

# Bread of Life

## Devotional Guide

*Luke 4:4 "And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."*

May 1, 2009

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are in the middle of spring! The tree buds are starting to bloom. The earth looks new and refreshed. It is a time for new beginnings.

I am sure some of you take this opportunity in the year to do some spring cleaning. Maybe you organize your closet space, uproot dead plants from the winter, or get rid of useless papers scattered across your desk. In all your spring cleaning, take a spiritual inventory of your life. Look for sin that needs to be weeded out. David says in Psalms 32:5, "***I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid.***" By looking into God's Word this month and cleaning up the sin in your life, you can gain a fresh new beginning in your walk with Christ!

In Christ,  
Pastor Russ Merrin

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 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

***“In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.” Romans 2:16***

All unrighteousness is sin, but the sin that goes unnoticed by everyone but God is secret sin. In Ecclesiastes, God says He will judge every secret thing, both good and evil.

Secret sin breaks fellowship with God. We lose our joy and peace of salvation. It brings disgrace on the Lord.

Secret sin also leads to greater sin. Many people come under the dominion of sin. ***“His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.” Proverbs 5:22***

Secret sin will be known by God. It will not always be publicly exposed like David’s sin, but it will be dealt with by God. Every secret thing will be judged. ***“Be sure your sin will find you out.” Numbers 32:23.***

Secret sin must be confessed. David said, “I have sinned.” He was repentant. It should be confessed quickly, before there is a long list of unconfessed sin.

Victory over secret sin is won by filling our hearts and minds with the things of God. Scripture memorization, fellowship with other believers, and prayer are all part of this.

Our life will one day tell a story. Flee secret faults for our Father sees in secret.

~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

“Isaiah 53:6 “All we like \_\_\_\_\_ have gone \_\_\_\_\_; we have \_\_\_\_\_ every one to his \_\_\_\_\_ way; and the LORD hath \_\_\_\_\_ on him the iniquity of us all.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. The Apostle Paul was a citizen of what city? Acts 21:39  
A. Corinth      B. Rome  
C. Philippi      D. Cilicia
2. Which of the following acts were the apostles not to do? Matthew 10:5-8  
A. Heal the sick  
B. Go to a city of the Samaritans  
C. Preach  
D. Cast out devils
3. Jesus said, “Feed my sheep,” to whom? John 21:17  
A. James      B. Simon Peter  
C. John      D. Philip
4. From where did John write to the seven churches? Revelation 1:9  
A. Ephesus      B. Smyrna  
C. Patmos      D. Laodicea

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“A house divided against itself cannot stand.”  
~Abraham Lincoln

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Dropping Fear and Worry**

***“The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.”***  
***Psalm 118:6***

What is your greatest fear? In Job 3:25, we can see that Job knew his greatest fear: ***“For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.”*** Fear brings with it worry, torment and trouble without cause. Just reading the following words may cause fear: cancer, A.I.D.S., loneliness, failure, and unemployment. To stop worry, we must drop fear and replace it with faith and trust in God.

We are instructed to take the knife of God’s Word and cut out the fears that worry us and hinder our service for God. Isaiah 12:2 says, ***“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.”*** When fear knocks on the door of our life, we must send faith to answer it.

Let’s direct the focus to a couple of main fears. First, we need to drop the fear of DESTRUCTION. Some people are afraid to travel because of potential accidents. Some people are constantly afraid of hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and fires. Why be afraid of what we can’t control? The safest place to be is in the center of God’s will, even though it may be on the fault line. Secondly, we need to drop the fear of our ENEMIES. Everybody who is doing anything has made enemies. Do you fear yours? David said in Psalm 3:6, ***“I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round***

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

***about.”*** Third, we need to drop the fear of WAR. Are you building a bomb shelter, or are you trusting God? Psalm 27:3 says, ***“Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.”*** Finally, we need to let go of the fear of NIGHT. Psalm 91:5a says, ***“Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night.”***

When we drop fear, we must replace it with something, and that involves picking up faith. Next, erase worry by resting in God’s providence (Ps. 37:5). ~JWL

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Isaiah 53:6 “All we like \_\_\_\_\_ have gone \_\_\_\_\_; we have \_\_\_\_\_ every one to his \_\_\_\_\_ way; and the LORD hath \_\_\_\_\_ on him the \_\_\_\_\_ of us all.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**True or False.** Label each statement with a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

- \_\_\_ 1. Some of the work we do for the Lord can be in vain. 1 Cor. 15:58
- \_\_\_ 2. Jesus appeared to the disciples after they had fished all night. John 21:3-8
- \_\_\_ 3. God told Jeremiah that He knew him before he was born. Jer. 1:1-5
- \_\_\_ 4. Mary Magdalene saw Christ on the first day of His resurrection. Matthew 28:1-10



 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

“Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Acts 15:26

As testimony was given about Paul and Barnabas, they were described as people who had hazarded their lives for the name of Jesus Christ. Paul and Barnabas were so committed to the work of the ministry that they were willing to put their lives in danger for the cause of Christ.

Not every Christian in Paul’s day was willing to experience danger for the sake of the Gospel. At times, Paul went hungry and lacked clothing. He was beaten, shipwrecked, and jailed multiple times. He was even stoned and left for dead. Apparently, being an apostle did not come with the perks that one might expect. The fact is that Paul experienced constant trouble for the name of Christ. Through it all, he never quit. What would give someone that kind of commitment? Let me share three things that will enable us to have Paul’s kind of commitment:

1. He remembered the sacrifice that Christ had made for him.
2. He remembered how God changed his life. We will never be able to achieve that kind of commitment without remembering what Christ has done for us.
3. He knew that Christ could do the same for others.

How is your commitment? Is it worthy of Christ’s sacrifice? ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalms 37:23-24 “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Bible Knowledge.** Fill in the blank(s) with the correct answer.

1. What were the names of Job’s friends who came to “comfort” him? Job 2:11  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jesus was in the tomb for \_\_\_\_\_ days and \_\_\_\_\_ nights. Matt. 12:38-40
3. Jesus questioned Peter \_\_\_\_\_ times about his love for the Lord. John 21:15-17
4. Moses was from the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_. Exodus 2:1-10
5. Who were the first three patriarchs? Acts 7:8  
 A. \_\_\_\_\_  
 B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 C. \_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

~John Adams



Morning: 1 Kings 6, 7

Evening: Luke 23:27-38

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish.”*

*Jonah 1:1-3*

During my years in college, I was part of an athletic team. In addition to the regular practice schedule, it was required to run three miles every week. Three miles a week is not really that much, but for someone who does not like to run, it is a big deal. To make sure I would get it done, I measured out the blocks in my neighbourhood up to a half-mile away. When I would get to the point, I would turn around and run home. I would do this three times a week. As I would run to that spot, it would seem like I was never going to get there. The run back, however, seemed so much shorter. I knew that I was getting close to home.

The LORD told Jonah to go to Nineveh, but Jonah decided to RUN FROM GOD. The City of Nineveh was to the east of Jonah’s neighbourhood. The City of Tarshish was way to the west of Jonah’s neighbourhood. For a while, Jonah must have thought that running from God was a good idea. He even had time to take a nap. Before too long, however, through a violent storm, a toss overboard, and a weekend stay in the belly of a great fish, he would soon find out that running from God was really much longer than the run home. Where are you today? Are you running from God? Running from God is the longest run of all. If you do not turn around, you might have a “whale” of a story to tell. ~PMO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalms 37:23-24 “The \_\_\_\_\_ of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delightheth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. Who was the prophet that was very hairy and wore a leather belt? 2 Kings 1:8  
A. Peter      B. Elijah  
C. David      D. John the Baptist
2. Why did Jesus say the blind man was born without sight? John 9:1-3  
A. His sin      B. Parent’s sin  
C. Disease      D. For God’s glory
3. Which tribe of Israel had 700 left-handed men who could sling a stone at a hair and hit it? Judges 20:14-16  
A. Reuben      B. Levi  
C. Dan      D. Benjamin
4. What king allowed Jeremiah to be put in a dungeon where he sank in the mire? Jeremiah. 38:5-6  
A. Zedekiah      B. David  
C. Abimelech      D. Melchizedek

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“God always gives the best to those who leave the choice to Him” ~Author Unknown



Morning: 1 Kings 8, 9

Evening: Luke 23:39-56

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Perseverance**

*“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”*

*II Timothy 4:7*

“Quitters never win, and winners never quit.” It is vital that a young person realize that it is always right to finish a job. Many start college and then drop out. Many start certain tasks and quit before they are completed. The Apostle Paul said, “I have finished my course.” He meant that he had finished what God had called him to do.

