



# *the* **bread** *of* **life** devotional guide

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

February 1, 2011

Dear Friend in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! This is the month when love is in the air. Chocolate sellers and flower shops due record business in the month of February. It is wonderful to show others that you love them and also to receive gifts and cards from those who care so much for you.

Reflect for a moment on John 15:13: ***“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”*** Jesus Christ showed His love to mankind when He gave His very own life to provide a way for all men to go to Heaven. This was the greatest gift of love ever to be given.

This February, fall in love with Jesus Christ all over again. Spend time with Him. Read His Word. Talk to Him through prayer. He is the best friend you will ever have!

In Christ,

*The Bread of Life Staff*

# Tuesday

February 1

## Denying Christ

*“But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 10:33*

### Read Matthew 10:32-42

Many Christians make their lives more difficult by making excuses than proclaiming their Savior.

**Common Situation:** Everyone in your office is going out to the bar after work. They invite you. As a Christian, you know you cannot go.

**Typical Response:** “Umm...tonight’s not a good night (insert excuse/quasi lie).”

Some Christians live their entire lives making-up excuses to wiggle out of tough “secular” situations. They do deserve credit for not bowing to the pressure. However, their unwillingness to “make their position known” deprives God of glory and puts themselves under more pressure. God is glorified when His children publicly heed his commandments, which encourages others to obey Him.

Life gets easier too. Most people will respect your Christian beliefs. At first you may be challenged, but a Biblical, well-reasoned response will earn you respect. You’ll likely discover “closet Christians” around you and others that will strive to accommodate your personal beliefs. After everyone knows your positions, you won’t have to make-up excuses either.

Jesus urges Christians to stand and proclaim His name. He provides a warning to those that deny His name. The main focus of the passage,

**Morning:** Exodus 27-28

**Evening:** Matthew 21:23-46

Matthew 10:32-42, is how Christians should proclaim Christ’s deity and the gospel of salvation. Most Christians would never consider outwardly denying Christ. However, many Christians do not share with others the reason for their lifestyle and choices. Are you denying Christ in this way?

The next time you’re in a tough situation and choose to follow Christ, tell others the reason for your actions. God will be glorified, and you will be emboldened. ~DSM

### Scripture Fill-In

“Why art thou cast down, O my \_\_\_\_\_?  
And why art thou \_\_\_\_\_  
in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise  
him for the help of his countenance.”  
Psalm 42:5

### Bible Quiz

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

1. The Book of Obadiah has how many chapters?  
A. 1                      C. 3  
B. 2                      D. 4
2. The Book of Ruth has how many chapters?  
A. 1                      C. 3  
B. 2                      D. 4

### Quote of the Day

“It is better to incur the world’s hatred by testifying against its wickedness than gain its goodwill by going down the stream with it.”

~Matthew Henry

# Wednesday

February 2

**Morning:** *Exodus 29-30*  
**Evening:** *Matthew 22:1-22*

## Conditions of Peace

*“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Isaiah 26:3*

This verse offers a promise that is valuable to us all. Who does not want peace in his life? Peace is found in the absence of conflict. We can have that peace in our lives, but God’s perfect peace has some conditions.

Our God is the author of peace, and He is described as the Prince of Peace. He is the only One Who can give us true peace. According to this verse, He is the One Who keeps our hearts and minds at peace. So what are the conditions of His peace, and how do we get that peace in our lives?

The first condition required to experience His peace is for us to keep our minds fixed on Him and His will. We need to acknowledge Him in our lives and accept our role in His plan. When we acknowledge Him, we can have peace knowing that we are in the will of the Creator and Controller of the universe.

After we acknowledge Him and Who He is, we need to submit to His will. If He is in control, the best place for us to be is in submission to His plan and purpose.

