change it produces – repentance.

But declared first to them of Damascus, at Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance.

Acts 26:20

Therefore produce fruits worthy of repentance, and don't begin to say among yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father;' for I tell you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones!

Luke 3:8

"A Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from disobedience in Jacob," says the LORD.

Isaiah 59:20

So how do we receive this saving faith in Jesus? Through God's calling and us choosing to hear and receive.

All those whom the Father gives me will come to me. He who comes to me I will in no way throw out.

John 6:37

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up in the last day.

John 6:44

God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:9

He calls and what do we hear? The Word of God.

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

But not only hearing, for all the senses are involved with perceiving the Word.

For this people's heart has grown callous, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have closed their eyes; or else perhaps they might perceive with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and would turn again, and I would heal them.'

Matthew 13:15

Oh taste and see that the LORD is good. Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

Psalms 34:8

Those who are believers in Christ, known as the church, are also a living example of His saving work, through which the world hears the gospel (good news of salvation), through the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in them. Jesus stated that

For if I make you grieve, then who will make me glad but he who is made to grieve by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, so that when I came, I wouldn't have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy would be shared by all of you.

2 Corinthians 2:2-3

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all.

1 Corinthians 12:7

By listening and receiving God's manifestation of Himself and by humbling yourself to receive the message, the way of salvation is opened and your understanding is enlightened by the truth – the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ. God reveals Himself to those who seek Him and have a desire to know and love Him. And the power of Satan which blinds you from the truth is removed.

Even if our Good News is veiled, it is veiled in those who are dying,

2 Corinthians 4:3

to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Acts 26:18

One who has my commandments and keeps them, that person is one who loves me. One who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and will reveal myself to him."

John 14:21

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6

This opening of the eyes, to recognize the need for salvation through Jesus Christ, is only made possible through the Holy Spirit who manifests God's Word to you.

Therefore I make known to you that no man speaking by God's Spirit says, "Jesus is accursed." No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," but by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:3

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 16:15-17

Jesus answered her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst again; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

John 4:13-14

The poor and needy seek water, and there is none. Their tongue fails for thirst. I, the LORD, will answer them. I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and springs in the middle of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

Isaiah 41:17-18

"Look to me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.

Isaiah 45:22

There is also a continual pursuit of glory – meaning, value, honor, purpose, and fullness in the lives of all people. Without God, all people resort to trying to obtain glory from the world and by comparing themselves with each other to increase self-esteem.

Glory is God's and is His to give. A life without God is a life of vanity (worthlessness and emptiness) and grasping for the wind.

How can you believe, who receive glory from one another, and you don't seek the glory that comes from the only God?

John 5:44

but have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. You have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which don't see, or hear, or know; and you have not glorified the God in whose hand your breath is, and whose are all your ways.

Daniel 5:23

For the LORD God is a sun and a shield. The LORD will give grace and glory. He withholds no good thing from those who walk blamelessly.

Psalms 84:11

"I am the LORD. That is my name. I will not give my glory to another, nor my praise to engraved images.

Isaiah 42:8

The LORD says, "Don't let the wise man glory in his wisdom. Don't let the mighty man glory in his might. Don't let the rich man glory in his riches. But let him who glories glory in this, that he has understanding, and knows me, that I am the LORD who exercises loving kindness, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for I delight in these things," says the LORD.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

"Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."

Ecclesiastes 1:2

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and behold, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

Because God is love, a life without God is a life without love. Though you may have all the pleasures and possessions in the world, there will still be a longing for love, which is something that the world somewhat recognizes to be true, as evidenced by the theme of pursuing and finding love being present in many forms of entertainment and media. We may love one another to a degree, but without God there is no one who has true, selfless love for you without some kind of self-seeking motivation behind it. This is a difficult truth to come to terms with and God knows this, which is why He states in His Word that love can be strong, cruel, and like a flame of fire.

If I speak with the languages of men and of angels, but don't have love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but don't have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but don't have love, it profits me nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm; for love is strong as death. Jealousy is as cruel as Sheol. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a very flame of the LORD. Many

waters can't quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man would give all the wealth of his house for love, he would be utterly scorned.

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

As opposed to the perpetual striving for love and acceptance that exists in the world, a life lived in relationship with God is a life filled with the fullness and satisfaction of true, pure and selfless love, because He is love. The desires of our heart are met in God because God Himself is the desire of our hearts.

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, to the end that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be strengthened to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know Christ's love which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-19

What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who didn't spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how would he not also with him freely give us all things?

Romans 8:31-32

By this God's love was revealed in us, that God has sent his only born Son into the world that we might live through him.

1 John 4:9

The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger, but those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing. Oh fear the LORD, you his saints, for there is no lack with those who fear him.

Psalms 34:9-10

He will fulfill the desire of those who fear him. He also will hear their cry, and will save them.

Psalms 145:19

The eyes of all wait for you. You give them their food in due season. You open your hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Psalms 145:15-16

Also delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:4

How precious is your loving kindness, God! The children of men take refuge under the shadow of your wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the abundance of your house. You will make them drink of the river of your pleasures. For with you is the spring of life. In your light we will see light.

Psalms 36:7-9

Chapter 5: What is the Choice We are Given?

God will do all He can to draw you to Him by creating light (the manifestation of His Word – His goodness and nature) and forming darkness (a lack of His Word – His goodness and His nature) in your life. He desires for you to seek Him and promises He will be found by you if you seek Him with all your heart.

I am the LORD, and there is no one else. Besides me, there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not known me, that they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is no one besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no one else. I form the light and create darkness. I make peace and create calamity. I am the LORD, who does all these things.

Isaiah 45:5-7

Who is there among you who will give ear to this? Who will listen and hear for the time to come? Who gave Jacob as plunder, and Israel to the robbers? Didn't the LORD, he against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in his ways, and they disobeyed his law. Therefore he poured the fierceness of his anger on him, and the strength of battle. It set him on fire all around, but he didn't know. It burned him, but he didn't take it to heart."

Isaiah 42:23-25

He delivers the afflicted by their affliction, and opens their ear in oppression.

Job 36:15

Yet he didn't leave himself without witness, in that he did good and gave you rains from the sky and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

Acts 14:17

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you," says the LORD, "thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you hope and a future. You shall call on me, and you shall go and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You shall seek me and find me, when you search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

You will begin to realize that we as humans have a desire to do good because we are made in God's image, but the ability to truly be good and loving we do not find because of the sin dwelling in us. You see that you need a Savior to deliver yourself from yourself.

For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwells no good thing. For desire is present with me, but I don't find it doing that which is good. For the good which I desire, I don't do; but the evil which I don't desire, that I practice. But if what I don't desire, that I do, it is no more I that do it, but sin which dwells in me.

Romans 7:18-20

What a wretched man I am! Who will deliver me out of the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ, our Lord! So then with the mind, I myself serve God's law, but with the flesh, sin's law.

Romans 7:24-25

A Poem by David. Preserve me, God, for I take refuge in you. My soul, you have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord. Apart from you I have no good thing."

Psalms 16:1-2

God gives us all a choice that is entirely our own. The free will He has given us is ours to do with as we please. But whatever our decisions are, there will be consequences that are either positive or negative. With God is life and blessing and without God, there is death and cursing. God already knows the future of how everything will turn out but we do not; therefore, He is sovereign but also allows us to have free will. God knew before the foundation

of the world all who will decide to come to His to receive eternal life but also allows each person to maintain their own decision. It is difficult for the human mind to understand God's sovereignty and free will at the same time, but for God, who has infinite understanding, all things ultimately come together as He designed them to.

You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you will ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

John 15:16

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore choose life, that you may live, you and your descendants, to love the LORD your God, to obey his voice, and to cling to him; for he is your life, and the length of your days, that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" He who hears, let him say, "Come!" He who is thirsty, let him come. He who desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:17

Those who ignore and reject God's offer of salvation will receive everlasting death and suffering and will not have reconciliation with Him. Those who reject Jesus reject the truth and will receive eternal condemnation in hell because the soul which God created is eternal. Jesus says to radically break away from sin and follow

after Him instead, saying to cut off from our lives those things which cause us to sin so we do not end up rejecting Him and spending eternity in the lake of fire, where the worms and fire of suffering will never end.

Or do you despise the riches of his goodness, forbearance, and patience, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But according to your hardness and unrepentant heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath, revelation, and of the righteous judgment of God, who "will pay back to everyone according to their works:"

Romans 2:4-6

These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Matthew 25:46

For it is a righteous thing with God to repay affliction to those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, punishing those who don't know God, and to those who don't obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus, who will pay the penalty: eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

2 Thessalonians 1:6-9

"Whoever will cause one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for him if he were thrown into the sea with a millstone hung around his neck. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having your two hands to go into

Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire, 'where their worm doesn't die, and the fire is not quenched.'

Mark 9:42-44

The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will gather out of his Kingdom all things that cause stumbling and those who do iniquity, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 13:41-43

I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and they opened books. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works. The sea gave up the dead who were in it. Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them. They were judged, each one according to his works. Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. If anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:12-15

This terrible judgment can be avoided. Instead of death and suffering, we can receive life and joy. Life only comes when we surrender ourselves to Him and invite Him into our hearts and lives. We die to ourselves, meaning we give our life to Him, because of what He has done for us and what He promises to give us – eternal life. When this occurs, we receive life and we become born again by His Holy Spirit. Only those who are born again have life, have their sins forgiven and can enter into heaven eternally.

Most certainly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life will lose it. He who hates his life in this world will keep it to eternal life.

John 12:24-25

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

Jesus answered him, "Most certainly I tell you, unless one is born anew, he can't see God's Kingdom."

John 3:3

Jesus answered, "Most certainly I tell you, unless one is born of water and Spirit, he can't enter into God's Kingdom. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don't marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.'

John 3:5-7

Take to heart His voice and recognize that it is He who calls you, the living God, the creator of heaven and earth, just as Nebuchadnezzar, the ancient king of Babylon did when he was humbled by the glory and power of God and turned from unbelief to faith.

At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom from generation to generation.

Daniel 4:34

If you have not yet put your faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ, the door is open for you and the blessing is available. Today is the day of salvation for you! If you are unsure if you have received salvation previously in your life, it would be comparable to not remembering if you got married. It is the most important decision to make in your life. If you have an uncertainty over whether you have, there is a good chance you did not yet commit your life to Jesus and receive eternal life.

Therefore, even as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you will hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of the trial in the wilderness,
Hebrews 3:7-8

Dare any of you, having a matter against his neighbor, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Don't you know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

1 Corinthians 6:1-2

If you are reading this, the Lord surely is reaching out to you and wants you to know that He loves you. He wants to redeem you and give you new life with Him. Hear his call and give your life to Him and He will receive you for all eternity.

You whom I have taken hold of from the ends of the earth, and called from its corners, and said to you, 'You are my servant. I have chosen you and have not cast you away.'

Isaiah 41:9

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who don't walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:1

To receive Jesus into your life so you can have your sins forgiven and receive eternal life, pray to God this prayer out loud, remembering it is not the words themselves that are most important, but the sincerity in your heart.

Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing the truth to me. I acknowledge that I am a sinner who needs to be saved. I confess my sins to you now. Thank you for opening my eyes and heart to see that without You, I am in a hopeless situation and there is a weight of sin and bondage in my life that I am powerless to remove. Thank you Jesus that You and You alone can set me free from sin and death through Your death on the cross for me. I humble myself before You. I believe that You died for my sins and rose again to give me life. Because of Your love for me, I repent of my sins and give my life to You. Please come into my life and pour out Your Holy Spirit into my heart. I want to live for you now. Please lead me and guide me in my life now and help me walk the rest of my days with You. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

If you prayed in the sincerity of your heart and asked the Lord to come into your life, you have received life and are now a born again child of Almighty God! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! The Lord and His angels in heaven are rejoicing together with you!

Chapter 6: How Do We Walk with God?

When you repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, thus receiving salvation, your old nature dies and you become a new creation. You become born again through the life given to you by the Holy Spirit, who now abides in you and enables you to love God and others. The old man, meaning your old nature which was controlled by sin, has died and the new man, empowered by God's Holy Spirit is now alive. You have been set free from the power of sin. His Spirit now helps, teaches and comforts you and leads you in deciding to turn away from the old lifestyle of living for yourself and allowing Jesus through His Spirit, to live through you, thus making you more and more like Him.

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

for this, my son, was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.' Then they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:24

But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love toward mankind appeared, not by works of righteousness which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy, he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior; that being justified by his grace, we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7

For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be part of his resurrection; knowing this,

that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him,

Romans 6:5-8

But thanks be to God that, whereas you were bondservants of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were delivered.

Romans 6:17

If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Romans 8:10-11

I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. That life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me. I don't reject the grace of God. For if righteousness is through the law, then Christ died for nothing!"