In Jesus’ life there was one great goal, and that was to die on the cross. In John 2:19, He spoke of the destruction of the temple (his body) and raising it after three days. In Mark 9:1-13, we see that He talked with Elijah and Moses on the mount of transfiguration, concerning His coming death. In Gethsemane, He prayed, *“If it be possible, let this cup pass from me.”* (Matthew 26:39) He was “persevering” and yet there was the temptation not to persevere. He said, *“Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”* (Luke 22:42) He wouldn’t quit! He kept on until His purpose was fulfilled. Jesus did not quit, and we should not quit. This is vital in the Christian life! Fight the good fight; finish the course; keep the faith! ~OV

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalm 37:23-24 “The \_\_\_\_\_ of a good man are \_\_\_\_\_ by the LORD: and he

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**True or False.** Label each statement with a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

- \_\_\_ 1. A tree is known by the fruit it bears. Matthew 12:33
- \_\_\_ 2. Jesus was never baptized. Matt. 3:16
- \_\_\_ 3. It is stated in the Bible that money is the root of all evil. 1 Tim. 6:10
- \_\_\_ 4. Great men are not always wise. Job 32:9
- \_\_\_ 5. It is possible to rob God. Malachi 3:8
- \_\_\_ 6. The borrower is servant to the lender. Proverbs 22:7
- \_\_\_ 7. Jacob was father of twelve sons. Genesis 35:22
- \_\_\_ 8. Benjamin was the favorite son of Jacob. Genesis 37:3

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“God grades on the cross, not the curve.”  
~Anonymous



Morning: 1 Kings 10, 11

Evening: Luke 24:1-35

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**“Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?”**

**Amos 3:6**

In ancient days, many cities had a tower which served as an early warning system for attacks from without. A watchman was posted there to observe the surrounding plains. Seeing an enemies’ advance, he would sound the trumpet—warning the people to prepare for an attack.

Amos was serving in such capacity to the nation Israel. God called him from out of the fields as a farmer in Judah to warn Israel of God’s judgment. Under the leadership of Jeroboam, the Northern ten tribes (Israel) fell into idolatry and Baal worship. Amos was sent as watchmen to call these people to repent of their sin and return to Jehovah.

In the two chapters before this, he has pronounced God’s judgment on the surrounding nations, and now he is bringing it home. Israel was glad to hear of God’s judgment upon their enemies. After pronouncing God’s wrath against their neighbours, Amos addresses some specific sin within the borders of Israel. He was sounding the trumpet of warning.

The same such warning is being sounded (although not nearly often or loud enough) across our nation. God, through the voice of His Word and sound preaching, is calling our nation to repent and return to Him before the judgment comes. Are we as a nation listening? More importantly, are you listening? If the people hear the trumpet and prepare for battle, they might be saved. Unfortunately, so many

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

today have forgotten what the call even sounds like. Hear the trumpet; repent of your sin, and get ready for the battle. ~DJJ

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalm 37:23-24 “The \_\_\_\_\_ of a good man are \_\_\_\_\_ by the LORD: and he \_\_\_\_\_ in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. Who did Ruth marry after her first husband died? Ruth 4:9-10  
A. Mahlon      B. Elimelech  
C. Boaz         D. Pharez
2. When Hezekiah was sick unto death, what prophet told him that he was going to die? 2 Kings 20:1  
A. Ezekiel      B. Joel  
C. Daniel       D. Isaiah
3. Who asked God, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Genesis 4:9  
A. Cain          B. Able  
C. Simeon       D. Reuben

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“To come to Christ costs nothing, to follow Christ cost something, but to serve Christ costs everything.” ~M. R. DeHaan



Morning: 1 Kings 12, 13

Evening: Luke 24:36-53

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**There Is Only One Way:  
Is That Too Narrow-Minded?**

*"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*

Acts 4:12

Christian leaders who appear on secular television talk shows are often asked whether they believe Jesus is the only way to heaven. If the answer is, "Yes, Jesus is the only way," the interviewer often paints the Christian as intolerant, arrogant, narrow-minded, out-dated, and fanatical. But if the interviewer were talking to a physician who had made a medical breakthrough for a terrible disease, he probably would not say, "*Doctor, how intolerant to think this is the only cure for this disease!*" If he were talking to a mathematician about the multiplication table, he would not say, "*Professor, how can you be so arrogant as to believe that three times three always equals nine.*"

By its very nature, truth is narrow, precise, and factual. Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*" (John 14:6) In this day of pluralism and political correctness, it's important to know that Christ is still the only One who can save from sin. Do you think God would have given His own Son, the Lord Jesus, to suffer and die for our sins, pay our debt in full, be buried, rise again, and be seen by hundreds if there had been some other way?

God help us if we preach anything else but the Gospel of Jesus and Him alone for salvation. Trust in Christ alone, and trust Him today. ~CSW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalms 37:23-24 "The \_\_\_\_\_ of a good man are \_\_\_\_\_ by the LORD: and he \_\_\_\_\_ in his way. Though he \_\_\_\_\_, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand."

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

- Who prepared chariots and horses and hired 50 footmen to run ahead him, inducing Israel to make him king?  
2 Samuel 15:1  
A. Absalom    B. Elijah  
C. Ahab        D. Cyrus
- Who was a mighty warrior and hunter before the Lord? Gen. 10:9  
A. Gomer        B. Jonathan  
C. Nimrod       D. Esau
- To whom did God give the covenant of circumcision? Genesis 17:9,10  
A. Jacob        B. Abraham  
C. Lot            D. Adam
- Whose wife turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back? Gen 19:16-26  
A. Lot            B. Abram  
C. Nahor        D. Noah

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Live as though Christ died yesterday, rose from the grave today, and is coming back tomorrow." ~Theodore Epp



Morning: 1 Kings 14, 15

Evening: John 1:1-28

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labor that I had labored to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 2:11*

This reminds me of Psalm 127:1, *“Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.”* All the work we do here on earth by our hands is temporary, unless it is through and for the Lord Jesus Christ.

We must be careful to lay up treasure in heaven. This includes all that we do for the Lord. It will be eternally rewarded. On the other hand, our careers and life’s work are generally for our self existence. Doing this work is not wrong; in fact, the Bible says, “If you don’t work, you don’t eat.” Although it is not wrong and it is necessary for survival, the reward is only temporary, and it will one day vanish away.

You will never see a U-Haul truck following a hearse because we cannot take anything with us. All of our material possessions will be left behind.

Some people work a lifetime without ever learning this principle. It will be a sad day when they review their treasure in heaven. Only those things done for the Lord will be rewarded in heaven.

Laying up treasure in heaven will require many steps of faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, *“Without faith it is impossible to please God.”* Rich eternal rewards will only result from a faithful life of service. ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Psalm 37:23-24 “The \_\_\_\_\_ of a good man are \_\_\_\_\_ by the LORD: and he \_\_\_\_\_ in his way. Though he \_\_\_\_\_, he shall not be utterly cast \_\_\_\_\_: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Bible Knowledge.** Fill in the blank(s) with the correct answer.

1. “For a thousand \_\_\_\_\_ in thy sight are but as \_\_\_\_\_ when it is past, and as a \_\_\_\_\_ in the night. Psalms 90:4
2. “But know that the LORD hath \_\_\_\_\_ apart him that is \_\_\_\_\_ for himself: the LORD will \_\_\_\_\_ when I call unto him.” Psalms 4:3
3. “The LORD \_\_\_\_\_; and blessed be my Rock; and let the God of my \_\_\_\_\_ be exalted.” Psalms 18:46
4. “For in the time of \_\_\_\_\_ he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the \_\_\_\_\_ of his tabernacle shall he \_\_\_\_\_ me; he shall set me up upon a rock.” Psalms 27:5

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“It is not enough to do God’s work; it must be done in His way and for His credit.”

~ Erwin Lutzer



Morning: 1 Kings 16-18

Evening: John 1:29-51

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**A Broken Spirit**

*“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” Psalm 51:17*

God picks up the broken pieces of our lives, sheds tears for our mistakes, holds them in His mighty hands, and says these are the sacrifices I need in order to mold you into what I can use. The meaning of sacrifice is to destroy, surrender or suffer—to be lost for the sake of obtaining something. Now, how many of us truly sacrifice for God. What Jesus did at the cross was a true sacrifice! A broken spirit means our heart and spirit are depressed or crushed by grief or despair. I imagine God’s heart felt that way when His Son was on the cross. Let’s look at the word *contrite*. *Contrite* means to be deeply affected with grief and sorrow for having offended God. It grieves me to think of how many times we have failed God.