The final condition is to trust in Him. If we will acknowledge His authority, submit to His will, and trust in His wisdom, we can have peace. There is nothing that can defeat His purpose from being accomplished in us when we are in the center of His plan. ~DLW

## Scripture Fill-In

“Why art thou cast down, O my \_\_\_\_\_?  
And why art thou \_\_\_\_\_  
in me? \_\_\_\_\_ thou in God: for I shall  
yet praise him for the help of his countenance.”  
Psalm 42:5

## Bible Quiz

**Short Answer:** Answer the following questions.

1. What were the three names used in today’s devotional for God?  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are some other names of God that are particularly special you?  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_
3. What name does Acts 7:48 give to God?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Quote of the Day

“And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods.”  
~ 2 Chronicles 2:5

# Thursday

February 3

## Hearing the Gospel

*“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.” Hebrews 4:2*

It has been said that the average person hears the Gospel seven times before they come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. That is the average; some people hear it even less, and others need to hear it many more than seven times. So why is this? The author of Hebrews gives us some insight.

One person hears the message with a heart of faith. This person comes (maybe not even on purpose) and hears the words of the Gospel and believes. By faith, he chooses to trust Christ and all that He claims and promises. This faith places him exactly where he needs to be—in need of outside help for salvation. Faith causes him to see his sin and then to recognize his need for a Saviour. It is this same faith that then spurs him to step out trusting Jesus with his eternity and his life.

Another person hears the same message but is unaffected with the compelling truths contained therein. It is to him just a message. He may even have found it to be a great oratory demonstration, but these powerful words are not mixed with faith for him to believe. As a result, he leaves the same service, where the spirit-filled Word was preached and the first person was converted, seemingly untouched by the Gospel.

Those whose lives have been gloriously changed by the words of the Lord should dili-

**Morning:** *Exodus 31-33*

**Evening:** *Matthew 22:23-46*

gently pray that the Holy Spirit would penetrate the hearts of the hearer. They should also pray that those hearing would be willing to yield to the Spirit's prompting and then mix the hearing of the Word with faith to trust Christ for salvation. ~DJD

## Scripture Fill-In

“Why art thou cast down, O my \_\_\_\_\_?  
And why art thou \_\_\_\_\_  
in me? \_\_\_\_\_ thou in \_\_\_\_\_:  
for I shall yet praise him for the help of his  
countenance.” Psalm 42:5

## Bible Quiz

**True or False:** Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Book of Romans was written by the Apostle Paul. (Rom. 1:1-4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Book of Titus was written by the Apostle Titus. (Titus 1:1-3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The Book of James was written by the Apostle John. (James 1:1)

## Quote of the Day

“The most important question concerning any man living is this: Is he a saved soul or not? Is he a child of God or an heir of wrath?”

~Charles Spurgeon

*Friday*  
February 4

## Lovest Thou Me More Than These?

*“So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.” John 21:15*

With February being the *Love Month*, this verse came to mind. This verse often hits home. Can you hear Jesus saying, “. . . *Lovest thou me more than these . . . Feed my lambs?*” In verses 15-17, Jesus asked this question 3 times. Seems to be very important to the Lord.

There are examples all through the New Testament of Jesus’ desire for us to spread His Word. In fact, in Matthew 9:35, He Himself sets our example. In Mark 16:15, we are told to *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

As a newlywed, I must say that I am truly in love. I am so much in love that I have trouble being positive about going to work in the morning. I wish I could stay home with my mate and continue to be together, talk of our love, and our future.

How in love are you with Jesus Christ? Do you long to be with Him and spend time with Him every day. I must ask this question, *“Lovest thou Jesus more than these?”* Or, do your earthly treasures, dreams, and desires mean more to you?

**Morning:** *Exodus 34-36*  
**Evening:** *Matthew 23:1-22*

I challenge you to be in the Word and spreading God’s love to all you come in contact with! Fall in love with Christ all over again. ~KAH

### Scripture Fill-In

“Why art thou cast down, O my \_\_\_\_\_?  
And why art thou \_\_\_\_\_  
in me? \_\_\_\_\_ thou in \_\_\_\_\_:  
for I shall yet \_\_\_\_\_ him for the  
help of his countenance.” Psalm 42:5

### Bible Quiz

**Matching:** Match the Biblical character with his description.

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Nymphus
- \_\_\_\_ 2. Eliakim
- \_\_\_\_ 3. Abaddon

- A. A priest (Neh. 12:41)
- B. A Christian in Laodicea whose house was used for worship (Col. 4:15)
- C. Angel of the bottomless pit (Rev. 9:11)