Galatians 2:20-21

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:12-13

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are children of God. For you didn't receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God;
Romans 8:14-16

Don't you be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. Yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness. You whom I have taken hold of from the ends of the earth, and called from its corners, and said to you, 'You are my servant. I have chosen you and have not cast you away.'
Isaiah 41:9-10

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and without defect before him in love, having predestined us for adoption as children through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his desire, to the praise of the glory of his grace, by which he freely gave us favor in the Beloved.
Ephesians 1:3-6

But God, being rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus;
Ephesians 2:4-7

You are all beautiful, my love. There is no spot in you.
Song of Solomon 4:7

I am my beloved's. His desire is toward me.
Song of Solomon 7:10

For as a young man marries a virgin, so your sons will marry you. As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so your God will rejoice over you.
Isaiah 62:5

In that day, it will be said to Jerusalem, "Don't be afraid, Zion. Don't let your hands be weak." The LORD, your God, is among you, a mighty one who will save. He will rejoice over you with joy. He will calm you in his love. He will rejoice over you with singing.
Zephaniah 3:16-17

Those God has called to receive salvation are chosen and elect. We as believers are God's own special, holy people and are precious in His sight. We have been anointed with the Holy Spirit and our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. We have been bought and paid for with Christ's own blood; therefore, we glorify God for these wonderful blessings. The glory that the Father gave to Jesus, Jesus has given to us that we may be one with Him and one together with all other believers. This means we have been given great value by God and our value of who we are is found in Him.

According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

1 Peter 1:2

In the past, you were not a people, but now are God's people, who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9-10

Put on therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, humility, and perseverance; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, if any man has a complaint against any; even as Christ forgave you, so you also do. Above all these things, walk in love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body, and be thankful.

Colossians 3:12-15

For however many are the promises of God, in him is the "Yes." Therefore also through him is the "Amen", to the glory of God through us. Now he who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the down payment of the Spirit in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 1:20-22

You have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

1 John 2:20

Or don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your

own, for you were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

The glory which you have given me, I have given to them, that they may be one, even as we are one, I in them, and you in me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that you sent me and loved them, even as you loved me.

John 17:22-23

Believers now have peace, which can only come from Him because He himself is peace. We are in a perpetual covenant of peace and mercy with Him.

For he is our peace, who made both one, and broke down the middle wall of separation,
Ephesians 2:14

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

For the mountains may depart, and the hills be removed, but my loving kindness will not depart from you, and my covenant of peace will not be removed," says the LORD who has mercy on you.
Isaiah 54:10

You will keep whoever's mind is steadfast in perfect peace, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever; for in the LORD, the LORD, is an everlasting Rock.
Isaiah 26:3-4

Those who love your law have great peace. Nothing causes them to stumble.

Psalms 119:165

for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the assemblies of the saints.

1 Corinthians 14:33

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, I give to you. Don't let your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful.

John 14:27

The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.

Isaiah 32:17

True, lasting joy and gladness is given to us when we put our trust in Him. He has clothed us with the garments of salvation and covered us with the robe of righteousness. We no longer need to use people and things to obtain both a feeling of happiness and a state of joy in our lives.

You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their grain and their new wine are increased.

Psalms 4:7

You have turned my mourning into dancing for me. You have removed my sackcloth, and clothed me with gladness,

Psalms 30:11

But let all those who take refuge in you rejoice. Let them always shout for joy, because you defend them. Let them also who love your name be joyful in you. For you will bless the righteous. LORD, you will surround him with favor as with a shield.

Psalms 5:11-12

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. The king rejoices in your strength, LORD! How greatly he rejoices in your salvation! You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah.

Psalms 21:1-2

The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous. "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.

Psalms 118:15

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, "Rejoice!"

Philippians 4:4

to provide for those who mourn in Zion, to give to them a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

Isaiah 61:3

For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace. The mountains and the hills will break out before you into singing; and all the trees of the fields will clap their hands.

Isaiah 55:12

We have His all-powerful strength in our lives.

But those who wait for the LORD will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run, and not be weary. They will walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared, for today is holy to our Lord. Don't be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10

For who is God, except the LORD? Who is a rock, besides our God, the God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect?

Psalms 18:31-32

Whom do I have in heaven? There is no one on earth whom I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart fails, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalms 73:25-26

Also, fear no longer has control of our lives because we are established in righteousness through His Spirit; He is with us. God comforts us with His love. We no longer need to strive to please people out of fear of rejection or needing acceptance because we have the assurance of God's eternal, unconditional love.

"Comfort, comfort my people," says your God. "Speak comfortably to Jerusalem, and call out to her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins."

Isaiah 40:1-2

He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will gather the lambs in his arm, and carry them in his bosom. He will gently lead those who have their young.

Isaiah 40:11

Since you have been precious and honored in my sight, and I have loved you, therefore I will give people in your place, and nations instead of your life.

Isaiah 43:4

The LORD appeared of old to me, saying, "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore I have drawn you with loving kindness.

Jeremiah 31:3

You will be established in righteousness. You will be far from oppression, for you will not be afraid, and far from terror, for it shall not come near you.

Isaiah 54:14

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalms 23:4

For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? For if I were still pleasing men, I wouldn't be a servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:10

For God didn't give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:7

The LORD is on my side. I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Psalms 118:6

By David. The LORD is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 27:1

Don't be afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it comes; for the LORD will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being taken.

Proverbs 3:25-26

The LORD's name is a strong tower: the righteous run to him, and are safe.

Proverbs 18:10

The fear of man proves to be a snare, but whoever puts his trust in the LORD is kept safe.

Proverbs 29:25

I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked to him, and were radiant. Their faces shall never be covered with shame. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The LORD's angel encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Psalms 34:4-7

Haven't I commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Don't be afraid. Don't be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

In peace I will both lay myself down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me live in safety.

Psalms 4:8

A Psalm by David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalms 23:1-3

For wisdom will enter into your heart. Knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will watch over you. Understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the men who speak perverse things,

Proverbs 2:10-12

"Woe to the rebellious children", says the LORD, "who take counsel, but not from me; and who make an alliance, but not with my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin;

Isaiah 30:1

For where jealousy and selfish ambition are, there is confusion and every evil deed.

James 3:16

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him. Don't fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who makes wicked plots happen.

Psalms 37:7

I wait for the LORD. My soul waits. I hope in his word.

Psalms 130:5

The LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, says: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you by the way that you should go. Oh that you had listened to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

Isaiah 48:17-18

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you may be no priest to me. Because you have forgotten your God's law, I will also forget your children.

Hosea 4:6

then he opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction, that he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man. He keeps back his soul from the pit, and his life from perishing by the sword.

Job 33:16-18

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

My son, let them not depart from your eyes. Keep sound wisdom and discretion, so they will be life to your soul, and

grace for your neck. Then you shall walk in your way securely. Your foot won't stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid. Yes, you will lie down, and your sleep will be sweet.

Proverbs 3:21-24

Those who believe in Jesus and receive salvation have their faith displayed though being baptized. Baptism is a public display of the faith that exists inwardly in a believer. It is a representation of entering into Christ's death and rising from the dead with Him, which is what our identity as believers is rooted in. God's word is clear that water baptism is not required for salvation. Jesus said to the thief who was crucified next to Him that because of his faith, he would be with Jesus in Paradise. Also, the apostle Paul said Christ did not send him to baptize but to preach the gospel in 1 Corinthians 1:17 which would not make any sense if water baptism was necessary for salvation. It is only by grace through faith that we are saved, not of any work or action we complete ourselves (see Ephesians 2:8-9).

Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Matthew 28:18-20

Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are far off, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself."

Acts 2:38-39

For you are all children of God, through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Galatians 3:26-27

He said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." Jesus said to him, "Assuredly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 23:42-43

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the Good News—not in wisdom of words, so that the cross of Christ wouldn't be made void.

1 Corinthians 1:17

Our lives as Christians are now spent abiding in Christ – living with Him each day in a loving relationship. We abide in His Word and receive our daily nourishment. We test all things by His Word because His Word is the truth. Through the truth of His word we are able to guard ourselves from false doctrines and abide in the truth.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have spoken these things to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be made full. I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man doesn't remain in me, he is thrown out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, you will ask whatever you desire, and it will be

done for you. "In this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; and so you will be my disciples. Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Remain in my love.

John 15:5-11

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will not be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:35

We know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

1 John 5:20

Jesus therefore said to those Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

John 8:31-32

Test all things, and hold firmly that which is good.

1 Thessalonians 5:21

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit who doesn't confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God; and this is the spirit of the Antichrist, of whom you have heard that it comes. Now it is in the world already.

1 John 4:2-3

Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.
Psalms 119:105

Turn to the law and to the covenant! If they don't speak
according to this word, surely there is no morning for them.
Isaiah 8:20

All believers are together called the body of Christ, or the church. The church belongs to Jesus rightfully because He has purchased us with His own blood to have eternal life forever with Him. The declaration of faith by the apostle Peter stating that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God is the foundational faith that each believer possesses which is the foundation Jesus builds His church on, which the powers of darkness cannot prevail against. Believers are called to assemble regularly to worship the Lord and meet with one another to be filled with the Holy Spirit together and build one another up.

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. I also tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my assembly, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven; and whatever you release on earth will have been released in heaven."

Matthew 16:15-19

He is before all things, and in him all things are held together. He is the head of the body, the assembly, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he

might have the preeminence. For all the fullness was pleased to dwell in him,
Colossians 1:17-19

Having therefore, brothers, boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by the way which he dedicated for us, a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh, and having a great priest over God's house, let's draw near with a true heart in fullness of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our body washed with pure water, let's hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering; for he who promised is faithful. Let's consider how to provoke one another to love and good works, not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:19-25

A man who isolates himself pursues selfishness, and defies all sound judgment.

Proverbs 18:1

There are three unique ways in the working of the Holy Spirit is experienced. Jesus stated the Holy Spirit is with us, in us and also can come upon us. The Holy Spirit first is with us in drawing us to salvation. It is only by the Holy Spirit that one can acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior. Second, the Holy Spirit indwells believers at the point they decide to give their life to Jesus. This indwelling of God within us is referred to as a mystery in the Bible, meaning that it was a truth not fully understood until Jesus came and fulfilled His death and resurrection to enable the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to occur. Throughout time, God has revealed the fullness of His plan in stages with the present time we are living at being a

point where we have greater understanding of His purposes due to all that has already been fulfilled in the scriptures. The third experience we have with the Holy Spirit is the coming upon power of the Holy Spirit. We need this power to fulfill God's desire for us to be witnesses of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ to the world. While the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is something given to all believers at the time of receiving Christ, the coming upon power of the Holy Spirit is dependent on our abiding in Him, asking for His Spirit to come upon us and choosing to turn away from sin. It is only through the coming upon power of the Holy Spirit that the gospel can be spread throughout the world.

I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, that he may be with you forever: the Spirit of truth, whom the world can't receive, for it doesn't see him and doesn't know him. You know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you.

John 14:16-18

Therefore I make known to you that no man speaking by God's Spirit says, "Jesus is accursed." No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," but by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:3

the mystery which has been hidden for ages and generations. But now it has been revealed to his saints, to whom God was pleased to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:26-27

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.”
Acts 1:8

We seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit and do those things that allow us to be filled with His Spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches us and leads us into all truth. The kingdom of God, which is where God the King has currently manifested His reign, is now within us through the Holy Spirit abiding in us. We worship God in giving our lives to Him in truth and by inviting His presence to fill us, entering into His presence with thanks and praise.

Don't be drunken with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always concerning all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; subjecting yourselves to one another in the fear of Christ.

Ephesians 5:18-21

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord. Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:16-17

However, when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak from himself; but

whatever he hears, he will speak. He will declare to you things that are coming.

John 16:13

Being asked by the Pharisees when God's Kingdom would come, he answered them, "God's Kingdom doesn't come with observation;

Luke 17:20

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, and bless his name.

Psalms 100:4

Whether therefore you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

A crucial aspect of our relationship with God is prayer. Through prayer, we have direct dialogue with Him and are able to express whatever is on our hearts to Him. We are also able to present our requests before the Father, asking in the name of Jesus and according to His will, knowing that He is a God who cares greatly for us. The Holy Spirit helps us in our prayers as we do not fully know the things we should be praying for.

Trust in him at all times, you people. Pour out your heart before him. God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Psalms 62:8

For the Chief Musician, with the flutes. A Psalm by David. Give ear to my words, LORD. Consider my meditation. Listen to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for I pray to you.

Psalms 5:1-2

You who hear prayer, all men will come to you.
Psalms 65:2

This is the boldness which we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us. And if we know that he listens to us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him.

1 John 5:14-15

Whatever you will ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:13

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, casting all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:6-7

In the same way, the Spirit also helps our weaknesses, for we don't know how to pray as we ought. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which can't be uttered.