My fellow laborers in Christ, all God wants from us is that broken heart and spirit. If we surrender and destroy that old nature, let our heart grieve over the sin in our lives, and know how we have caused God to grieve, too; then, just maybe we can give God our all. I challenge you to strive for a broken and contrite heart for the things of God. ~KAT

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Psalm 37:23-24 “The \_\_\_\_\_ of a good man are \_\_\_\_\_ by the LORD: and he

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

\_\_\_\_\_ in his way. Though he \_\_\_\_\_, he shall not be utterly cast \_\_\_\_\_: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

- Who persuaded Deborah to help him fight Jabin’s army? Judges 4:1-9  
A. Barak      B. Sisera  
C. Balaam      D. Jael
- Which judge cut down the idols of his father, whose name was Joash? Judges 6:25-27  
A. Samson      B. Tola  
C. Gideon      D. Eli
- Who led Israel after Gideon’s son Abimelech was killed? Judges 10:1  
A. Tola      B. Jair  
C. Samson      D. Gideon
- Which judge killed more people in his death than in his life? Judges 16:30  
A. Eli      B. Samson  
C. Samuel      D. Shamgar

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“In one sense, it is possible ‘to be so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly good,’ but in a much deeper sense, it is impossible to be of any real earthly good unless we are heavenly minded.” ~John McArthur



## **Five Factors for Quality Time** *By Sumner Wemp*

Christianity is not a legal relationship. It is a love relationship. Ten thousand “do not’s” will never make you one iota more like the Lord Jesus Christ. It is Jesus Himself who makes you like Him, but you need to spend time with Him. I want to give you five factors for spending some quiet time with Him each day.

### **The Proper Period**

You must find the right time. Your quiet time should last at least half an hour, but some time is better than no time. If you can’t start at thirty minutes, begin with ten. It should be your very best time. Don’t give the Lord your leftovers, and don’t try to find time—make time, and make it a priority. Also, find time early in the day. Psalm 5:3 says, “*...In the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up.*” You don’t take the trip, and then read the map. Do you? Spend time alone with God to begin your day.

### **The Proper Preparation**

A quiet time is fellowship with a holy God. There are a few things you can do to be prepared for this time. First, be physically alert. Make time when the cobwebs are out of your mind and you can think clearly. Second, be mentally aware. Be focused, and know He’s there. Emotion doesn’t really have all that much to do with it. And third, be morally pure and clean. Some people don’t have a quiet time because they feel uncomfortable looking God in the face with sin in their lives.

### **The Proper Place**

Find a place where you can focus. Jesus said enter into your closet and pray (see Matthew 6:6). That simply means find a place of isolation where you can shut the door on the world and open the windows to heaven. Jesus sought out places where He could be alone, and so should you.

### **The Proper Provisions**

In order to have an effective quiet time, you need the right tools. Here are some tools I use:

- A readable Bible - Invest in one with plenty of room to jot notes in the margins.
- A prayer journal - Expect God to give you something, and write it down. Also, use it to record things you’re praying about.
- A notepad - Write down your daily assignments.

### **The Proper Procedure**

Finally, may I recommend some procedures to follow in your quiet time? Get still and quiet. The Bible says in Psalm 46:10, “*Be still, and know that I am God.*” Focus your mind on Him. Calm down, relax, **and recognize His presence**. Take a deep breath and focus your thoughts on the Lord. Get into the Word of God. It’s better to start by reading the Bible than it is to start in prayer. It is more important for you to hear from God, even than for God to hear from you.

(See **Five Factors** on page 27)

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” Joshua 3:5*

In this passage, the children of Israel were on the brink of entering the Promised Land. Joshua said sanctify yourselves today so that you can be ready for the great things that will happen tomorrow.

God had great plans for the children of Israel. They could not begin to understand all the blessings that the Lord their God had in store for them. Before they could experience all the blessings, they needed to sanctify themselves.

To sanctify something is to set it aside for the use of God. The vessels that were used in the temple were set aside only to be used for the sacrifices and offerings during worship.

Here the nation was called to set themselves apart for the glory of God. Do you want God to do great things in your life? The Israelites had to sanctify themselves before God could bless them. If we do not set ourselves apart, how can we expect God to do great things in our lives. Is your life set apart? Is God’s glory the most important thing to you? Are your gifts, talents, and resources set aside for God’s use? The children of Israel sanctified themselves, and the Lord did great things among them. ~DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Philippians 2:14-15 “Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**True or False.** Label each statement with a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

- \_\_\_ 1. A talebearer revealeth secrets.  
Proverbs 11:13
- \_\_\_ 2. Shame comes after pride.  
Proverbs 11:2
- \_\_\_ 3. A foolish son makes a glad father.  
Proverbs 10:1
- \_\_\_ 4. Hope deferred makes a heart happy.  
Proverbs 13:12
- \_\_\_ 5. Correction is appreciated to him that forsakes the way. Proverbs 15:10
- \_\_\_ 6. A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city.  
Proverbs 18:19

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“You might as well try to hear without ears or breathe without lungs, as to try to live a Christian life without the Spirit of God in your heart.” ~D.L. Moody

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish’s belly...But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.” Jonah 2:1, 9*

In the 1994 remake movie entitled, *Angels in the Outfield*, there is a scene with the manager of the California Angels playing baseball in a sandlot with a group of neighbourhood kids. After asking for the next batter, the manager decided that the smallest kid on the lot was going to be next. Little Marvin steps to the plate and gets a hit. While he is standing on first base, a rather large kid comes to bat and hits the ball a long way. In an attempt to get little Marvin running, the manager starts yelling, “Run home! Run Home!” The “wheels” in little Marvin’s head begin to turn as he begins to say, “Run home, run home, run home.” So, he runs toward second base, past second base, through the outfield, and down the street. Little Marvin ran home.

Although Jonah did not have the ability to run while in the belly of the whale, in his mind he was running home. “I will sacrifice unto thee...I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.” Since running from God did not quite work out the way Jonah thought it would, he decided to RUN TO GOD.

In life, when things are a bit confusing and intimidating, remember running from God will only get you closer to a fall. Running to God is the shortest run of all. He will be ready to receive you with open arms. Run home, wayward Christian, run home! ~PMO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Philippians 2:14-15 “Do all things without \_\_\_\_\_ and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. Which king destroyed Nehushtan, the bronze snake that Moses had made?  
2 Kings 18:1-4  
A. Hezekiah    B. Jehoshaphat  
C. Joash        D. Josiah
2. What king asked God to make the shadow go back 10 degrees?  
2 Kings 20:10  
A. Zedekiah    B. Manasseh  
C. Hezekiah    D. Josiah
3. Who became king at the age of eight?  
2 Kings 22:1  
A. Joash        B. Josiah  
C. Solomon     D. Jehoshaphat
4. Which prophet tried to get Zedekiah to turn from his sin? 2 Chronicles 36:11-12  
A. Jeremiah    B. Isaiah  
C. Elijah        D. Elisha

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“If the Holy Spirit guides us, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them.” ~George Mueller





### Jehoshaphat Led Judah in a Great Revival

*“And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah. Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes... to teach in the cities of Judah. And with them he sent Levites . . . and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests. And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people.”*

**2 Chronicles 17:6-9**

It is a wonderful thing to read how Jehoshaphat decided to teach the people of Judah the ways of the Lord. He taught them to do away with idolatry, and he turned the nation away from sin. In the third year of his reign, Jehoshaphat sent princes, Levites, and priests with the book of the law in their hands to teach in the cities of Judah. This caused the fear of God to fall upon the Philistines and the Arabians. In response to this fear, a wonderful revival began in the people’s lives.

When a revival comes into the hearts of the people, look out for the devil. He is about to cause some trouble. When a church is growing spiritually, look out for the devil. When a home is peaceful and running smoothly, look out for the devil. When a life is being blessed of God, look out for the devil. When revival is in progress, look out for the devil. The fact that God is with us means that oftentimes we will be objects of Satan’s temptation even more. The person who is doing something for



God is the one that Satan wants to attack. Proverbs 6:26 says, *“For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.”*

Be careful dear friend, when God begins to use you, Satan will make you the object of his attacks. ~OV



Philippians 2:14-15 “Do all things without \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”



**Bible Knowledge.** Fill in the blank(s) with the correct answer.

1. “A \_\_\_\_\_ witness shall not be unpunished, and he that \_\_\_\_\_ lies shall not escape.” Prov. 19:5
2. “Hear \_\_\_\_\_, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be \_\_\_\_\_ in thy latter end.” Proverbs. 19:20
3. “Wine is a \_\_\_\_\_, strong \_\_\_\_\_ is raging: and whosoever is \_\_\_\_\_ thereby is not wise.” Prov. 20:1



“The best way to make citizens good is to convert them to Christ.” ~William Penn



Morning: 2 Kings 4, 5

Evening: John 4:1-30

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*

The stock markets crash. The government gives “bail-outs” to industry after industry. Wars continue and begin. The family is under constant attack, and some are saying, “What is going on?” That is a question many in the world are asking right now. Even the saints may be asking themselves the same question.