### Quote of the Day

“I cannot bear it that we should love Jesus little. It seems to me horrible. Let us love Him to the utmost. Let us ask Him to give us larger hearts, and to fire them with the flame that is in His own, that we may love Him to the utmost possibilities of affection.” ~Charles Spurgeon

# Saturday

February 5

## Training Consistency

*“His windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.” Daniel 6:10*

There is a new thirteen week old puppy in our home. Little Bentley is a ten pound miniature schnauzer, meaning “little beard” in German. He has salt and pepper hair, a wonderful personality, and a sharp little mind. However, we are in the potty training stage of the journey with training our new puppy. That means I take him out at 5:30 A.M. and many, many times throughout the day. Then, there is the occasional “accident” that always puts a little surprise in my day! I am learning, though, that the key to training Bentley is consistency. Even though the last thing I want to do early in the morning is go outside in the below freezing weather, I must be consistent for our puppy to be potty trained.

Consistency is key to your spiritual walk with the Lord. Sometimes, you may not feel like reading your Bible in the morning. Some Sundays, you may just want to sleep and lounge around for the day and avoid going to church. But, continue to be faithful, and the Lord will bless you.

Our verse today speaks of Daniel. He prayed three times a day, and evil men used his prayer life to try to condemn him of wrong doing. Prior to this verse we read, *“Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but*

**Morning:** Exodus 37-38

**Evening:** Matthew 23:23-39

*they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.”* Daniel was so faithful that these evil men used his prayer life to help them devise a wicked plan for his demise.

Would others find you so faithful that they could not charge you of any wrongdoing? How consistent are you with your resolutions made at the beginning of 2011? Be consistent. Be faithful. *“He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6 ~MFV*

## Scripture Fill-In

“Why art thou cast down, O my \_\_\_\_\_?  
And why art thou \_\_\_\_\_  
in me? \_\_\_\_\_ thou in \_\_\_\_\_:  
for I shall yet \_\_\_\_\_ him for the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of his countenance.” Psalm 42:5

## Bible Quiz

**True or False:** Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false.

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Angels will not attend the second coming of Christ. (Mt. 16:27)
- \_\_\_\_ 2. Angels are an example of meekness. (2 Pt. 2:11)

## Quote of the Day

“You can tell how big a man is by observing how much it takes to discourage him.”

~Anonymous

# *Loving Extravagantly*

**By Sumner Wemp**

You might think by the title of this message that showing your love to each other extravagantly would involve spending a lot of money on each other. Although loving extravagantly COULD involve those things, it could mean something much different. Loving each other extravagantly involves showing your love to your partner in a lavish way - beyond what comes normal - spending more of YOURSELF rather than money on your spouse. It involves showing "Random acts of kindness" and thanks -LIVING, and showing random acts of romancing to each other. Too often when we marry we start to take each other for granted. It starts to happen without us even noticing that it is - very subtly. The problem is, we become so familiar with each other that we gradually forget to continue to do things for each other which will KEEP the "spark" in our relationship - and that can lead to marriage problems.

Doing little things that show favor and affection, displaying and saying our appreciation for one another, and treating each other in respectful ways - being "intentional" in how we show our love are a part of the attraction we had to each other in the first place and will help to keep our marriages vital. It feels good to be noticed and appreciated by someone else. We too often forget that and start expecting things to be done, leaving aside common courtesies and appreciation for each other. Eventually, our partner can feel no more appreciated than a piece of functional furniture. When our love was new, we did not expect things to be done for us by the other person. We noticed every little action they did and showed our appreciation. But after marriage, because of the busy-

ness of everyday life, we can forget our partner still has an inner need to be appreciated, respected, and honored by someone - someone special that will take notice of the little things they do. That someone special used to be us (and hopefully still is)! But some partners find themselves yearning to feel appreciated.

Some spouses faithfully, yet sadly, live with that yearning for the rest of their lives if their partner doesn't change their actions. But some become attracted to someone else outside their marriage. (This does not justify their sinful behavior, but it explains what happens in a lot of unfaithful marriages.) The other person notices those nice little things that are done for them. He or she notice the "niceties" and find ways to honor them and express their thankfulness; the unappreciated spouse begins to feel better about themselves again and sometimes begins to feel an unexpected spark inside - an attraction, because they're no longer being taken for granted. Some people act upon that attraction, and that's when marriages are most threatened by infidelity.