Romans 8:26

Jesus gave us a model prayer to teach us important aspects of prayer. We are not to use vain repetitions because prayer is based on sincerity and not superficial displays. God instructs us to pray for others and those in authority as well that they may be aided and that we may help to bear one another's burdens. When we sin against someone else, it should be confessed and through prayer for one another, healing in the situation and relationship can occur.

In praying, don't use vain repetitions as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their much speaking.
Matthew 6:7

Let your Kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. Bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.'
Matthew 6:10-13

I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and givings of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high places, that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and come to full knowledge of the truth.
1 Timothy 2:1-4

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it didn't rain on the earth for three years and six months. He prayed again, and the sky gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.
James 5:16-18

Prayer is heard and answered on the basis of faith. Those who have a relationship with God through faith have their prayers heard but those who hold onto sin and do not humble themselves before God will have their prayers hindered or may not ever be heard at all by God. A lack of forgiveness also will prevent God from forgiving your own sins.

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father, who is in heaven, may also forgive you your transgressions. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your transgressions."

Mark 11:25-26

For, "He who would love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good. Let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears open to their prayer; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

1 Peter 3:10-12

But the heavens that exist now and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

2 Peter 3:7

The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Proverbs 15:29

If I cherished sin in my heart, the Lord wouldn't have listened. But most certainly, God has listened. He has heard the voice of my prayer.

Psalms 66:18-19

Through the Holy Spirit, we have access to the fullness of God and His fruit, which is love, and can walk in this fruit each day. Fruitfulness develops naturally, like a tree that bears its fruit in season, through delighting ourselves in God and meditating on His Word. We bear fruit when we abide in Christ and the work that we do is led by and empowered by the Holy Spirit, not by our own strength or abilities.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, that you may be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, to the end that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be strengthened to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know Christ's love which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19

Blessed is the man who doesn't walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand on the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the LORD's law. On his law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree planted by the

streams of water, that produces its fruit in its season, whose leaf also does not wither. Whatever he does shall prosper.

Psalms 1:1-3

I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

Then he answered and spoke to me, saying, "This is the LORD's word to Zerubbabel, saying, 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD of Armies.

Zechariah 4:6

By loving God and allowing His love to naturally overflow from our lives, we are able to fulfill Jesus' command to love one another, because it is His love that we are sharing. We allow His light to shine in us to the world. Beyond only words, our actions will display love to others. When we give of ourselves of our time, money and energy, we are demonstrating Christ's love. God loves a cheerful giver and financial giving especially should be directed by the Holy Spirit as to how much we give to the church and in any other ways the Lord directs us. With the measure we use for giving, as well of our judgment of others, God states that He will use that same measure towards us, demonstrating His just ways and reinforcing our need for compassion and understanding towards others.

If you love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:15

"This is my commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:12-13

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments.

1 John 5:2

Everyone therefore who confesses me before men, I will also confess him before my Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies me before men, I will also deny him before my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 10:32-33

But be doers of the word, and not only hearers, deluding your own selves.

James 1:22

"You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its flavor, with what will it be salted? It is then good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men.

Matthew 5:13

"You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill can't be hidden.

Matthew 5:14

Remember this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that you, always having all sufficiency in everything, may abound to every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Set free, and you will be set free. "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be given to you. For with the same measure you measure it will be measured back to you."

Luke 6:37-38

When it comes to forgiving others, God instructs us to forgive while being mindful of how much he has forgiven you for.

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, outcry, and slander be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:31-32

All believers are given spiritual gifts by God. Every person has a unique gifting and role that God has chosen for each believer to minister, or serve in His kingdom. Spiritual gifts are given by grace meaning they are not what we have earned but what we have been given by God. The roles and gifts God has for His church can be either in direct ministry to the church or in ministry to those in whatever sphere of influence God has given to you, such as your family, friends and in the workplace. All believers should ask God to reveal to them what their particular gifts are so that the gifts can be best used. Typically gifts are things that come more naturally to us and that we experience joy in when providing the ministry to others. Our lives now as believers are lived by the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives by His grace – His favor and will to be good to us – which enables us to live the Christian life and serve Him. God expects us to use the gifts He has given us as Jesus explained

when he gave a parable about Himself as a nobleman who gave money to His servants to use before He came back again to receive His kingdom. Those who used the gifts were rewarded and those who did not use the gifts were not rewarded but were removed from their roles. God also gives us instruction that those who choose not to work at all should not be given food to eat and that those who do not provide for their households are in a worse state than an unbeliever. In order to minister successfully, one must be abiding with Jesus and allowing His love to overflow from the relationship that we first have with Him.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

Therefore he says, "When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to people."

Ephesians 4:8

having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us: if prophecy, let's prophesy according to the proportion of our faith;

Romans 12:6

As each has received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms. If anyone speaks, let it be as it were the very words of God. If anyone serves, let it be as of the strength which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Therefore, receiving a Kingdom that can't be shaken, let's have grace, through which we serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe,
Hebrews 12:28

From his fullness we all received grace upon grace.
John 1:16

LORD, you will ordain peace for us, for you have also done all our work for us.
Isaiah 26:12

But by the grace of God I am what I am. His grace which was given to me was not futile, but I worked more than all of them; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.
1 Corinthians 15:10

For I say through the grace that was given me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think; but to think reasonably, as God has apportioned to each person a measure of faith.
Romans 12:3

He said therefore, "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. He called ten servants of his and gave them ten mina coins, and told them, 'Conduct business until I come.'
Luke 19:12-13

For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: "If anyone is not willing to work, don't let him eat."
2 Thessalonians 3:10

But if anyone doesn't provide for his own, and especially his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5:8

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over.

Psalms 23:5

God lists spiritual gifts in a few places in the Bible. In 1 Corinthians 12:27-31, each gift is described as a different part of the body meaning that each believer is a distinct type of body part such as an arm or a leg. In Romans 12:4-8, the function of each part of the body is described meaning the action that the particular part of the body takes. Next, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 lists gifts that can come upon any believer at any time as the Holy Spirit wills. All gifts of the Spirit are still relevant today but are given and utilized by God's direction, not our own will. The gift of speaking in other tongues is relevant as well but needs to be used in accordance with scripture as stated in 1 Corinthians 14:2 as words that are spoken to God, not to one another. The gift of prophecy, as stated in 1 Corinthians 14:3, is the speaking of the truth towards people in a way that edifies, exhorts and comforts. God is also clear in 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 that the evidence of one being saved is not dependent on one having a particular gift of the Spirit. Salvation is by grace through faith alone, with love as the ultimate evidence displayed by one who is saved. Lastly, leadership roles within the church are listed in Ephesians 4:11-12. God provides the gifting and direction and each person has an important job to do within the body of Christ.

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
God has set some in the assembly: first apostles, second

prophets, third teachers, then miracle workers, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, and various kinds of languages. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all miracle workers? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with various languages? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. Moreover, I show a most excellent way to you.

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members don't have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another, having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us: if prophecy, let's prophesy according to the proportion of our faith; or service, let's give ourselves to service; or he who teaches, to his teaching; or he who exhorts, to his exhorting; he who gives, let him do it with generosity; he who rules, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:4-8

and to another workings of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of languages, and to another the interpretation of languages. But the one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing to each one separately as he desires. Now there are various kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are various kinds of service, and the same Lord. There are various kinds of workings, but the same God who works all things in all. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all. For to one is given through the Spirit the word of wisdom, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by

the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

For he who speaks in another language speaks not to men, but to God, for no one understands, but in the Spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks to men for their edification, exhortation, and consolation. He who speaks in another language edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the assembly.

1 Corinthians 14:2-4

He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, shepherds and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, to the work of serving, to the building up of the body of Christ,

Ephesians 4:11-12

but speaking truth in love, we may grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ, from whom all the body, being fitted and knit together through that which every joint supplies, according to the working in measure of each individual part, makes the body increase to the building up of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:15-16

Because each member of the body of Christ has his or her own distinct role to fulfill, it is crucial to regularly assemble together with other believers to minister to the other members in the body with our gifts, as well as to be ministered to by others so that every member does its part and receives nourishment. God desires unity among all believers because we are all one in Him and heirs of Abraham's seed, meaning we are God's people and He is our God

through faith. We partake in the elements of communion in the church as well by taking the bread and cup to symbolically remember Christ's sacrifice of His body broken to heal us and His blood shed for the new covenant of grace. Only believers can take communion because it represents our faith in Christ's sacrifice for us which is not to be taken lightly.

Let's consider how to provoke one another to love and good works, not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

"Not for these only do I pray, but for those also who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that you sent me.

John 17:20-21

For as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12

But now they are many members, but one body. The eye can't tell the hand, "I have no need for you," or again the head to the feet, "I have no need for you."

1 Corinthians 12:20-21

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

For I received from the Lord that which also I delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed took bread. When he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "Take, eat. This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in memory of me." In the same way he also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink, in memory of me."

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

We who believe are also called to declare the glorious good news of salvation to others who were once lost. This is called the Great Commission. We ask God to give us power through the Holy Spirit coming upon us to be a witness to His resurrection power. Jesus gives us authority over the kingdom of darkness in presenting the gospel to the world. We intercede for others to draw them back from destruction to receive the light of light that we have received ourselves. Jesus Himself intercedes before the Father in heaven for all those who inherit salvation.

Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.

Matthew 28:18

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth."

Acts 1:8

Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will in any way hurt you. Nevertheless, don't rejoice in this, that

the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Luke 10:19-20

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

Isaiah 52:7

“If there is beside him an angel, an interpreter, one among a thousand, to show to man what is right for him, then God is gracious to him, and says, ‘Deliver him from going down to the pit, I have found a ransom.’ His flesh will be fresher than a child’s. He returns to the days of his youth. He prays to God, and he is favorable to him, so that he sees his face with joy. He restores to man his righteousness. He sings before men, and says, ‘I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it didn’t profit me. He has redeemed my soul from going into the pit. My life will see the light.’

Job 33:23-28

Therefore he is also able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, seeing that he lives forever to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25

“The King will answer them, ‘Most certainly I tell you, because you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

Matthew 25:40

"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:15-16

Having been made perfect, he became to all of those who obey him the author of eternal salvation,

Hebrews 5:9

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will tell me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, in your name cast out demons, and in your name do many mighty works?' Then I will tell them, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you who work iniquity.'

Matthew 7:21-23

To him therefore who knows to do good and doesn't do it, to him it is sin.

James 4:17

but he who didn't know, and did things worthy of stripes, will be beaten with few stripes. To whomever much is given, of him will much be required; and to whom much was entrusted, of him more will be asked.

Luke 12:48

If a man doesn't remain in me, he is thrown out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

John 15:6

But do you want to know, vain man, that faith apart from works is dead?

James 2:20

"To the angel of the assembly in Laodicea write: "The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of God's creation, says these things: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of my mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing,' and don't know that you are the wretched one, miserable, poor, blind, and naked; I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich; and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. As many as I love, I reprove and chasten. Be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with me. He who overcomes, I will give to him to sit down with me on my throne, as I also overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Revelation 3:14-21

A common question is how do you know if you are really saved or can you lose your salvation? God's word states our salvation and assurance of eternal life in heaven are secure through what Jesus has done for us. Believers have been purchased by the blood of Christ and no one is able to snatch us out of His hand. At the same time, our life in Him remains as long as we abide in Him and do not deny Him from the heart and completely forsake Him. We are kept for salvation by the power of God, through faith. When we are faithless, He still remains faithful because He cannot deny Himself.

An assurance that we are saved is in the fruit of our lives. When we love not only in words but in deeds and in truth, we can be given assurance that He is abiding in us and that we do truly have faith. The Christian is not permitted to continue to live in sin without repentance. Those who do continue in sin without choosing to abide in Jesus will not go to heaven because they are demonstrating with their lives that there is a lack of real faith in what Jesus has done for you and a lack of worth for all that He has given you both now and eternally. This does not mean the Christian will not still fall into sin and struggle with many areas of sin. It means that one who is a Christian cannot continue to live on his or her own terms practicing sin willfully without any regard for God's instruction to turn away from sin and turn towards Him instead. He knows we will not achieve perfection and knows our weaknesses so we do not have to worry about trying to achieve perfection. God instead looks at our hearts and our honesty before Him to acknowledge our own weakness and our need for Him. Our relationship is based upon His faithfulness and His love that has already been demonstrated to us.

I give eternal life to them. They will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father who has given them to me is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

John 10:28-30

In this, love has been made perfect among us, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as he is, even so we are in this world.

1 John 4:17

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy caused us to be born again to a

living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that doesn't fade away, reserved in Heaven for you, who by the power of God are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

You, being in past times alienated and enemies in your mind in your evil deeds, yet now he has reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and without defect and blameless before him, if it is so that you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, of which I, Paul, was made a servant.