Jesus told us over two thousand years ago: “In the world ye shall have tribulation,” and knowing He is Truth, we should not be at all surprised by what we see. The problem is not understanding Jesus’ foreknowledge, but the challenge is having peace in the midst of the turmoil. We must begin with this truth: Jesus allows and controls all that happens.

No time in history has been without its tribulation, from the time of the flood and the tower of Babel to the plagues of the Middle Ages and the U.S. Civil War. People have stood looking to the sky crying, “Why God, why!” In every instance, God is in control.

The disciples frantically sought the Master as the waters of the sea threatened their boat. In their minds, doom was one wave away. Yet, with the peace of a father who has “seen it all before,” Jesus rebukes the sea, and all is at peace.

Today is no different. The waves of financial trouble, political unrest, and moral collapse compass us about, but we need only to look to our Saviour. If we will listen, we can hear Him tenderly speak to us, saying, “Yes, there is

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

trouble, but **I AM in control.**” He has overcome the world; trust Him. ~DJJ

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Philippians 2:14-15 “Do all things without \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: That ye may be \_\_\_\_\_ and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

- Who was Pharaoh’s firstborn son?  
Exodus 12:29  
A. Moses      B. The LORD  
C. Aaron      D. The Pharaoh
- What came out of the rock that Moses struck with his staff at Meribah?  
Exodus 17:5-7  
A. Honey      B. Quail  
C. Manna      D. Water
- What happened to Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu, for burning incense when they were not supposed to? Lev. 10:1-2  
A. Consumed by fire  
B. Swallowed them  
C. Shut off from people  
D. Smitten with leprosy

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Let my heart be broken with the things that break God’s heart.” ~Bob Pierce



Morning: 2 Kings 6-8

Evening: John 4:31-54

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

***“In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people.”***

***1 Kings 3:5,9***

This is another portion of Scripture that reveals to me my selfishness, arrogance, and pride. Honestly, without stopping to think about it, I don't think I would have asked for wisdom first. Solomon spends verses 6-8 reflecting on his father's heart for God and on God's sovereignty. Then, with a heart for God, he asks for wisdom.

All through Scripture we see the value of wisdom. In every case, it produces rewards. Why? Because, with it we make right decisions. Nowhere can we find where man's knowledge or "wisdom" trumps God's. All through Proverbs, we see where God's wisdom proves man wrong. If Daniel had relied on man's wisdom instead of God's, the book of Daniel would never have been written. He would have had his head lopped off right away. We see our government officials making decisions every day based on the "wisdom" of man. Each decision they make brings about a whole new set of problems. Their answer is to spend more money on the problem. The result is a deeper and deeper hole. 1 Timothy 6:10 says, ***“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”***

James said that if we ask God for wisdom,

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

He will give generously. The only catch is that we have to ask by faith. When Solomon asked for wisdom, he did so with complete faith never wavering, trusting wholly in an Almighty, Sovereign God who is the source of all Wisdom. Proverbs 2:6 says, ***“For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”***

~JW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Philippians 2:14-15 “Do all things without \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: That ye may be \_\_\_\_\_ and harmless, the sons of God, without \_\_\_\_\_, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**True or False.** Label each statement with a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

- \_\_\_ 1. He that covereth his sins will not prosper. Proverbs 28:13
- \_\_\_ 2. A man's pride will give him confidence. Proverbs 29:23
- \_\_\_ 3. There is nothing new under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Worship is not what I get out of a service, but what I give to God when I worship Him.”

~Anonymous



Morning: 2 Kings 9-11

Evening: John 5:1-24

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.” Psalm 34:18*

You can be sure when you are broken hearted that Jesus Christ is near. This is such a wonderful promise to those that mourn.

Psalm 50:15 says, *“And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.”* In Matthew 5:4, we find, *“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”* And finally, 1 Peter 5:7 says, *“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.”*

God does care about you, and He is always near the broken-hearted. He also loves those that are of a contrite (repentant) spirit. King David was broken and grieved by his sin. Adam was guilty and hid from God. Peter was discouraged and quit the ministry. However, God restored each man, and He will restore you also, when you repent.

Believers will be afflicted and hurt, but they will be delivered. Hurtful situations will draw us closer to God if we do not harden our hearts.

The Holy Spirit is a comforter. God delights in healing our hurts. Just as a mother tenderly caresses her crying child, God also surrounds the broken hearted with tender care.

God is so good! Cry unto Him, and He will hear! ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Philippians 2:14-15 “Do all things without \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: That ye may be \_\_\_\_\_ and harmless, the sons of God, without \_\_\_\_\_, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye \_\_\_\_\_ as lights in the world.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. What was Ezra’s profession before he rebuilt the temple? Ezra 7:6  
A. Scribe      B. Cupbearer  
C. Priest      D. Carpenter
2. What was the name of the queen that Esther replaced? Esther 2:17  
A. Candace      B. Queen of Sheba  
C. Vashti      D. Athaliah
3. Who stopped Bigthana and Teresh from assassinating King Zerxes? Esther 6:2  
A. Haman      B. Mordecai  
C. Vashti      D. Susa
4. Which king ate grass like a cow? Daniel 4:33  
A. Darius      B. David  
C. Cyrus      D. Nebuchadnezzar

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."  
~Ronald Reagan



Morning: 2 Kings 12-14

Evening: John 5:25-47

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Fear of the Unknown**

*“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”*

*Hebrews 11:7*

The fear of the unknown can be overwhelming. When I graduated from college, I had a couple of job offers and so many dreams. However, I was not sure where God wanted me and what He wanted me to do. So, after gathering information and prayer, I had to take a step in a direction, not knowing what would be my ultimate destiny.

Noah had to face fears of the unknown. Let’s imagine some of his questions: What is rain? When will the flood come? When will it end? How much time do I have? What is an ark? How can I build such a big boat when I have never even seen one? Are all of my friends really going to perish? All types of questions must have ran through His mind when God said in Genesis 6:13-14a, *“And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood.”*

All of Noah’s questions are not nearly as important as his response in Genesis 6:22, *“Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”* He obeyed, and he obeyed in entirety.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

What is God asking you to do? Maybe the task requires facing the unknown. Face your fears, and trust in God’s all-knowing plan. He knew the end of “Noah and the Flood,” and He knows the end of your story. Trust Him, and obey! ~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Philippians 2:14-15 “Do all things without \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: That ye may be \_\_\_\_\_ and harmless, the sons of God, without \_\_\_\_\_, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ in the world.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Bible Knowledge.** Fill in the blank(s) with the correct answer.

1. In Isaiah 14:12—14, what did Satan say in his heart.
  - a. I will \_\_\_\_\_ into heaven.
  - b. I will \_\_\_\_\_ my throne.
  - c. I will \_\_\_\_\_ also upon the mount of the congregation.
  - d. I will \_\_\_\_\_ above the heights of the clouds.
  - e. I will \_\_\_\_\_ the Most High.

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“We have a God who delights in impossibilities.” ~ Billy Sunday

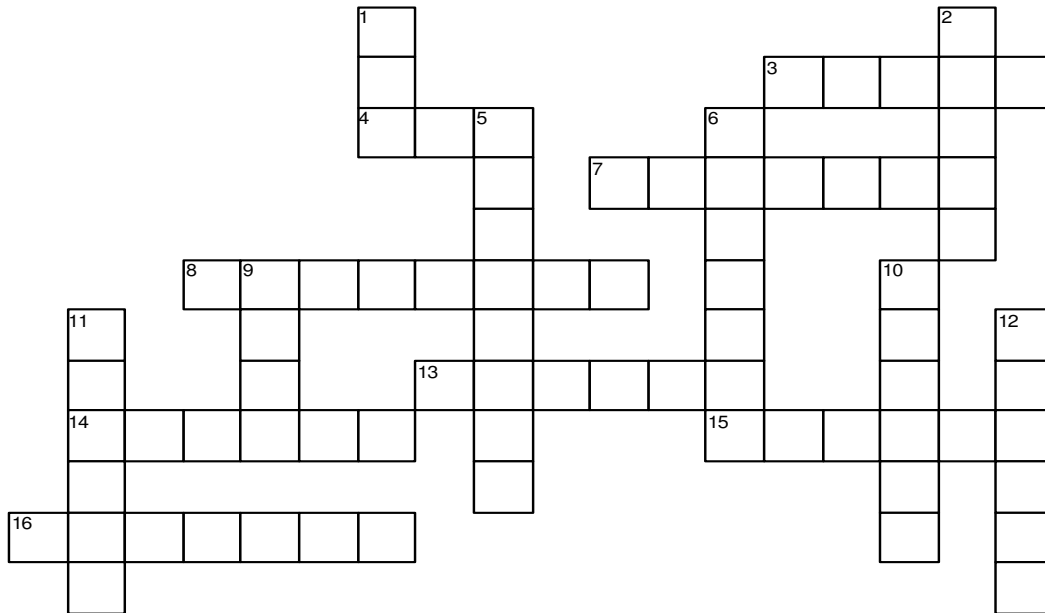


Morning: 2 Kings 15-17

Evening: John 6:1-21

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### *Life and Times of Samson*