Colossians 1:21-23

Now I declare to you, brothers, the Good News which I preached to you, which also you received, in which you also stand,

1 Corinthians 15:1

He went out to meet Asa, and said to him, "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin! The LORD is with you while you are with him; and if you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.

2 Chronicles 15:2

But the righteous one will live by faith. If he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 10:38-39

He who overcomes will be arrayed in white garments, and I will in no way blot his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Revelation 3:5

Now the deeds of the flesh are obvious, which are: adultery, sexual immorality, uncleanness, lustfulness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousies, outbursts of anger, rivalries, divisions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these; of which I forewarn you, even as I also forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's Kingdom.

Galatians 5:19-21

nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor extortionists, will inherit God's Kingdom. Some of you were such, but you were washed. You were sanctified. You were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and in the Spirit of our God. Or don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's Kingdom? Don't be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexuals,

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

My little children, let's not love in word only, or with the tongue only, but in deed and truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth and persuade our hearts before him, because if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

1 John 3:18-20

This saying is trustworthy: "For if we died with him, we will also live with him. If we endure, we will also reign with him.

If we deny him, he also will deny us. If we are faithless, he remains faithful; for he can't deny himself."

2 Timothy 2:11-13

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments. For this is loving God, that we keep his commandments. His commandments are not grievous. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith.

1 John 5:2-4

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his loving kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Like a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him. For he knows how we are made. He remembers that we are dust.

Psalms 103:11-14

As a believer in Jesus, our time now on earth can be thought of as a race where we love God and others and serve Him and will ultimately receive our heavenly reward at the end of the race where each one is rewarded according to what he or she did, or more accurately, what the Lord did through each person. We look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, for all things. God is a righteous God who rewards us accordingly in this life and in eternity, while He Himself is the reward for the Christian because in Him all things consist and every good thing comes from Him. Knowing God and experiencing His love is the true reward.

Therefore let's also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with perseverance the

race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

And whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23-24

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

After these things the LORD's word came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Don't be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

Genesis 15:1

Chapter 7: How Does God Continue to Change Us?

As we abide with Jesus and continue to spend time with Him, He transforms us to be more like Him. This process of transforming is called sanctification, which will continue our entire lives as He works to continue to purify us and work through us. We surrender ourselves to Him and He does the work of renewing us, as He is a faithful God who wants what is best for His children. Each day we grow in the grace and knowledge of Him and are sanctified by His truth, enabling us to bear more fruit. We are transformed by the

renewing of our mind, which can also be translated as our understanding – the continuing development of our hearts, to come to know and prove that God's will is good, acceptable and perfect. As the Holy Spirit brings more transformation, the measure of His presence in us grows and as a result, our liberty from the influence of sin grows as well. We have true freedom in Christ.

For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 8:29

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the farmer.

Every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, he takes away. Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

John 15:1-2

For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 10:14

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

But we all, with unveiled face seeing the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3: 17-18

for you were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:20

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

Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth.
John 17:17

You shall not profane my holy name, but I will be made holy among the children of Israel. I am the LORD who makes you holy,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. I am the LORD.”
Leviticus 22:32-33

May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He who calls you is faithful, who will also do it.
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service.
Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God.
Romans 12:1-2

being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:6

This process of sanctification occurs little by little. Sometimes the progress can be rapid, where old destructive habits and mindsets are immediately done away with through the working of the Holy Spirit. Others take time to be healed from. God uses the example of Him driving out enemies from the land He had promised to the nation of Israel as a metaphor for the process of Him driving out the enemy's hold on our lives. The more we grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and the more the eyes of our understanding (hearts) are opened to the truth, the more we will experience God's healing in all areas of our lives. This process of growth is not entirely for God to do nor is entirely our own responsibility. Our own sanctification (stated as the word salvation in Philippians 2:12) is our responsibility to work out as well as God's responsibility because He works in us to will and do for His good pleasure. It is a joint effort that is led by His will for our lives.

Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and inherit the land.

Exodus 23:30

The LORD your God will cast out those nations before you little by little. You may not consume them at once, lest the animals of the field increase on you.

But the LORD your God will deliver them up before you, and will confuse them with a great confusion, until they are destroyed.

Deuteronomy 7:22-23

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

don't cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers,
that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him,
having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
and what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to that working of the strength of his might
which he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places,
Ephesians 1:16-20

So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
For it is God who works in you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
Do all things without complaining and arguing,
that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without defect in the middle of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you are seen as lights in the world, holding up the word of life, that I may have something to boast in the day of Christ that I didn't run in vain nor labor in vain.
Philippians 2:12-16

Receiving the finished work of salvation and submitting to God's will for our lives brings freedom, which does not mean we use our new freedom as an opportunity for the flesh to live for ourselves, but as an opportunity to now live to love God and people in truth

and fullness without the enslavement of sin. The freedom that we now have in Jesus is truly amazing and enables us to live in a way that is beneficial for others and ourselves. God gives us the freedom to make choices and experience the consequences of these choices whether positive or negative, teaching us to look to Him and His word for those things which edify (build us up) the most.

Through Jesus we are now also free from attempting to make ourselves right before God by doing good works or restricting ourselves from things in a legalistic way. When there is the thought that we have to keep a list of commandments in order to be holy, this is the trap of living under the law. Jesus set us free from the law through grace in that we have been given righteousness by having our sins forgiven by the death of Jesus and receiving the Holy Spirit instead of us trying to obtain righteousness and the Holy Spirit ourselves. Grace is what teaches us now to deny lusts because we have been given what we truly desire in the first place, which is a loving relationship with our God who loved us first. The Holy Spirit now meets our needs and desires instead of the things in the world. God's love brings fulfillment and fullness, while sin and striving to keep the law under our own ability only brings emptiness and frustration.

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Charge those who are rich in this present age that they not be arrogant, nor have their hope set on the uncertainty of riches, but on the living God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy;

that they do good, that they be rich in good works, that they be ready to distribute, willing to share;
1 Timothy 6:17-18

For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven:
Ecclesiastes 3:1

a time to weep,
and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn,
and a time to dance;
Ecclesiastes 3:4

For you, brothers, were called for freedom. Only don't use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants to one another.
Galatians 5:13

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are profitable.
"All things are lawful for me," but not all things build up.
Let no one seek his own, but each one his neighbor's good.
1 Corinthians 10:23-24

Stand firm therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and don't be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.
Galatians 5:1

If you died with Christ from the elemental spirits of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to ordinances,
"Don't handle, nor taste, nor touch"

(all of which perish with use), according to the precepts and doctrines of men?

These things indeed appear like wisdom in self-imposed worship, humility, and severity to the body, but aren't of any value against the indulgence of the flesh.

Colossians 2:20-23

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

instructing us to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we would live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age;

looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Titus 2:11-13

Although believers have received the Holy Spirit and are made new, sin still dwells in our bodies and will not be done away with completely until we are in heaven and we receive our glorified bodies. Victory over the sin that is still in our lives is something that is not achieved by our own strength or ability. Victory is received through what Jesus has already done for us in delivering us from a body that is controlled by sin. If we still attempt to achieve purity by our own strength, we are going back to the law which is trying to obtain righteousness through maintaining good deeds externally and trying to "be a good person." Instead, we walk in the Spirit, who gives us purity and we abide in the truth of God's word. This means we choose to pursue Godly things not because we have to for God to accept us, but because God already accepts us and because His ways and His love are the truth; they are what is best.

Righteousness has been given to us and the ability to live a pure life is now available to us because we have been changed from the inside by receiving the Holy Spirit. The body controlled by sin has been done away with. Sin has been condemned, meaning it no longer has power over us because there is now a stronger spirit that resides in us – the Holy Spirit. He meets all of the needs that we were previously trying to fill through sin. The irresistible urges for pleasures of the world that we continually thirsted for again and again are now broken by the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

For sin will not have dominion over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.

Romans 6:14

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

For what the law couldn't do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God did, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us who don't walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:2-4

who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love,

Colossians 1:13

It will happen in that day that his burden will depart from off your shoulder, and his yoke from off your neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing oil.

Isaiah 10:27

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will also give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes. You will keep my ordinances and do them.
Ezekiel 36:25-27

The sin that we bear in our bodies is called iniquity. Iniquity is the corruption of our genetic code as a result of sin which corrupts the desires of the heart and brings death. Iniquity is deep rooted and is the twisting of the desires of the heart which produces corruption and perversity (see reference 9). Although believers have received a new heart by the indwelling of the Spirit, our bodies and souls have not yet been fully glorified. This means we will still continue to struggle with sin while we live in the flesh and will eventually die physically. Jesus works in us to cleanse us from both our iniquity (the evil desire) as well as the sins themselves (the actions).

For my life is spent with sorrow,
my years with sighing.
My strength fails because of my iniquity.
My bones are wasted away.
Psalm 31:10

The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare him.
The cords of his sin hold him firmly.
He will die for lack of instruction.
In the greatness of his folly, he will go astray.
Proverbs 5:22-23

But your iniquities have separated you and your God,

and your sins have hidden his face from you,
so that he will not hear.

Isaiah 59:2

I was angry because of the iniquity of his covetousness and
struck him.

I hid myself and was angry;
and he went on backsliding in the way of his heart.
I have seen his ways, and will heal him.

I will lead him also,
and restore comforts to him and to his mourners.

Isaiah 57:17-18

The iniquity we bear in our bodies is the result of the sins we commit ourselves as well as the sins of our families going back multiple generations. God's system of divine justice causes our whatever we do, good or evil, have direct impact on our future generations. If one chooses to seek and obey God, he brings good upon his family, children and later generations. But if one chooses to refuse God and live in sin, his family, children and future generations will be negatively impacted. The degree of impact, good or evil, is dependent upon the degree of good or evil one does. This is why if a family has a history of a certain type of sin behavior such as sexual immorality or alcoholism, the children will likely suffer with similar problems because the iniquity is being passed down through multiple generations. God calls these established patterns of sin strongholds. Strongholds are the reason for addictions and repeated sinful behavior patterns. In 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, strongholds, arguments (meaning mental patterns) and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God can all be transformed by the power of God's truth working in our lives.

Iniquity also transfers to descendants though physical health problems, such as if a family has a history of diabetes or heart problems the children are also more likely to develop these problems. Medical professionals realize this, which is why when you go to a doctor's office they ask of your family health history and not just your own. Again, the similarity of sin strongholds and health issues is because the iniquity of the fathers is being punished to future generations, which can be labeled either as a generational curse or blessing. Not all health problems or sin strongholds are from generational iniquity, but many are.

Thankfully, Jesus paid the legal right for all sins and iniquities to be forgiven as well as all curses to be broken. Although through His death Jesus enabled all curses to be broken and sins and iniquities to be forgiven, it does not mean that all instantly are. Just as salvation is received by grace through faith by the believer acknowledging he or she needs to be saved, confessing sin and choosing to believe Jesus as Lord and Savior, resulting in repentance from sin and living for Jesus, deliverance from established generational iniquity/curses follows a similar path. One must acknowledge and confess his own sins as well as the sins of his fathers, ask for forgiveness, then choose to repent from these behaviors and live for Jesus. It is also suggested to ask Jesus to break any specific generational curses and iniquity so that the spiritual legal ground for the iniquity/curse to remain is removed.

Example prayer: Jesus, thank you for Your salvation and for giving me eternal life in You. I confess all sins of myself, family and ancestors, on both my mother's and father's sides of the family related to sexual immorality, adultery and fornication. (include any known specific sins). I ask you to please forgive me, my family and my ancestors for all these sins and iniquities. Jesus, please break every generational curse back to Adam and Eve of sexual

immorality, adultery and fornication from myself and family. I (or we) choose to repent from these sins and turn towards You, desiring to live for You. Thank you for Your grace. Also thank you that Your way is better, more pleasing and more fulfilling than sin. Please help me (us) to walk in freedom from these sins and to grow in the grace and knowledge of You. In Jesus name, amen.

Our fathers sinned, and are no more.
We have borne their iniquities.
Lamentations 5:7

"Ah Lord GOD! Behold, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for you. You show loving kindness to thousands, and repay the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them. The great, the mighty God, the LORD of Armies is your name:
Jeremiah 32:17-18

you shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and on the fourth generation of those who hate me, and showing loving kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
Exodus 20:5-6

For though we walk in the flesh, we don't wage war according to the flesh;
for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the throwing down of strongholds,

throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being in readiness to avenge all disobedience when your obedience is made full.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us. For it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree,"

that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:13-14

I acknowledged my sin to you.

I didn't hide my iniquity.

I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Psalms 32:5

"If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, in their trespass which they trespassed against me; and also that because they walked contrary to me,

I also walked contrary to them, and brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled, and they then accept the punishment of their iniquity,

Leviticus 26:40-41

We acknowledge, LORD, our wickedness, and the iniquity of our fathers; for we have sinned against you.