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

#### ACROSS

- 3 Philistines boasted their pagan god delivered Samson. Who was their god? (Judges 16:23)
- 4 Manoah was from this family. (Judges 13:2)
- 7 The Philistines did this to Samson. (Judges 16:21)
- 8 Samson used a jawbone to kill how many men? (Judges 15:16)
- 13 A Nazarite should not drink this liquid. (Numbers 6:3)
- 14 How many men did Samson kill stated in Judges 14:19?
- 15 This man was betrayed by his tribe. (Judges 15:10-13)
- 16 She nagged Samson about his strength in Judges 16:10.

#### DOWN

- 1 He led Samson to the pillars that held up the house. (Judges 16:26)
- 2. Samson was bound with these. (Judges 15:13)
- 5. Samson was one of these from birth. (Judges 13:5)
- 6 Samson took hold of these to bring the house down. (Judges 16:29-30)
- 9 A Nazarite man should not cut this. (Num. 6:5)
- 10 Samson was taken from this place to make sport for the Philistines. (Judges 16:25)
- 11 Samson was buried next to him. (Judges 16:31)
- 12 Who was the father of Samson? (Judges 13:21-24)



### Stones of Remembrance

*“That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.”*

*Joshua 4:24*

As the children of Israel passed over Jordan, God told Joshua to pick twelve men and to have each of the twelve men pick up a stone from the middle of the Jordan River. God told them to take the stones and to keep them for a memorial. Joshua explained that the purpose of the stones was to help the people remember what the Lord had done for them. So when their children asked them what was the meaning of the stones, they could tell their children how God had delivered them with His mighty hand.

God wanted to make sure that His people would remember what He had done for them, so that all the people of every generation would know and fear the Lord. Why was this so important to God? He understands that our tendency is to do things our own way, to forget all that He has done for us. He knew that there would be temptation for the children of Israel to trust in the gods of the nations around them. If we fail to remember His mighty works, it is likely that we will fail to trust Him in the future.

So, my question to you is where are your stones of remembrance? Do you have an answered prayer, a miraculous event, a verse of Scripture to cling to? Have you shared them with your children and your grandchildren? Find your stones and display them for all to see so God can receive the glory. ~DLW



Ecclesiastes 7:8 “Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.”



**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. What happened to Korah, Dathan, and Abiram? Numbers 16:30-32
  - A. Fire consumed them
  - B. A plague destroyed them
  - C. They were stoned to death
  - D. The earth swallowed them
2. Who were the magicians that opposed Moses? 2 Timothy 3:8
  - A. Jannes and Jambres
  - B. The sons of thunder
  - C. Zeus and Hermes
  - D. Phygelus and Hermogenes
3. When Moses died at the age of 120, where was he buried? Deut. 34:6
  - A. In Moab, but no one knows where
  - B. Mount Sinai
  - C. Mount Hor
  - D. Under the temple



“The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.” ~Hudson Taylor



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

***“And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh.” Jonah 3:1-3***

In college, since I was required to run three miles a week, I began to lose some weight. Although I did not like to run, I did begin to like the results of running, and so, I started doing some extra running not required by my team. Despite the fact that I wanted to run, it did not make the running any easier. I still had to endure the physical stress that running naturally creates. To combat this difficulty, I asked a friend to run with me. Having a partner by my side did nothing to prevent the normal, physical stress, but it sure did wonders for my mental stress.

Preaching to Nineveh, would not have been any easier for Jonah to do the second time as it would have been the first time. However, because he was now RUNNING WITH GOD, it must have helped his mental state. It has been said, “The most miserable person in the world is not the unsaved man, but the saved man who is running from God.” Once Jonah figured out that running from God was not a good idea and that running to God was always an option, he quickly realized that running with God made his life much less stressful.

Sure, the task that God has asked you to do might not be easy, but knowing that God is with you is a relief. So, will you run with God? Trying to make it on your own is too difficult; run with God. ~PMO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Ecclesiastes 7:8 “Better is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**True or False.** Label each statement with a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. God said His word was like a fire and a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces. Jeremiah 23:29
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. “Is there anything too hard for me?” Jeremiah 32:17
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Jonah obeyed God the first time when God told him to go to Nineveh. Jonah 1:2
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time. Jonah 3:1-2
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The people of Nineveh did not believe God when Jonah preached to them. Jonah 3:5
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. A man that withholds tithes and offerings from God is a robber. Malachi 3:8

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Christ is the seal of God’s revealed truth, the finality of all that the Father has spoken. Beyond Him, God has nothing more to say to man.” ~Merrill C. Tenny

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Giving**

***“And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.” 1 Kings 17:15***

Read 1 Kings 17:1-16

The Lord spoke to this lady, commanding her to give sustenance to the Lord’s prophet Elijah. The drought, of course, had affected the godly as well as the ungodly, and God wanted to sustain His own.

When Elijah came to the home of the widow, he asked for some water to drink. Of her precious water, the lady readily gave a drink to the man of God. When Elijah asked for some bread to eat, however, the lady informed him that she did not have any bread to give. In fact, she had only enough to make a last meal for her and her son, before inevitable death would come upon both of them due to starvation.

Elijah said, ***“... make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.”*** The lady obeyed, giving of her substance first to the prophet of the Lord and then taking the remainder for her son and herself. The Bible says that from that time on, the meal in the barrel and the oil in the cruse did not “waste” nor “fail” until the rain came again. The lady worked her division problem according to God’s commandment, and God gave her the result – He multiplied instead of divided. Give to God what is commanded by Him, and He will see

that your needs are met.

Actually, the tithe is only the beginning of God’s plan for our blessings in giving. The offering in addition to the tithe is also commanded of God. It is the generous person who has learned the secret to a truly abundant life. Proverbs 11:24-25 says, ***“There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.” ~OV***

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Ecclesiastes 7:8 “Better is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

- How many wise men visited Jesus?  
Matthew 2  
A. 2                      B. No one knows  
C. 3                      D. At least 6
- Where did the wise men visit baby Jesus?  
Matthew 2:11  
A. At a house    B. In the stable  
C. At the Inn    D. Near the fields

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Avoid popularity if you would have peace.”  
~Abraham Lincoln



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”*  
*John 14:15*

Jesus is telling the disciples in very plain language that proof of their love for Him is their obedience. He requires no great feats be performed to show their sincerity for His plan. Instead, He asks them to display their adoration by doing what He asks them.

Each believer has been given the same basic direction. Love Christ by living it. Love Christ by asking, “How will my choice align with the commands of my Saviour? What can I do today that will fulfill God’s call upon my life?”

Jesus, after the resurrection, met with some of the disciples as they were back fishing. As they came ashore, Jesus spoke with Peter, and He asked him to feed His sheep. Jesus was asking him to be obedient. Jesus already knew the mighty works that Peter was going to do, but He was taking this opportunity to remind Peter to obey.

He asks us all the same question. Will we obey His command to witness, preach the Gospel, help those in need, study His Word, and love Him? He simply says, “Love Me by living for Me. Do what I have asked you to do.”  
~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Ecclesiastes 7:8 “Better is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ than the \_\_\_\_\_ thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Bible Knowledge.** Fill in the blank(s) with the correct answer.

1. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told His disciples they were the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. Matthew 5:13-14
2. Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your \_\_\_\_\_ works, and \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16
3. In Matthew 5:43, God tells us to \_\_\_\_\_ our enemies, \_\_\_\_\_ them that curse us, \_\_\_\_\_ to them that hate us, and \_\_\_\_\_ for them who despitefully used and persecute us.
4. We are to not to lay up treasures upon the \_\_\_\_\_, but lay up treasures in \_\_\_\_\_. Where our treasure is, there will our \_\_\_\_\_ be also. Matthew 16:19-20

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.”  
~Corrie Ten Boom



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Impatience**

***“Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10***

As normal human beings, I think we all struggle with impatience on a daily basis. We want it, and we want it now. We live in a fast-paced society where everything revolves around instant gratification. Instant gratification only increases our appetite for things that seem to be not of God. “Be still, and know that I am God” is one of my favorite verses. In being still or quiet, I can always hear God talking to my heart, telling me to be quiet and listen for His instructions. In obeying His leading, I exalt or lift Him up and not myself. This verse not only teaches patience, but obedience. We are being obedient when we are waiting for His perfect will in a situation in which He wants us to be still. Being still has great advantages; it keeps us out of sin and situations we are unequipped to handle. God is so gracious!

Here are two other verses where *be still* is used in the same context:

1 Kings 22:3, “And the king of Israel said unto his servants, Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we *be still*, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?”

Psalm 4:4, “Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and *be still*. Selah.”

Let’s be still and wait on the Lord! ~KAT

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

Ecclesiastes 7:8 “Better is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ than the \_\_\_\_\_ thereof: and the \_\_\_\_\_ in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

- Which occupation did Matthew have in Matthew 9:9?  
A. Carpenter    B. Centurion  
C. Priest    D. Tax Collector
- Who was called a man after God’s own heart? Acts 13:22  
A. Elijah    B. David  
C. Peter    D. Moses
- Who was Saul’s cousin, and the commander of his army? 1 Samuel 14:50  
A. Abner    B. Joab  
C. Shobach    D. Jether
- For which king did David play a harp? 1 Samuel 16:23  
A. Hoshea    B. Hezekiah  
C. Saul    D. Rehoboam
- Which of Saul’s daughters did David marry? 1 Samuel 18:20-21  
A. Michal    B. Merab  
C. Bathsheba    D. Abigail

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We believe that all men are created equal because they are created in the image of God.” ~President Harry S. Truman



Morning: 1 Chronicles 3-5

Evening: John 8:1-20

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”*

*Deuteronomy 13:3*

As a Christian, you will be tested! You probably have already been tested, and you will be tested again. God will not have to ask us how much we love Him at the Judgment Seat; He will already know from our lives here on earth.

He tests in the area of obedience. Abram had to follow God’s instructions to leave home and move to a place that would one day be the Promised Land. David’s faith was tested many times when he was pursued by King Saul. Job was tested by Satan when he lost his family, his wealth, and his health. These men passed the test because they obeyed God even under severe testing.

We may not pass every test, but we can if we are obedient. God wants to know if we love Him with all our heart and all our soul. Every believer loves Him; however, some will love Him more.

What a privilege to be tested! With God’s help we can pass every test. *“Trust the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”* Proverbs 3:5-6. ~RKM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Ecclesiastes 7:8 “Better is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ than the \_\_\_\_\_ thereof: and the \_\_\_\_\_ in spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ than the proud in spirit.”

 BIBLE QUIZ:

**True or False.** Label each statement with a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. God sent Jesus to fulfill the law, not to replace it. Matthew 5:17
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Peter was a married man. Matthew 8:14
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Jesus was not moved with compassion when he saw the multitude. Matthew 9:36
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Jesus had more than twelve disciples. Matthew 10:1
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Matthew 10:30 states, “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Jesus went into the temple and overthrew the tables of the money-changers. Matthew 21:12

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“His voice leads us not into timid discipleship but into bold witness.”

~Charles Stanley



Morning: 1 Chronicles 6, 7

Evening: John 8:21-36

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Packing an Overnight Bag**

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

Experienced travelers know the importance of traveling light, packing only the bare essentials. In our journey as spiritual pilgrims, are we packing too much? What do we have now that will be needed in heaven? Nothing. It will all be provided for us on arrival.

Toting around extra baggage will wear us out and slow us down. The verse for today says, “Lay aside every weight.” Laying aside every weight means letting go of those things that hinder us in the service of God and rob us of our joy. We may need to let go of an extra job, hobby, or just lessen the projects that take away our quality time with the Lord. Slim Fast says, “Lose weight, feel great.” That’s not a bad motto for Christians. Living on less will free up our affection for God. (Matt. 6:19-21).

Not only do “things” provide extra baggage, but sin weighs down as well. To lighten the load, confess your sins and forsake them (1 John 1:9). Holding on to and covering up sins is the making of a defeated Christian. **Proverbs 28:13** says, *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”* Whatever the sin, we need to let go of it. There’s not enough room in our overnight bag for weights and sin that easily beset us.

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

So, what should we pack in our overnight bag? Pack God’s handbook of life, the Bible. Store His Word in your heart. Along with the Bible, pack patience learned through trials and tribulations, memories of past victories, love for God and others, a faith in God that’s not wavering, and the peace of God that passeth all understanding. Be ready for the Lord’s return and not weighed down with the things of this world! ~JWL

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

Ecclesiastes 7:8 “Better is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ than the \_\_\_\_\_ thereof: and the \_\_\_\_\_ in spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ than the \_\_\_\_\_ in spirit.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

- Whose mother-in-law was healed by Jesus? Matthew 8:14-15  
A. James      B. Peter  
C. Philip      D. Nathanael
- Where did Jesus tell Peter to get money to pay their taxes? Matthew 17:27  
A. In his boat    B. Money changers  
C. His pocket    D. Mouth of a fish

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“The acid test of our love for God is obedience to His Word.” ~Bob Jones, Sr.



Morning: 1 Chronicles 8-10

Evening: John 8:34-59

## *The Bread of Life . . . Page 27*

(Continued from **Five Factors** on page 11 )

God already knows all about you, but you need to know a lot more about him.

Read the Bible for quality and not quantity. It's good to have a goal to read the Bible through in a year, or a similar goal, but that's not the purpose of your quiet time. Also, devotional books are wonderful. But again, this is not the place for them. This is the time when you simply read the Bible with an open mind.

Meditate. As you focus on the Word of God and meditate, let it permeate you. Ask:

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a lesson to learn?
- Is there a new truth to carry with me?

Record what God has given you. Write down what God says to you and what He tells you to do. It doesn't have to be flowery. You're not writing it for publication or to impress other people.

Now you're ready to pray. When you pray, pour out your soul. Be natural and honest with God. Tell Him how you feel. Pray out loud. It keeps your mind on tract and enables you to stay focused.

Begin to share out of your quiet time. God did not make us to be reservoirs; He made us to be conduits. Tell others what it is God is showing you.

Finally, obey what God tells you. Your spiritual train is running on two rails. One is revelation and the other is obedience. If either rail stops, your train stops. Learn to obey the Word of God.

I pray these simple suggestions will help you have a daily quiet time in the presence of our loving, almighty, powerful God.♦

**“O God, thou art my God;  
early will I seek thee....”  
Psalms 63:1**

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 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints.” Revelation 5:8*

Have you thought that your prayers were empty and not making a difference? Have you thought your prayers were unimportant, that in the mix of all that was happening in the universe your prayers did not really matter so much? Maybe you have thought they were unworthy or insignificant.

If so, read this verse again. If you have never felt that way, you should read this verse anyway. Read it again and again. Read it until you believe what is happening in heaven right now. Do you see what is happening? People are praying. Some are in great need; some are broken over sin; some are sharing concerns for loved ones; some need to pay a bill; some are experiencing sickness; some are thankful for a blessing. All of them have been moved to the point in which they feel that they need to talk to God. So, they offer up their prayers to Him. They reach heaven. Their prayers are like sweet perfume of worship raising to the throne of God. They are so precious to God that they are collected by the heavenly beings that surround the throne of God. They are gathered and stored in golden vessels.

God values and longs for our prayers. To Him, they are a beautiful fragrance that honors Him. Try to remember this the next time that you pray. Your prayer may be one of a million

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

being offered at that moment, but to God, your request is something beautiful and precious. ~ DLW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Bible Knowledge.** Fill in the blank(s) with the correct answer.

- 1 The Apostle Paul requested \_\_\_\_\_, the lawyer, when he was in Nicopolis. Titus 3:12-13
2. Elijah fled to \_\_\_\_\_ when he asked God to kill him? 1 Kings 19:1-8
3. \_\_\_\_\_ was Moses’ father-in-law. Exodus 3:1
4. Moses’ mother \_\_\_\_\_ was married to \_\_\_\_\_. Numbers 26:59

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“There are many of us that are willing to do great things for the Lord, but few of us are willing to do little things.”

~Dwight L. Moody



Morning: 1 Chronicles 11-13

Evening: John 9:1-23

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

*“Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.” Jonah 4:3*

I have made up my mind. I have decided that I am going to be an Olympic sprinter. I am going to London in 2012 and will race against the world’s best sprinters; including Jamaica’s Usain Bolt. Make no mistake, I will win.