Jeremiah 14:20

Lord, to us belongs confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you.

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him.

We haven't obeyed the LORD our God's voice, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

Daniel 9:8-10

and said, "I beg you, LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and loving kindness with those who love him and keep his commandments,

let your ear now be attentive and your eyes open, that you may listen to the prayer of your servant which I pray before you at this time, day and night, for the children of Israel your servants, while I confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against you. Yes, I and my father's house have sinned.

We have dealt very corruptly against you, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances, which you commanded your servant Moses.

"Remember, I beg you, the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you trespass, I will scatter you among the peoples;

but if you return to me, and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts were in the uttermost part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and will bring them to the place that I have chosen, to cause my name to dwell there.'

"Now these are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand.

Lord, I beg you, let your ear be attentive now to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name; and please prosper your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

Now I was cup bearer to the king.

Nehemiah 1:5-11

Often the struggle will be intense to truly walk in freedom from these strongholds because they may be very deeply ingrained through many generations. If one does not choose to thoroughly repent and seek God, this can also allow the iniquity/curse to still continue on. God knows the struggle though and promises in His word “but where sin abounded, grace abounded more exceedingly” (Rom. 5:20) and “he gives more grace. Therefore it says “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). The believer in Jesus is already free from the power of sin through Jesus death and resurrection but needs to grow in the grace and knowledge of God through His word to learn to walk in that freedom.

Strongholds are dealt with by applying the truth of God’s word to counter the deception of the enemy. The stronghold will remain until the power of the Holy Spirit in your life exceeds the power of the stronghold through your understanding of the truth of what Jesus has done for you and what your new identity is in Him. Jesus said that the truth is what sets us free and He is the truth and His word is the truth. Power is given to us by the Holy Spirit when we choose to live a consecrated life to God by abiding in Him and obeying Him. The more time we spend with God and the more we know His word, the more we are conformed to the image of Jesus. This means meditating on the word of God repeatedly to battle against all of the evil thoughts and desires that our flesh and the forces of evil give us. Jesus also instructed his disciples that prayer

and fasting is required to have victory over some spiritual battles. Fasting enables us to be more filled with the Holy Spirit. When Jesus spoke in John 7:38 that rivers of living water will flow out of those who believe in Him, which is a reference to the Holy Spirit flowing forth, the word translated heart actually means the belly. The belly is an absorption point for food as well as what we receive through the senses. This is why when Adam and Eve were deceived and ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, it means they received and absorbed the knowledge of good of evil which therefore gave them understanding. Additionally, the belly is a connection point or gate between the body and soul which is why there is a correlation between digestive disorders and mental disorders. By being more filled with the Holy Spirit, healing can occur for the entire being.

Jesus therefore said to those Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
John 8:31-32

If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.
John 8:36

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me."
John 14:6

But the LORD is the true God.
He is the living God,
and an everlasting King.
At his wrath, the earth trembles.
The nations aren't able to withstand his indignation.
Jeremiah 10:10

Sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth.
John 17:17

"Isn't my word like fire?" says the LORD; "and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?
Jeremiah 23:29

For God's Kingdom is not in word, but in power.
1 Corinthians 4:20

We are his witnesses of these things; and so also is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."
Acts 5:32

Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the LORD's voice? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and teraphim. Because you have rejected the LORD's word, he has also rejected you from being king."
1 Samuel 15:22-23

He said to them, "Because of your unbelief. For most certainly I tell you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. But this kind doesn't go out except by prayer and fasting."
Matthew 17:20-21

He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, from within him will flow rivers of living water."
John 7:38

“Isn’t this the fast that I have chosen:
to release the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and that you break every yoke?
Isaiah 58:6

Then your light will break out as the morning,
and your healing will appear quickly;
then your righteousness shall go before you,
and the LORD’s glory will be your rear guard.
Then you will call, and the LORD will answer.
You will cry for help, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’
“If you take away from among you the yoke,
finger pointing,
and speaking wickedly;
Isaiah 58:8-9

and the LORD will guide you continually,
satisfy your soul in dry places,
and make your bones strong.
You will be like a watered garden,
and like a spring of water
whose waters don’t fail.
Those who will be of you will build the old waste places.
You will raise up the foundations of many generations.
You will be called Repairer of the Breach,
Restorer of Paths with Dwellings.
Isaiah 58:11-12

Deception is Satan and his demon’s strongest tactic to keep people in bondage and it is what led to sin entering the world in the first

place. The forces of evil try their best to convince people that God does not love them and that faith in God is hopeless and futile. God states in His word in Isaiah 44:19-20 that one who is deceived cannot deliver his soul from the deception until there is a realization that he is being deceived. The example in this passage relates to creating a wooden idol to worship which God describes as an abomination, although the principle of deception is the same regardless of what the deception is. An idol is anything that we place before God in our lives, meaning anything we worship (give worth, value, glory to) instead of God. We were created to worship God alone, which is what is best for us. Satan does all he can to direct our worship away from God to ourselves or anything or anyone in this world, thus deceiving us into idolatry which leads to corruption and death. There are things in the world that are enjoyable, pleasurable and beneficial but nothing and no one can replace God because He is the one true living God. All other idols are lies.

The realization that you are being deceived comes through receiving knowledge and understanding from the truth of God's Word to cut through the lies. Often, we do not know we are deceived because deception blinds us from the truth. This is why we need to remain in God's word and ask Him for help so that the truth can be revealed to us and we can walk in the truth. Also, having the mindset that we all still have a lot to learn guards against pride and unteachableness. Deception is often uncovered through other believers pointing out the truth to us, so we should not trust in our own understanding. We test all things by God's word while at the same time realizing that our individual understanding of God's word may not be fully correct. We therefore humble ourselves and ask God to confirm the truth to us, looking for Him to teach us what is true, even if it is difficult to accept and

understand. Jesus is the only perfect man who ever lived, so we are all still learning and growing.

The truth that God leads us to will align with His loving nature. We have assurance that God does love us through the demonstration of His love by giving us His only begotten son Jesus to die for us. Therefore, we are more than conquerors against evil through Him who loves us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Even as it is written,

“For your sake we are killed all day long.

We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from God’s love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35-39

No one thinks,

neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say,

“I have burned part of it in the fire.

Yes, I have also baked bread on its coals.

I have roasted meat and eaten it.

Shall I make the rest of it into an abomination?

Shall I bow down to a tree trunk?”

He feeds on ashes.

A deceived heart has turned him aside;
and he can't deliver his soul,
nor say, "Isn't there a lie in my right hand?"
Isaiah 44:19-20

Because knowing God, they didn't glorify him as God, and didn't give thanks, but became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless heart was darkened.

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and traded the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, four-footed animals, and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness, that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves; who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Romans 1:21-24

But the LORD is the true God.
He is the living God,
and an everlasting King.
At his wrath, the earth trembles.
The nations aren't able to withstand his indignation.
Jeremiah 10:10

Test all things, and hold firmly that which is good.
1 Thessalonians 5:21

However, when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak from himself; but whatever he hears, he will speak. He will declare to you things that are coming. He will glorify me (Jesus), for he will take from what is mine and will declare it to you. All things that

the Father has are mine; therefore I said that he takes[†] of mine and will declare it to you.

John 16:13-15

A general process for dealing with strongholds 1) Ensure you are a true born again believer; 2) gain understanding of your identity in Christ; 3) Confess the sins of your prior generations; 4) confess your sins; 5) repent of the behavior; 6) forgive any whom you have not forgiven previously; 7) remove occult objects and things that cause open doors; 8) ask Jesus to break the curse that is upon you or your family. Some sins bring a curse upon a person and his or own descendants due to the severity of the sin, such as curses listed in Deuteronomy 28. Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law; therefore, Jesus has given all Christians legal authority to break curses. It is best to ask God directly to see if there are any curses that are impacting you so that they can be properly broken by name (see reference 9). 9) Command all demons by name associated with the curse to leave now in Jesus name and to not come back

let your ear now be attentive and your eyes open, that you may listen to the prayer of your servant which I pray before you at this time, day and night, for the children of Israel your servants, while I confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against you. Yes, I and my father's house have sinned.

Nehemiah 1:6

We have sinned with our fathers.

We have committed iniquity.

We have done wickedly.

Our fathers didn't understand your wonders in Egypt.

They didn't remember the multitude of your loving kindnesses,
but were rebellious at the sea, even at the Red Sea.
Psalm 106:6-7

Lord, to us belongs confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you.
To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him.
Daniel 9:8-9

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
therefore you are feared.
I wait for the LORD.
My soul waits.
I hope in his word.
Psalm 130:3-5

These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new languages; they will take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will in no way hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."
Mark 16:17-18

Jesus rose from the dead, demonstrating that His life is more powerful than death, giving us assurance that any form of bondage and addiction no longer has power over us. Our bodies, souls and spirits can now have rest, fulfillment and peace through His living water in us. His presence enlightens our entire beings. Our hearts

are changed, and continue to change through Him. The pleasures of sin are deceitful because the mind is deceived into thinking that sin provides the greatest and fullest pleasure possible. This is not true because sin is manipulating the body's capacity to feel pleasure by fulfilling desires contrary to God's desires. God designed the body's ability to feel pleasure based on having His desires fulfilled and enjoying those things He gives us. God's presence naturally gives us pleasure, joy and gladness. Choosing to have faith in God naturally produces pleasure, joy, peace and contentment, because we are receiving it from Him, not producing it ourselves.

The life that is in us from Him gives light to our bodies – vitality, strength and fullness, which the world can never provide. Therefore, because we now have access to God and relationship with Him, our minds determine whether we will enjoy greater pleasures from Him, or continue to be deceived and pursue the empty, vain pleasures of the world. In John 1:5, it states that darkness does not overcome the light, so God is telling us that His light overcomes any power of darkness.

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

May it never be! We who died to sin, how could we live in it any longer?

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be part of his resurrection;

knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to sin.

For he who has died has been freed from sin.

But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him,

Romans 6:1-8

and what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to that working of the strength of his might

which he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, Ephesians 1:19-20

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness hasn't overcome it.

John 1:4-5

I have set the LORD always before me.

Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my tongue rejoices.

My body shall also dwell in safety.

For you will not leave my soul in Sheol,

neither will you allow your holy one to see corruption.

You will show me the path of life.

In your presence is fullness of joy.

In your right hand there are pleasures forever more.

Psalms 16:8-11

For our heart rejoices in him,

because we have trusted in his holy name.

Psalm 33:21

Give sincere homage to the Son, lest he be angry, and you
perish on the way,
for his wrath will soon be kindled.

Blessed are all those who take refuge in him.

Psalm 2:12

For you make him most blessed forever.

You make him glad with joy in your presence.

For the king trusts in the LORD.

Through the loving kindness of the Most High, he shall not be
moved.

Psalm 21: 6-7

that you put away, as concerning your former way of life, the
old man that grows corrupt after the lusts of deceit,
and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
and put on the new man, who in the likeness of God has been
created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Ephesians 4: 22-24

but exhort one another day by day, so long as it is called
"today", lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness
of sin.

Hebrews 3:13

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on
the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the
Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

For the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit
is life and peace;

Romans 8:5-6

Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:2

There is a spiritual battle constantly raging where the forces of darkness are doing all they can to prevent the gospel – the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ – from being shared with the world. Satan tries to keep the world as well as believers in bondage through deception through many ways such as trying to give a distorted view of who God is and stating that Jesus Christ is not fully God or did not fully come as a man. God calls us to resist the enemy by putting on the full armor of God, which begins with standing on the truth of His word. Six aspects of the armor of God are listed in Ephesians chapter 6 with the seventh crucial aspect of the armor being prayer. Through prayer the armor is fully put on so that we can be fully equipped to handle any adversities that come our way.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world's rulers of the darkness of this age, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having the utility belt of truth buckled around your waist, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

and having fitted your feet with the preparation of the Good News of peace,
above all, taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one.
And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;
with all prayer and requests, praying at all times in the Spirit, and being watchful to this end in all perseverance and requests for all the saints.
Ephesians 6:10-18

In learning to submit to the will of God for our lives, there will often be a great deal of frustration on our part. God wants what is best for us, which means becoming more like His Son Jesus. This means as we are sanctified, we will learn to trust God more in our lives and less in everything else around us that we have previously looked to sustain and comfort us. It is a process of where God supplies all your needs by replacing those things you are relying on with Himself so that He now meets that need through the abundance of a loving relationship. God can meet all our needs because we are complete in Him and our sufficiency is from Him. His Word is what is reprogramming us from trusting in temporal sources of security and pleasure in this life to instead trust in His unchanging nature as revealed in His Word.