After reading the previous paragraph, anyone who knows me is probably doubled over in laughter. My 6’1”, two hundred and “none of your business” pound body is not designed for sprinting. It is not really designed for any type of running; let alone the Olympic games. To even suggest that anyone would beat Usain Bolt is laughable, but to suggest that I would is beyond hysterical. In the 2008 Olympics, Usain Bolt broke three world records; the 100 meters (9.69 sec.), the 200 meters (19.30 sec.) and the 4x100 relay (37.10 sec.). No wonder they call him the “Lightening Bolt.”

My “attempt” to run against Usain Bolt is as laughable as Jonah’s attempt to RUN AGAINST GOD; it is foolish. Jonah got upset because God did not destroy Nineveh. As he pouted, he even asked God to take his life. No longer did he want to be on God’s team, but chose to become the opposition. Instead of siding with God and rejoicing over the repentance in Nineveh, Jonah ran against God. “It is better for me to die than to live.” Jonah opposed God. Listen, I will never out-run Usain Bolt; neither will I ever out-act God. If you are running against God, it is time to quit. Resistance is futile. ~PMO

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

- Who was King Solomon’s mother?  
1 Chronicles 3:5  
A. Abigail      B. Bathshua  
C. Haggith      D. Michal
- How long did it take Solomon to build the temple? 1 Kings 6:38  
A. 7 years      B. 13 years  
C. 5 years      D. 15 years
- How long did it take Solomon to build his palace? 1 Kings 7:1  
A. 15 years      B. 5 years  
C. 13 years      D. 7 years
- Whose hand shriveled up when he pointed at a prophet and yelled, “Lay hold on him!”? 1 Kings 13:4  
A. Saul      B. Omri  
C. Rehoboam      D. Jeroboam

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Faith cannot be inherited or gained by being baptized into a church. Faith is a matter between the individual and God.”

~Helen Keller



Morning: 1 Chronicles 14-16

Evening: John 9:24-41

 THE WORD FOR TODAY: 

*“Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God”*

*Daniel 6:5*

In my Bible study group, we are continuing our study in the book of Daniel. As we finished up chapter 6 this week, I am continually amazed at the level of the character of this man. He is absolutely unwavering in his commitment to God. These other leaders of the kingdom of the Medes and Persians, the commissioners, prefects and the satraps are some of the most ruthless, evil men in the kingdom, just the opposite of Daniel. Their answer to Daniel was not to go to his level but to remove him from the picture. But how? They had to make him look bad, but couldn't find anything of which to accuse him. Why? The only thing these men had left at their disposal was to make something up. In short, they had to make a law against righteousness. Is this beginning to sound familiar?

Today, there is proposed legislation that states, if you preach against certain sins (i.e. homosexuality), it will be considered a hate crime. Just as they did to Daniel, they are going to do to the church today. The God of Heaven delivered Daniel from the lions mouth. What will happen today? The God of Heaven will deliver us from the mouth of the lion. This deliverance is called the rapture. What happened to Daniel's accusers? They and their families were thrown in to the lions den. What will happen after we are delivered? Our accus-

 THE WORD FOR TODAY: 

ers will be thrown into the lake of fire. Fear not; as the day draws near and we see more and more attacks on Christianity. We know how the story ends. Praise be to God!!! ~JW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN: 

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

 BIBLE QUIZ 

**True or False.** Label each statement with a “T” for true or an “F” for false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Each of us will give an account of himself to God. Romans 14:12
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Whosoever believeth in God, the Son, will have eternal life. John 3:16
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Servants can be greater than their master. John 13:16
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Lord is slack in His promises. 2 Peter 3:9

 QUOTE OF THE DAY: 

“Many things oppose us, but nothing hinders us on the way to heaven as sin does.”

~Matthew Henry



Morning: 1 Chronicles 17-19

Evening: John 10:1-21

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

*“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”*

*John 15:13*

Jesus had been with the apostles day and night for three years. He knew them, and He loved them. As God the Son, their thoughts were open to Him, and He knew their future. He was aware who would be the first to leave and the last to stay. Even with this knowledge, His heart was woven to them, and He willingly laid down His life for each of them.

God has called us to have the same type of love for others. In fact, He calls us to have a sacrificial love for the lost. We should be missionaries here—laying down our lives in sacrifice to God. We can each share the Gospel in our workplace, our community, and our homes by being an example of Christlike living.

Most people would willingly run into the burning home of their neighbour if they thought it would save someone’s life. Would they have the same disregard for personal safety if it were only their reputation that was in danger? Would they risk losing a friend to tell the truth or to share the salvation of Christ? Being a soldier for Christ is not for the weak. It will cost your life. ~DJD

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

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

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

1. Which Pharisee trained Saul/Paul in the Law? Acts 22:3  
A. Gamaliel    B. Jairus  
C. Crispus    D. Sosthenes
2. Which apostle was bit by a snake on the island of Malta? Acts 28:1-3  
A. Peter    B. Paul  
C. James    D. Judas
3. What was Luke’s profession? Colossians 4:14  
A. Guard    B. Tax Collector  
C. Doctor    D. Tent maker
4. What is the last word in the Bible? Revelation 22:21  
A. Amen    B. Maranatha  
C. Goodbye    D. End
5. Who was Moses’ sister? Num. 26:59  
A. Miriam    B. Jochebed  
C. Sarah    D. Potiphera

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Practically every false doctrine comes from getting things out of order. God's divine order is salvation, then change; not change and then salvation! If one has to be changed to be saved, that's salvation by works. It is also salvation by the flesh. The truth is, one is cleansed from the sins of the flesh just as he is saved; by yielding to the Holy Spirit and letting Him do His work." ~Jack Hyles



 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**A Bad Mood**

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

When was the last time you were in a bad mood? Can you remember what caused it? Was there another person involved? Recently, someone, by their words, caused me to get upset. At that point, I had a choice. I could choose to get over it and not let it affect my day, or I could choose to let the words irritate me. If I chose the latter, more people would be affected. However, if I dismissed the hurtful words, that would be the end of the matter.

Being in a bad mood is a choice, a choice that affects the people around you and that will carry a trickle down affect to others. If someone lashes out at you, most of the time you can be assured that there was another instance in the day or week that caused the person to get to the point of complete and utter frustration.

While imprisoned, the Apostle Paul wrote, “Rejoice in the Lord always.” Surely, he knew circumstances will not always be ideal; people will not always treat others with love; prayers may not always be answered to human satisfaction. However, Paul, through the inspiration of God, commanded the Christians at Philippi to REJOICE. Notice, the command was not given once; it was given twice within the same verse.

Fellow Christians, we have a commandment to “Rejoice in the Lord always.” Next time you are tempted to “share” the bad mood blues, make the decision to turn around the trickle down affect. Let the anger, bitterness, tension, and frustration stop with YOU! ~MFM

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

1 John 3:1 “Behold, what manner of \_\_\_\_\_ the Father hath \_\_\_\_\_ upon us, that we should be \_\_\_\_\_ the sons of God: therefore the \_\_\_\_\_ knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”

 BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

**Bible Knowledge.** Fill in the blank(s) with the correct answer.

1. When you go, preach, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is at hand. Matthew 10:7
2. “The lord knoweth the \_\_\_\_\_ of the wise, that they are \_\_\_\_\_”  
1 Corinthians 3:20
3. As Creator, God had a divine purpose in man. “... I have created him for \_\_\_\_\_ ....” Isaiah 43:7
4. “... the Lord God ... breathed into his nostrils the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”  
Genesis 2:7
5. Name the four things Adam confessed to God. Gen 3:10
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. \_\_\_\_\_

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Spare the rod and spoil the child - that is true. But, beside the rod, keep an apple to give him when he has done well.”

~ Martin Luther



Morning: 1 Chronicles 23-25

Evening: John 11:1-17

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

 THE WORD FOR TODAY

**Always on Time**

**“Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.” Psalm 27:14**

Can we count on God to be God? You better believe it! He knows the end from the beginning. The faithfulness and dependability of God causes us to be of good courage. The problem is the world does everything faster and faster. This causes us to expect the same from God. Commercials solve our problems in thirty seconds. So what takes God so long to answer our prayers? Psalm 13:1 says, **“How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? Forever? How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?”** If you have felt that way before, you probably thought God was late. Let me assure you, God is never late, never early, but always on time.

There are two ways to learn patience. The first is from our own life experiences and the second is from the lives of others. Some of the greatest men in the Bible were told to wait on God. Noah waited 120 years for God’s promise as he prepared the ark. Moses spent 40 years on the back side of a desert before God got back to him. Caleb had to wait 40 years to take that mountain. Joseph spent 13 years in prison for a great injustice. Elijah had to hide out for 3 years by a brook and at a widow’s house before God called on him again for service. Get the picture? This kind of waiting would blow most of us away or send us to the funny farm.

You may be doing exactly what God has told you to do, and it seems useless. Don’t

quit! Galatians 6:9 says, **“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”** While you wait on the Lord, just remember, God is never early nor late but always on time.” ~JWL

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN

1 John 3:1 “Behold, what manner of \_\_\_\_\_ the Father hath \_\_\_\_\_ upon us, that we should be \_\_\_\_\_ the sons of God: therefore the \_\_\_\_\_ us not, because it knew him not.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

- Who was king for only seven days?  
1 Kings 16:15  
A. Zimri                      B. Omri  
C. Jehu                        D. Jonathan
- Which king died in a fire that he started in the palace? 1 Kings 16:18  
A. Ahab                      B. Jehoahaz  
C. Zimri                      D. Jeroboam
- What inanimate object(s) will Jesus come back on?” Mark 13:26  
A. The Wind    B. Clouds  
C. A tempest    D. Chariot

 QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We are either in the process of resisting God’s truth or in the process of being shaped and molded by his truth.” ~Charles Stanley



Morning: 1 Chronicles 26, 27

Evening: John 11:18-46

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**So Little Time**

*“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Ephesians 5:16*

One day, the time will come for all of us when time will be no more. Psalm 90:12 says, “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” We should keep track of our time as we do our money. As I write, I am 18,370 days old. If I live to the average life span of male, I have 7,180 days left. It’s not hard to see that I am running out of time. The old saying seems to be true: “The older you get, the faster time goes.” We only have this life to make a difference.

We must spend our time wisely. Notice seven spiritual things that can only be done in this lifetime:

- Love and pray for your enemies.
- Walk by faith, not by sight.
- Love God by enduring temptation.
- Serve one another in love.
- Lay up treasures in heaven.
- Share the Gospel with the lost.
- Exercise your spiritual gifts.

Let’s be wide-awake spiritually for every day God has given us. Romans 13:11-14 says, “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying: But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh,

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

to fulfill the lusts thereof.” We can waste so much time by complaining and fighting. Leave the petty stuff behind, and major on the majors.

Whether we are taken home by death or in the rapture, there is little time left. Let us redeem the time so when we take our last breath this side of glory, we can say we gave it all we had. ~JWL

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

1 John 3:1 “Behold, what manner of \_\_\_\_\_ the Father hath \_\_\_\_\_ upon us, that we should be \_\_\_\_\_ the sons of God: therefore the \_\_\_\_\_ us not, because it \_\_\_\_\_ him not.”

 BIBLE QUIZ

**True or False.** Label each statement with a “T” for true or a “F” for false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. John the Baptist’s mother was related to Jesus through his mother. Luke 1:36-38
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. It is impossible to find God without going through Jesus. John 14:6

 QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“We talk about heaven being so far away. It is within speaking distance to those who belong there. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.” ~Dwight L. Moody



Morning: 1 Chronicles 28, 29

Evening: John 11:47-57

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

**Enter with Thanksgiving**

*“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” Psalms 100:4*

The priest, the believer of the Old Testament, entering the house of God, the tabernacle (Exodus 25:8), to go to the altar of incense, the place of prayer (Revelation 8:3-4), came through the one "gate" (Exodus 37:14). Trying to enter any other way would have meant death. Jesus said in John 10:9, **"I am the door."** In John 14:6, He said, **"No man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** The first thing the priest would have seen (He could not have missed it.) was the huge brazen altar where the lambs were slain, sacrificed, and the blood was shed. It is the picture of Calvary.

God says enter with "thanksgiving." Do you remember when the Lord Jesus healed the ten lepers (leprosy was worse than AIDS), and only one turned to give thanks? He asked, **"Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"** (Luke 17:17) That is totally inconceivable! How ungrateful can one be? The Word of God says, **"Be ye thankful."** (Colossians 3:15)

Romans 1:21-28 is an awesome passage that deals with the world, **"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful . . . Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness . . . vile affections . . . to a reprobate mind."** Some suggest that there are millions of people and probably nations that God has "given up" because they were not thankful and did not respond to what

 THE WORD FOR TODAY:

God has shown them. What a tragedy! **"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves . . . unthankful."** (2 Timothy 3:1)

God places a very high priority on thankfulness, and we should too. In fact, God says, **"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."** (1 Thessalonians 5:18) No wonder He says, **"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving."** (Psalm 100:4) To enter into His presence or to enter into any day with thanksgiving will transform your prayers and your life.

~CSW

 SCRIPTURE FILL-IN:

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

 BIBLE QUIZ:

**Multiple Choice.** Circle the correct answer.

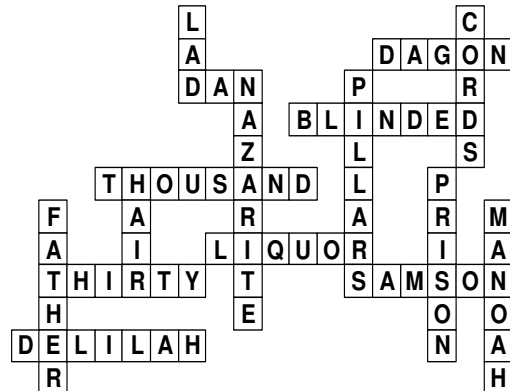
- Who led the rebellion against the authority of Moses in Numbers 16:1-3?  
A. Molech      B. Izhar  
C. Aaron      D. Korah
- Who took the place of Judas as one of the apostles? Acts 1:23-26  
A. Joseph      B. Matthias  
C. Justus      D. Paul



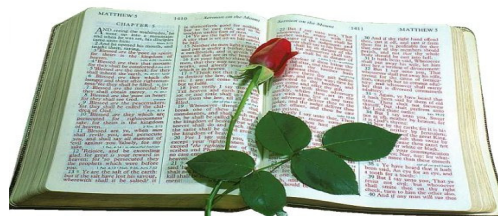
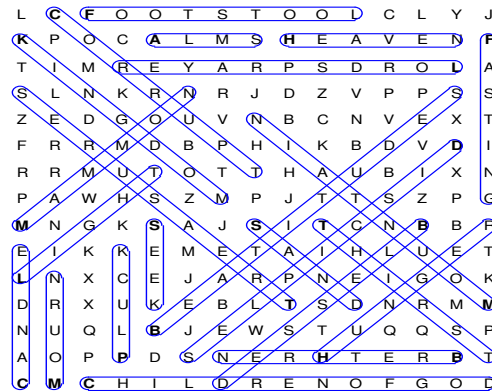
Answers to Bible Quizzes and Puzzles

May 1, pg 2	D, B, B, C
May 2, pg 3	F, T, T, T,
May 3, pg 4	Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar; 3&3; 3; Levi; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
May 4, pg 5	B, D, D, A
May 5, pg 6	T, F, F, T, T, T, T, F
May 6, pg 7	C, D, A
May 7, pg 8	A, C, B, A
May 8, pg 9	years, yesterday, watch; set, godly, hear; liveth, salvation; trouble, secret, hide
May 9, pg 10	A, C, A, B
May 10, pg 12	T, T, F, F, F, T
May 11, pg 13	A, C, B, A
May 12, pg 14	False, speaketh; counsel, wise; mocker, drink, deceived
May 13, pg 15	B, D, A
May 14, pg 16	T, F, T
May 15, pg 17	A, C, B, D
May 16, pg 18	Ascend, exalt, sit, ascend, be like
May 17, pg 20	D, A, A
May 18, pg 21	T, T, F, T, F, T
May 19, pg 22	B, A
May 20, pg 23	Salt & Light; good, glorify father; love, bless, do good, pray; earth, heaven, heart
May 21, pg 24	D, B, A, C, A
May 22, pg 25	T, T, F, F, T, T
May 23, pg 26	B, D
May 24, pg 28	Zenas; Horeb; Jethro; Jochebed/ Amram
May 25, pg 29	B, A, C, D
May 26, pg 30	T, T, F, F
May 27, pg 31	A, B, C, A, A
May 28, pg 32	Kingdom/heaven; thoughts/vain; My glory; breath/life; I heard. I was afraid. I was naked. I hid.
May 29, pg 33	A, C, B
May 30, pg 34	T, T
May 31, pg 35	D, B

Life and Times of Samson



Sermon on the Mount  
Matthew Chapter 5



Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet....  
Psalm 119:105