My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19

For in him all the fullness of the Deity dwells bodily,
and in him you are made full, who is the head of all principality and power.
Colossians 2:9-10

not that we are sufficient of ourselves to account anything as from ourselves; but our sufficiency is from God,
2 Corinthians 3:5

Seeing you have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth through the Spirit in sincere brotherly affection, love one another from the heart fervently,
having been born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which lives and remains forever.

For,

"All flesh is like grass,
and all of man's glory like the flower in the grass.

The grass withers, and its flower falls;
but the Lord's word endures forever."

This is the word of Good News which was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:22-25

However, I consider those things that were gain to me as a loss for Christ.

Yes most certainly, and I count all things to be a loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and count them nothing but refuse, that I may gain Christ

Philippians 3:7-8

God's strength is also manifested in our lives through our human weakness so that His strength and overcoming power may be upon us and evident to those around us. Our sufferings have purpose. We can be content in Him because Christ strengthens us and supplies all of our needs Himself; we are complete in Him. He promises to never leave us nor forsake us, always providing the

grace that is sufficient for any circumstance. His everlasting arms hold us up. God also reminds us that if He was willing to sacrifice His own Son for our sakes, we can be confident that He is for us and will give us all things that are best for us.

He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest on me.

Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, and in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then am I strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

For we don't desire to have you uninformed, brothers, concerning our affliction which happened to us in Asia: that we were weighed down exceedingly, beyond our power, so much that we despaired even of life.

Yes, we ourselves have had the sentence of death within ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead,

2 Corinthians 1:8-9

But we have this treasure in clay vessels, that the exceeding greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves.

2 Corinthians 4:7

Not that I speak because of lack, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content in it.

I know how to be humbled, and I also know how to abound. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret both to be filled and to be hungry, both to abound and to be in need.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:11-13

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

1 Timothy 6:6

Behold, the time is coming, yes, and has now come, that you will be scattered, everyone to his own place, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you these things, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble; but cheer up! I have overcome the world."

John 16:32-33

Be free from the love of money, content with such things as you have, for he has said, "I will in no way leave you, neither will I in any way forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5

"There is no one like God, Jeshurun,
who rides on the heavens for your help,
in his excellency on the skies.
The eternal God is your dwelling place.
Underneath are the everlasting arms.
He thrust out the enemy from before you,
and said, 'Destroy!'

Deuteronomy 33:26-27

"Listen to me, house of Jacob,
and all the remnant of the house of Israel,
that have been carried from their birth,
that have been carried from the womb.
Even to old age I am he,
and even to gray hairs I will carry you.

I have made, and I will bear.
Yes, I will carry, and will deliver.
Isaiah 46:3-4

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Whom he predestined, those he also called. Whom he called, those he also justified. Whom he justified, those he also glorified.

What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:28-31

God knows how difficult it is to go through the process of sanctification. His Holy Spirit yearns for us to love Him first and to trust Him but letting go of those things we have trusted previously can be difficult. Therefore, in submitting to God's will, He wants us to remember that the ability for us to submit to Him comes from His grace. Grace is God's will to do good for us even though we are underserving of it. It is God coming through to give us the ability, strength and desire and to do His will through the demonstration of His goodness. This can occur through receiving a supernatural sense of peace, joy and strength, situations working out in a divine manner that seem to be remarkable coincidences but are actually the hand of God, or a whole variety of other ways that God can use for His glory and our benefit.

Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who lives in us yearns jealously"?

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners. Purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4:5-8

Likewise, you younger ones, be subject to the elder. Yes, all of you clothe yourselves with humility and subject yourselves to one another; for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time,

casting all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:5-7

Idols are things that we put before God in our lives. Idols can be things, people, ambitions, or even ourselves. As believers, we are now temples for God's Spirit and idols no longer have a place in our lives. The Lord is now first in our lives.

What agreement does a temple of God have with idols? For you are a temple of the living God. Even as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk in them. I will be their God and they will be my people."

2 Corinthians 6:16

If then you were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God.

Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth.

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
When Christ, our life, is revealed, then you will also be revealed with him in glory.
Put to death therefore your members which are on the earth: sexual immorality, uncleanness, depraved passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
For these things' sake the wrath of God comes on the children of disobedience.
You also once walked in those, when you lived in them,
Colossians 3:1-7

Worship is the act of ascribing worth (glory or value) to something or someone else. Because we have been saved by grace, there is no longer a need to keep the sacrificial system of the law to worship God, but the altar we now use for worshiping God is on our hearts. When Abraham was willing to sacrifice his own son Isaac to obey God, Abraham had to make the decision in his heart to value God more than His son and therefore submit to God's will. In a similar way, God calls us to worship Him in how we use our relationships, time, money and energy so that He is glorified. This requires us to lay things on the altar of our hearts and give them to God, knowing that He Himself is ultimately what is best for us. Loving one another as he gave us command requires sacrifices that He leads us to make. Although there is suffering in love, there is greater joy and blessedness that comes through loving and knowing that you are serving for the benefit of others, which is God's nature. Jesus endured the pain of the cross with joy set before Him, knowing how much benefit was resulting from His suffering. Sacrifices are made through first by remembering God's mercy towards us. The prophet Elijah led God's people back into relationship with Him by first establishing worship to Him again through repairing the altar that had broken down. After the altar was repaired, the offering was given and through prayer, the Lord's presence came down as fire

to consume the offering and the spiritual drought was brought to an end. God desires His followers to worship in spirit and in truth. This means worship that is led by God's Spirit which brings our spirit into unity with His by aligning our hearts with Him, and also is according to the truth in His Word.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:35

In all things I gave you an example, that so laboring you ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Acts 20:35

looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness.

Put your trust in the LORD.

Psalms 4:5

He said, "Don't lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

Genesis 22:12

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service.

Romans 12:1

Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me!"; and all the people came near to him. He repaired the LORD's altar that had been thrown down.

1 Kings 18:30

At the time of the evening offering, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word.

Hear me, LORD, hear me, that this people may know that you, LORD, are God, and that you have turned their heart back again."

Then the LORD's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust; and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces. They said, "The LORD, he is God! The LORD, he is God!"

1 Kings 18:36-39

I in them, and you in me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that you sent me and loved them, even as you loved me.

Father, I desire that they also whom you have given me be with me where I am, that they may see my glory which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world.

John 17:23-24

Trials and tribulations in our lives are used to bring refinement, to build our faith, draw us away from idols and draw us closer in relationship to Him. Trials also increase the degree to which the Lord can work through us to love others.

Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;
through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance;
and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;
and hope doesn't disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 5:1-5

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you fall into various temptations,
knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
Let endurance have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:2-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
who comforts us in all our affliction, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, through the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:3

strengthened with all power, according to the might of his glory, for all endurance and perseverance with joy,
Colossians 1:11

Behold, I have refined you,
but not as silver.
I have chosen you in the furnace of affliction.
Isaiah 48:10

God also reminds us of the simplicity that is in Christ which gives us a calm assurance to simply trust in Him and His power. He does battle for us against the forces of evil. Just as David defeated Goliath by trusting that God would deliver him and give Him victory in the battle, we can have the same trust and obtain the same victories. Victory is also brought about through praising God. When we sing songs of praise, we are brought into God's presence and God sends out His angels to fight for us against our enemies. When in the midst of a seemingly hopeless situation, David and the apostle Paul would then praise God and be delivered from whatever circumstances they were facing. The armies of Israel also obtained deliverance and victory through praising God. God describes Himself as a man of war and He will fight for His people who cry out to Him for help.

But I am afraid that somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve in his craftiness, so your minds might be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
2 Corinthians 11:3

"Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations.
I will be exalted in the earth."
Psalm 46:10

All Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found by them. Then the LORD gave them rest all around.

2 Chronicles 15:15

The LORD will fight for you, and you shall be still.

Exodus 14:14

But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

Then my enemies shall turn back in the day that I call.

I know this: that God is for me.

Psalms 56:9

For he will put his angels in charge of you,

to guard you in all your ways.

They will bear you up in their hands,

so that you won't dash your foot against a stone.

Psalms 91:11-12

David said, "The LORD, who delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go! The LORD will be with you."

1 Samuel 17:37

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Armies, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

Today, the LORD will deliver you into my hand. I will strike you and take your head from off you. I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines today to the birds of the sky and to the wild animals of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD doesn't save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."

1 Samuel 17:45-47

Unless the LORD had been my help,
my soul would have soon lived in silence.
When I said, "My foot is slipping!"
Your loving kindness, LORD, held me up.
In the multitude of my thoughts within me,
your comforts delight my soul.

Psalms 94:17-19

But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were loosened. Acts 16:25-26

When he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and give praise in holy array as they go out before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the LORD, for his loving kindness endures forever."

When they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushers against the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were struck.

2 Chronicles 20:21-22

The LORD is my strength and song.
He has become my salvation.
This is my God, and I will praise him;
my father's God, and I will exalt him.
The LORD is a man of war.
The LORD is his name.
He has cast Pharaoh's chariots and his army into the sea.
His chosen captains are sunk in the Red Sea.
Exodus 15:2-4

The LORD will go out like a mighty man.
He will stir up zeal like a man of war.
He will raise a war cry.
Yes, he will shout aloud.
He will triumph over his enemies.
Isaiah 42:13

Wrestling with the forces of darkness and resisting temptations brings suffering into the life of a Christian. Also, God may not answer prayers the way we want Him to, may withhold things from us that we desire and may bring unwanted challenges into our lives. Although we may not want these things, suffering is a part of the Christian life. This is because God is always working on refining us to make us more like Jesus so that we can be more fruitful in our lives and come to know Him in a greater way. When we suffer, it is also God's way of assuring that we are worthy of receiving eternal life with Him and that our faith is genuine. God's motives are good because chastening produces the peaceable fruit of righteousness in our lives so we can be partakers of His holiness. As David stated in Psalm 13:5-6, we can trust in God's lovingkindness toward us, rejoice in His salvation and remember that He has dealt bountifully with us.

You have forgotten the exhortation which reasons with you as with children,

"My son, don't take lightly the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov'd by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines, and chastises every son whom he receives."

It is for discipline that you endure. God deals with you as with children, for what son is there whom his father doesn't discipline?

But if you are without discipline, of which all have been made partakers, then you are illegitimate, and not children.

Furthermore, we had the fathers of our flesh to chasten us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

For they indeed for a few days disciplined us as seemed good to them, but he for our profit, that we may be partakers of his holiness.

All chastening seems for the present to be not joyous but grievous; yet afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:5-11

We are bound to always give thanks to God for you, brothers, even as it is appropriate, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of each and every one of you toward one another abounds,

so that we ourselves boast about you in the assemblies of God for your perseverance and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions which you endure.

This is an obvious sign of the righteous judgment of God, to the end that you may be counted worthy of God's Kingdom, for which you also suffer.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-5

Because it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in him, but also to suffer on his behalf,
Philippians 1:29

strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that through many afflictions we must enter into God's Kingdom.
Acts 14:22

How long, LORD?
Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long shall I take counsel in my soul,
having sorrow in my heart every day?
How long shall my enemy triumph over me?
Behold, and answer me, LORD, my God.
Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him;"
lest my adversaries rejoice when I fall.
But I trust in your loving kindness.
My heart rejoices in your salvation.
I will sing to the LORD,
because he has been good to me.
Psalm 13

We receive glory, honor and immortality from God when we endure hardship because He is the source of all these things. Glory means we receive the fullness of the divine nature. When Moses asked to experience the glory of God, God said He would make all of His goodness pass before him. Therefore, glory can be thought of as all that God has and is – it is all of His goodness. Honor means how

highly we are esteemed by God. God loves all but also respects those who love Him greatly in return and in turn honors them with authority. Jesus stated God the Father gave Him authority to judge so that Jesus would be honored just as the Father is honored. The word immortality in Romans 2:6 can also be translated as incorruption, meaning that one of the rewards for enduring suffering is the lessening of the corruption of sin and death in your life which is replaced by the fullness of God. It is God's ultimate goal to bring us through suffering to experience a greater measure of His prosperity, richness and fulfillment. Prosperity, richness and fulfillment does not mean getting to have whatever we want in life, but bearing fruit in God's kingdom through the power of the Holy Spirit and enjoying a deep, loving relationship with Him.

Who "will pay back to everyone according to their works:"
Romans 2:6

Moses said, "Please show me your glory."
He said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the LORD's name before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy."
Exodus 33:18-19

For the Father judges no one, but he has given all judgment to the Son,
that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who doesn't honor the Son doesn't honor the Father who sent him.
John 5:22-23

Don't be deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption. But he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Let's not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season if we don't give up.

Galatians 6:7-9

You brought us into prison.

You laid a burden on our backs.

You allowed men to ride over our heads.

We went through fire and through water,
but you brought us to the place of abundance.

Psalms 66:11-12

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree.

He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

They are planted in the LORD's house.

They will flourish in our God's courts.

Psalms 92:12-13

Any suffering we go through always works out for good in the lives of those who believe in Him. In the life of Joseph, son of Abraham's grandson Jacob, being sold into slavery by his brothers and winding up in prison unjustly put Joseph in a position of needing to draw near to God and trust Him more. God gave him a gift of explaining dreams which enabled him interpret Pharaoh's dream of a future famine, be brought out of prison, placed as head over all Egypt, and being the one who provided food for all of Jacob's family and the entire world. What Satan intends for evil, God intend for good for His people.

Also when Israel was preparing to enter the promised land after forty years of wondering in the wilderness, God reminded His

people that He led them through the wilderness to humble them and to test them, that they might know that man lives not by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Deuteronomy 8:2-3). God also said that He brought them through the difficulties in the wilderness so that He might do them good at their latter end (Deuteronomy 8:14-16), showing God's intent through suffering was to bring them future goodness as His people were refined to look to God as their provider, protector and source of all love, goodness and fulfillment.

God's view of goodness is ultimately based on His eternal view, which as discussed in chapter one, is different than our view. God surely desires goodness for us in this life but wants what is best for us from the view of eternity. We also have the promise from the Lord that He will be with us in any sufferings and He promises to deliver us, preserve our souls and lead us in triumph.

Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid, for am I in the place of God?

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to save many people alive, as is happening today.

Now therefore don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your little ones." He comforted them, and spoke kindly to them.

Genesis 50:19-21

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, to test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. He

humbled you, allowed you to be hungry, and fed you with manna, which you didn't know, neither did your fathers know, that he might teach you that man does not live by bread only, but man lives by every word that proceeds out of the LORD's mouth.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

then your heart might be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with venomous snakes and scorpions, and thirsty ground where there was no water; who poured water for you out of the rock of flint; who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers didn't know, that he might humble you, and that he might prove you, to do you good at your latter end

Deuteronomy 8:14-16

I am still confident of this:

I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD.

Be strong, and let your heart take courage.

Yes, wait for the LORD.

Psalm 27:13-14

And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and will preserve me for his heavenly Kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

2 Timothy 4:18

The LORD will keep you from all evil.

He will keep your soul.

Psalm 121:7

Oh how great is your goodness,
which you have laid up for those who fear you,
which you have worked for those who take refuge in you,
before the sons of men!

In the shelter of your presence you will hide them from the
plotting of man.

You will keep them secretly in a dwelling away from the strife
of tongues.

Psalm 31:19-20

I love you, LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer;
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge;
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower.

I call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised;
and I am saved from my enemies.

Psalm 18:1-3

"Because he has set his love on me, therefore I will deliver
him.

I will set him on high, because he has known my name.

He will call on me, and I will answer him.

I will be with him in trouble.

I will deliver him, and honor him.

I will satisfy him with long life,
and show him my salvation."

Psalm 91:14-16

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in
Christ, and reveals through us the sweet aroma of his
knowledge in every place.

2 Corinthians 2:14

God promises to reward our faithfulness through any suffering we go through. Every tear we cry is noted by Him, every grief that we experience, and every persecution we endure. He is a faithful God, and Jesus Himself experienced the suffering we go through and can relate to us. The degree to which we partake of Christ's sufferings also determines the degree of joy we will experience in His presence for eternity. Our sufferings will not compare with the glory we will experience with Him in heaven.

Blessed is a person who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him.

James 1:12

Beloved, don't be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you to test you, as though a strange thing happened to you.

But because you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, rejoice, that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy.

1 Peter 4:12-13

"Blessed are you when people reproach you, persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:11-12

You count my wanderings.

You put my tears into your container.

Aren't they in your book?

Psalms 56:8

Jesus wept.

The Jews therefore said, "See how much affection he had for him!"

John 11:35-36

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed toward us.

Romans 8:18

Therefore we don't faint, but though our outward person is decaying, yet our inward person is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction, which is for the moment, works for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory, while we don't look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

If we do not abide in Christ, the old nature and corruption of the world will grieve and quench His Holy Spirit in us, allowing darkness to take the place of the light that is in us. This can give place for the devil in our lives and we will reap corruption, death and emptiness. We ask Him to keep us close to Him and to deliver us from temptations. If we do not resist temptation and we sin, it is called giving place to the devil, because we have allowed him to corrupt us. God does not tempt but allows us to be tempted for means of refinement. Temptations are two parts: our own desires from our flesh (our bodies where sin still dwells) combined with evil spirits who entice us. Temptation is fought by arming ourselves with the full armor of God (as seen earlier in Ephesians 6:10-18). Jesus resisted the temptations of Satan by countering with the

truth of God's Word; therefore, our knowledge of the Word and our faith in God to bring Scripture to our mind in time of need will enable us to resist. He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to resist with His help when we call upon Him in time of need.

Bring us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.'

Matthew 6:13

For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption. But he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Galatians 6:8

Don't quench the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak truth each one with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

"Be angry, and don't sin." Don't let the sun go down on your wrath,

and don't give place to the devil.

Let him who stole steal no more; but rather let him labor, producing with his hands something that is good, that he may have something to give to him who has need.

Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but only what is good for building others up as the need may be, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Don't grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, outcry, and slander be put away from you, with all malice.

And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4: 25-32

For though we walk in the flesh, we don't wage war according to the flesh;

for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the throwing down of strongholds, throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being in readiness to avenge all disobedience when your obedience is made full.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Let no man say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God," for God can't be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one.

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed.

Then the lust, when it has conceived, bears sin. The sin, when it is full grown, produces death.

James 1:13-15

The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of God's mouth.'"

Matthew 4:3-4

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and will remind you of all that I said to you.

John 14:26

No temptation has taken you except what is common to man. God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able, but will with the temptation also make the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

For we don't have a high priest who can't be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but one who has been in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin.

Let's therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace for help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:15-16

Withstand him steadfast in your faith, knowing that your brothers who are in the world are undergoing the same sufferings.

But may the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

1 Peter 5:9-10

The LORD,
your Redeemer,
the Holy One of Israel, says:
"I am the LORD your God,
who teaches you to profit,
who leads you by the way that you should go.

Oh that you had listened to my commandments!
Then your peace would have been like a river
and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.
Your offspring also would have been as the sand
and the descendants of your body like its grains.
His name would not be cut off nor destroyed from before me.”
Isaiah 48:17-19

When we do sin, which unfortunately will still occur as God pushes us to the limits of our faith to grow us, we need to confess and repent in order for the Spirit to once again fill us and our hearts to be at peace with God. We remember that righteousness is by faith. When we sin against others, called trespassing, we also need to confess to whom we have offended. Those offended should be willing to forgive, remembering all the sins he or she has had forgiven by God. Bitterness only causes harm to ourselves and to others. But with the Lord there is hope because He is merciful. We do not serve a God who delights in watching us fail or who wants to willingly afflict us but who delights in us as His beloved children. God’s heart churns within Him when His children are brought through the consequences of disobedience to Him and His sympathy is stirred up to want to help us.

In the Bible, there are many instances of people who loved God who fell into sin, sometimes in a very serious way, and therefore suffered consequences. But God was willing to restore those who had fallen and bring them back to Him again in great compassion and mercy. We can have a positive view of God and our future because of His willingness to continually help us with whatever we are struggling with when we come to Him in sincerity and humility. Because Jesus has paid for our sins with His blood, He is the one who is our advocate before God the Father, pleading for us on our behalf and continually cleansing us.

A man's steps are established by the LORD.
He delights in his way.
Though he stumble, he shall not fall,
for the LORD holds him up with his hand.
Psalm 37:23-24

for a righteous man falls seven times and rises up again,
but the wicked are overthrown by calamity.
Proverbs 24:16

My little children, I write these things to you so that you may
not sin. If anyone sins, we have a Counselor with the Father,
Jesus Christ, the righteous.
1 John 2:1

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive
us the sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another,
that you may be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous
person is powerfully effective.
James 5:16

If you have sinned, what effect do you have against him?
If your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to him?
If you are righteous, what do you give him?
Or what does he receive from your hand?
Your wickedness may hurt a man as you are,
and your righteousness may profit a son of man.
Job 35:6-8

He doesn't withdraw his eyes from the righteous,

but with kings on the throne,
he sets them forever, and they are exalted.
If they are bound in fetters,
and are taken in the cords of afflictions,
then he shows them their work,
and their transgressions, that they have behaved themselves
proudly.
He also opens their ears to instruction,
and commands that they return from iniquity.
If they listen and serve him,
they will spend their days in prosperity,
and their years in pleasures.
But if they don't listen, they will perish by the sword;
they will die without knowledge.
Job 36:7-12

But if you don't forgive men their trespasses, neither will your
Father forgive your trespasses.
Matthew 6:15

He who conceals his sins doesn't prosper,
but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.
Proverbs 28:13

Have mercy on me, God, according to your loving kindness.
According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out
my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity.
Cleanse me from my sin.
Psalm 51:1-2

Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a right spirit within me.

Don't throw me from your presence,
and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation.
Uphold me with a willing spirit.
Psalm 51:10-12

"How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I make you like Zeboiim?
My heart is turned within me,
my compassion is aroused.
Hosea 11:8

Don't rejoice against me, my enemy.
When I fall, I will arise.
When I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me.
I will bear the indignation of the LORD,
because I have sinned against him,
until he pleads my case and executes judgment for me.
He will bring me out to the light.
I will see his righteousness.
Micah 7:8-9

I create the fruit of the lips:
Peace, peace, to him who is far off and to him who is near,"
says the LORD; "and I will heal them."
But the wicked are like the troubled sea;
for it can't rest and its waters cast up mire and mud.
"There is no peace", says my God,
"for the wicked."
Isaiah 57:19-21

There is always hope with God because He is the God of hope and He is faithful.

Israel, hope in the LORD,
for there is loving kindness with the LORD.
Abundant redemption is with him.
He will redeem Israel from all their sins.
Psalm 130:7-8

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13

Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.
He who goes out weeping, carrying seed for sowing,
will certainly come again with joy, carrying his sheaves.
Psalm 126:5-6

Remember my affliction and my misery,
the wormwood and the bitterness.
My soul still remembers them,
and is bowed down within me.
This I recall to my mind;
therefore I have hope.
It is because of the LORD's loving kindnesses that we are not consumed,
because his mercies don't fail.
They are new every morning.
Great is your faithfulness.
"The LORD is my portion," says my soul.
"Therefore I will hope in him."
The LORD is good to those who wait for him,

to the soul who seeks him.
It is good that a man should hope
and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.
It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.
Let him sit alone and keep silence,
because he has laid it on him.
Let him put his mouth in the dust,
if it is so that there may be hope.
Let him give his cheek to him who strikes him.
Let him be filled full of reproach.
For the Lord will not cast off forever.
For though he causes grief,
yet he will have compassion according to the multitude of his
loving kindnesses.
For he does not afflict willingly,
nor grieve the children of men.
Lamentations 3:19-33

When we humble ourselves before Him, acknowledging that He alone is the source of all love and goodness, our heart can be at peace with Him and we can continually receive His grace.

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."
James 4:6

"Truly I know that it is so,
but how can man be just with God?
If he is pleased to contend with him,
he can't answer him one time in a thousand.
God is wise in heart, and mighty in strength.
Who has hardened himself against him and prospered?
Job 9:2-4

Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;
through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
Romans 5:1-2

For you don't delight in sacrifice, or else I would give it.
You have no pleasure in burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.
O God, you will not despise a broken and contrite heart.
Psalm 51:16-17

For the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity,
whose name is Holy, says:
"I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also who is of a contrite and humble spirit,
to revive the spirit of the humble,
and to revive the heart of the contrite."
Isaiah 57:15

"Yet even now," says the LORD, "turn to me with all your heart,
and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning."
Tear your heart and not your garments,
and turn to the LORD, your God;
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness,
and relents from sending calamity.
Joel 2:12-13

"Come! Let's return to the LORD;
for he has torn us to pieces,
and he will heal us;

he has injured us,
and he will bind up our wounds.
Hosea 6:1

if my people who are called by my name will humble
themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked
ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and
will heal their land.
2 Chronicles 7:14

Israel, return to the LORD your God;
for you have fallen because of your sin.
Take words with you, and return to the LORD.
Tell him, "Forgive all our sins,
and accept that which is good;
so we offer bulls as we vowed of our lips.
Hosea 14:1-2

Jesus taught that he who is forgiven much loves much. This is not
motivation for us to sin but instead a way for us to recognize how
great God's love is despite how much sin we really do commit.
When we come to better understand how much sin we have been
forgiven of, it leads us to love God that much more.

For judgment is without mercy to him who has shown no
mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.
James 2:13

Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven,
for she loved much. But one to whom little is forgiven, loves
little."
Luke 7:47

Chapter 8: What is the Ending?

Because Jesus rose from the dead, believers have the assurance that when we die, we enter into eternal life. Death is not the end, but the beginning. The death of our physical body means that our soul and spirit will be united with Christ in heaven and we will be with Him. Because Jesus lives, we will live also.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies.

Whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more; but you will see me. Because I live, you will live also.

John 14:19

and the dust returns to the earth as it was,
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

We are courageous, I say, and are willing rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:8

This is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ.

John 17:3

In my Father's house are many homes. If it weren't so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you.

If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will receive you to myself; that where I am, you may be there also.

You know where I go, and you know the way."

John 14:2-4

Throughout the rest of our lives, believers can be filled with hope because of the assurance of future goodness that is laid up for us in heaven and the promise of Christ's return to judge the world and reign in righteousness. Although we may have feelings of hopelessness as even Jesus Himself did, our reward and inheritance is certain and our hope is secure.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that doesn't fade away, reserved in Heaven for you,

who by the power of God are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

But I said, "I have labored in vain.

I have spent my strength in vain for nothing;

yet surely the justice due to me is with the LORD,

and my reward with my God."

Isaiah 49:4

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil.

My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and loving kindness shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the LORD's house forever.
Psalm 23:5-6

Why are you in despair, my soul?
Why are you disturbed within me?
Hope in God! For I shall still praise him,
the saving help of my countenance, and my God.
Psalm 42:11

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
and whose confidence is in the LORD.
Jeremiah 17:7

God wants us to be aware that there are many who will try to deceive from the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Evil spirits are behind the work of deceiving the world and God tells us to test the spirits to determine if they are from God. We test the spirits by checking if the message presents Jesus as both fully divine and yet fully man as He was the Word of God who became flesh. The message will also point to Jesus as the focus and will not use Jesus as a way to something or someone else.

Beloved, don't believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit who doesn't confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God; and this is the spirit of the Antichrist, of whom you have heard that it comes. Now it is in the world already.

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world.

1 John 4:1-4

But the Spirit says expressly that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, through the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron, forbidding marriage and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

1 Timothy 4:1-3

For there are certain men who crept in secretly, even those who were long ago written about for this condemnation: ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into indecency, and denying our only Master, God, and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jude 1:4

Test all things, and hold firmly that which is good.

1 Thessalonians 5:21

I fell down before his feet to worship him. He said to me, "Look! Don't do it! I am a fellow bondservant with you and with your brothers who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy."

Revelation 19:10

Now to him who is able to keep them from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory in great joy,

to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

Jude 1:24-25

At the last day, Christ will return and gather together His church to Him. All believers currently living and those who have passed away and are already in His presence will all receive new, glorious heavenly bodies. We will be made like Jesus and will see Him as He is.

This is the will of the one who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6:40

But we don't want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you don't grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

For this we tell you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will in no way precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with God's trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first,

then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. So we will be with the Lord forever.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. Then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

He will send out his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Matthew 24:30

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

For this perishable body must become imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

But when this perishable body will have become imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then what is written will happen: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

"Death, where is your sting?

Hades, where is your victory?"

1 Corinthians 15: 51-55

Beloved, now we are children of God. It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him just as he is.

Everyone who has this hope set on him purifies himself, even as he is pure.

1 John 3:2-3

When Jesus returns, He will reward His followers based on their works at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Those works which were done for God out of a pure motivation of the heart to love Him and

love others, which therefore were accomplished by the working of the Holy Spirit, will be rewarded by God. The works will be tested by fire where works not done out of a pure motivation will be burned up and those works which remain will result in rewards. We will all give an account of ourselves to God. Also, God reminds us to not lose the rewards that He wants us to have meaning that he wants us to persevere to receive the full blessing that He intends for us.

But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

For it is written,

“ ‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘to me every knee will bow.

Every tongue will confess to God.’ ”

So then each one of us will give account of himself to God.

Therefore let’s not judge one another any more, but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block in his brother’s way, or an occasion for falling.

Romans 14:10-13

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

Matthew 25:21

For no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.

But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw,

each man’s work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man’s work is.

If any man's work remains which he built on it, he will receive a reward.

If any man's work is burned, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, but as through fire.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Therefore also we make it our aim, whether at home or absent, to be well pleasing to him.

For we must all be revealed before the judgment seat of Christ that each one may receive the things in the body according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Knowing therefore the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are revealed to God, and I hope that we are revealed also in your consciences.

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who don't confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the Antichrist.

Watch yourselves, that we don't lose the things which we have accomplished, but that we receive a full reward.

2 John 1:7-8

Before Jesus returns, the world will fall farther and farther away from God. There will ultimately be a great falling away from God which will set the stage for a man called the antichrist to arise. He will come to the scene peaceably as one who seems to offer a solution for the world's problems but will actually be acting deceptively to turn people towards him instead of God. The day of the Lord will not come until the antichrist is revealed and decrees that he must be worshiped as God, along with the aid of a false prophet who performs great signs and wonders to deceive the world into worshiping the antichrist and his image. The antichrist

will be allowed by God to reign for three and a half years, during which time God will be plaguing the earth and those who choose to worship the antichrist.

But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Timothy 3:13

Now, brothers, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to him, we ask you not to be quickly shaken in your mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter as if from us, saying that the day of Christ has already come.

Let no one deceive you in any way. For it will not be unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction.

He opposes and exalts himself against all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, setting himself up as God.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

"In his place a contemptible person will stand up, to whom they had not given the honor of the kingdom; but he will come in time of security, and will obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

Daniel 11:21

This short period of evil will culminate in all nations being gathered together to battle against Jerusalem and against God at the battle of Armageddon. The day of the Lord will then come when Jesus returns in power and glory, along with His angels and saints, to destroy the antichrist and all the nations that have assembled together against Him. Jesus will completely destroy all those who are set against Him through the greatness of His power which the

enemies of darkness are no match for. No one knows the exact day or hour when Jesus will return but Jesus told His followers to watch and always be ready for His return.

I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it is called Faithful and True. In righteousness he judges and makes war.

His eyes are a flame of fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has names written and a name written which no one knows but he himself.

He is clothed in a garment sprinkled with blood. His name is called "The Word of God."

The armies which are in heaven, clothed in white, pure, fine linen, followed him on white horses.

Out of his mouth proceeds a sharp, double-edged sword that with it he should strike the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He treads the wine press of the fierceness of the wrath of God, the Almighty.

He has on his garment and on his thigh a name written, "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

Revelation 19:11-16

I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him who sat on the horse and against his army.

The beast was taken, and with him the false prophet who worked the signs in his sight, with which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

The rest were killed with the sword of him who sat on the horse, the sword which came out of his mouth. So all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Revelation 19:19-21

"But immediately after the suffering of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken;

and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. Then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.

He will send out his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Matthew 24:29-31

About these also Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones,

to execute judgment on all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Jude 1:14-15

For, behold, the LORD will come with fire,
and his chariots will be like the whirlwind;
to give his anger with fierceness,
and his rebuke with flames of fire.

For the LORD will execute judgment by fire and by his sword on all flesh;

and those slain by the LORD will be many.

Isaiah 66:15-16

Another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a great voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is prepared unmixed in the cup of his anger. He will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

The smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever. They have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.

Revelation 14:9-11

It will happen in that day that the LORD will punish the army of the high ones on high, and the kings of the earth on the earth.

They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; and after many days they will be visited.

Isaiah 24:21-22

Watch therefore, for you don't know in what hour your Lord comes.

But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched, and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

Therefore also be ready, for in an hour that you don't expect, the Son of Man will come.

Matthew 24:42-44

Behold, a day of the LORD comes, when your plunder will be divided within you.

For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city will be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city will go out into captivity, and the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. His feet will stand in that day on the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, making a very great valley. Half of the mountain will move toward the north, and half of it toward the south. You shall flee by the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azel. Yes, you shall flee, just like you fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. The LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with you. It will happen in that day that there will not be light, cold, or frost. It will be a unique day which is known to the LORD—not day, and not night; but it will come to pass that at evening time there will be light.

Zechariah 14:1-7

Jesus will then reign as ruler on the earth for a thousand years with all past believers as His kings and priests living and reigning with Him. During this reign of peace, Jesus Himself will reign from Jerusalem from His temple where all mankind, Jews and Gentiles alike, will come to seek Him and worship Him. The nations will live in peace with one another, no longer warring against one another. Even the animal kingdom will be changed where predator and prey will now live in harmony.

The earth will be utterly emptied and utterly laid waste; for the LORD has spoken this word.

Isaiah 24:3

and he made us to be a Kingdom, priests to his God and Father—to him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 1:6

I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and such as didn't worship the beast nor his image, and didn't receive the mark on their forehead and on their hand. They lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

The rest of the dead didn't live until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over these, the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with him one thousand years.

Revelation 20:4-5

Then the LORD's ransomed ones will return,
and come with singing to Zion;
and everlasting joy will be on their heads.
They will obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away."

Isaiah 35:10

In that day I will raise up the tent of David who is fallen and close up its breaches, and I will raise up its ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old,
that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name," says the LORD who does this.

Amos 9:11-12

His delight will be in the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge by the sight of his eyes,
neither decide by the hearing of his ears;
but he will judge the poor with righteousness,
and decide with equity for the humble of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
and with the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked.
Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his waist.
The wolf will live with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,
the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together;
and a little child will lead them.
The cow and the bear will graze.
Their young ones will lie down together.
The lion will eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,
and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.
They will not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD,
as the waters cover the sea.
It will happen in that day that the nations will seek the root
of Jesse, who stands as a banner of the peoples; and his
resting place will be glorious.
Isaiah 11:3-10

It shall happen in the latter days, that the mountain of the
LORD's house shall be established on the top of the
mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
and all nations shall flow to it.
Many peoples shall go and say,

“Come, let’s go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
and he will teach us of his ways,
and we will walk in his paths.”
For the law shall go out of Zion,
and the LORD’s word from Jerusalem.
He will judge between the nations,
and will decide concerning many peoples.
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
Isaiah 2:2-4

After this one thousand years, Satan will be allowed to be released to deceive the world one last time to lead away any who would still want to oppose God. This rebellion will be crushed by God and Satan will be cast into the lake of fire for all eternity. All people who have ever lived who did not have faith in God and receive salvation will be resurrected and judged at this time for what is called the Great White Throne Judgment. These will be cast into the lake of fire for all eternity as well to be punished according to their deeds. This is called the second death. All those whose sins are not covered by the blood of Christ by receiving Him as their Lord and Savior will suffer the second death.

The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet are also. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever. I saw a great white throne and him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the sky fled away. There was found no place for them.

I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and they opened books. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works.

The sea gave up the dead who were in it. Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them. They were judged, each one according to his works.

Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

If anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:10-15

But for the cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

Revelation 21:8

The new heavens and new earth will then be created and a new glorious city of Jerusalem, where all the saints will reside, will be created and given to Jesus by God the Father, as a bride given to the bridegroom. All believers will be a part of the marriage supper of the Lamb where we will be clothed in beautiful garments and will get to dine with Jesus and all other believers who have ever lived. God will dwell with us, be our God and forever take away death, sorrow, crying and pain. Death will be eradicated completely at this time. God the Father will put all things under the feet of Jesus who in turn will then give all authority to the Father as God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will dwell with His people in the new heavens and earth for all eternity.

I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away, and the sea is no more.

I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with people; and he will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more. The first things have passed away."

He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." He said, "Write, for these words of God are faithful and true."

Revelation 21:1-5

Let's rejoice and be exceedingly glad, and let's give the glory to him. For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready."

It was given to her that she would array herself in bright, pure, fine linen, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

He said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb.' " He said to me, "These are true words of God."

Revelation 19:7-9

Then the end comes, when he will deliver up the Kingdom to God the Father, when he will have abolished all rule and all authority and power.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

For, "He put all things in subjection under his feet." But when he says, "All things are put in subjection", it is evident that he is excepted who subjected all things to him.

When all things have been subjected to him, then the Son will also himself be subjected to him who subjected all things to him, that God may be all in all.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28

"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;
and the former things will not be remembered,
nor come into mind.

Isaiah 65:17

With all of these glorious promises, we as believers can abound in hope, and with joy inexpressible and full of glory, look forward to our heavenly inheritance and His glorious return.

whom, not having known, you love. In him, though now you don't see him, yet believing, you rejoice greatly with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory,
receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:8-9

He who testifies these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."
Amen! Yes, come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints.
Amen.

Revelation 22: 20-21

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Receiving Life: A Biblical Guide to Knowing God and Walking with Him is a production of Jesus Brings Life Ministry, Inc.
Editing and scripture assistance by Todd Allen.

Scriptures taken from the World English Bible Updated version (WEBU). Any additions in parenthesis by Ian Wishnies.