This is not always the reason affairs start because some people will be attracted to others outside the marriage even if their spouse does all the right things to make them feel valued and appreciated. It's a character flaw within the unfaithful spouse to do what is wrong. With that said, we still want to make the point that "even if we have an unbending commitment to our mate, most of us are blind to how we lose our marriages by slow erosion if we don't keep replenishing the soil." (William Doherty) We need to be aware of the importance of continuing to show our spouse they are appreciated no matter how long we have been married.

# Sunday

February 6

**Morning:** *Exodus 39-40*  
**Evening:** *Matthew 24:1-22*

## Real Friendship

What are the marks of real friendship? First, real friendship involves face-to-face honesty. Secondly, real friendship involves loyalty. Proverbs 17:17 says, *“A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”* What kind of friend are you? There is a big difference between knowing someone well and being a true friend. Loyalty is a big part of genuine friendship. Do not be a fair-weather friend and only be around when it benefits YOU.

Real Friendship is found with Jesus. John 15:13-15 says, *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”* Because Jesus Christ is Lord and Master, He should call us servants, instead he calls us friends. Jesus asks us to obey Him because we love him.

Real Friendship is demonstrated by imitating Christ in our relationships. John 13:34-35 says, *“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”* We are to love each other as Jesus loved us. We may not have to die for someone, but there are other ways to practice sacrificial love. Give all the love you can and then give a little more. ~AP

## Scripture Fill-In

“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

## Bible Quiz

**Thought Reflection:** Answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. Who would you consider to be one of your most loyal, trustworthy friends? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How has that person gained your respect and trustworthiness? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Would people consider you to be a loyal and trustworthy friend? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In spaces provided, write how you can be a better friend. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Quote of the Day

“Unless our belief in God causes us to help our fellowman, our faith stands condemned. Our love for God is best proved by our regard for the needs of our neighbors.” ~Billy Graham

# Monday

February 7

## Be Doers As Well As Hearers of the Word

*“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass.” James 1:22-23*

The book of James is a study of spiritual maturity. Let’s examine our own hearts to see how mature we really are. Here are a few questions to assist you:

1. Am I becoming more and more patient in the testings of life?
2. Do I play with temptation, or resist it from the start?
3. Do I find joy in obeying the Word of God, or do I merely study it and learn it?
4. Are there any prejudices that shackle me?
5. Am I able to control my tongue? Am I a peacemaker rather than a troublemaker? Do people come to me for spiritual wisdom?

How do you match up to these questions that are before you. God does test us. Let’s pray that we daily strive to please him and pass the tests set before us. ~OV

### Scripture Fill-In

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

**Morning:** *Leviticus 1-3*

**Evening:** *Matthew 24:23-51*

### Bible Quiz

**Matching:** Match the place with its description or the event that occurred there.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Egypt

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Ethiopia

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Rumah

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Persia and Media

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Tarsus

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Capernaum

A. The seven princes that influenced King Ahasuerus to banish Vashti were from here. (Esther 1)

B. King Tirhakah was from here. (2 Ki. 19:9)

C. Paul was born in this city. (Acts 22)

D. Joseph was sold and taken to this land. (Gen. 37:36)

E. Home of Jehoiakim’s grandfather (2 Ki. 23:36)

F. Jesus healed the centurion’s servant in this city. (Mt. 8:5-14)

### Quote of the Day

“Sometimes God makes his people’s troubles contribute to the increase of their greatness, and their sun shines the brighter for having been under a cloud.” ~Matthew Henry

*Tuesday*  
February 8

**Morning:** *Leviticus 4-6*  
**Evening:** *Matthew 25:1-30*

### The Sword

*“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of joint and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12*

People do not use swords today for much else than a decoration or to display some skill in its handling. The sword was a mighty weapon. It was intended to be able to bring about death with a well placed swing. This is the type of sword seen in this passage. It was razor sharp and kept that way for optimum effectiveness. Like a surgical scalpel, it was designed to cut to the bone if needed.

The sword’s value was determined in how well it was maintained. A dull or rusty sword would be unable to complete the tasks that lie ahead of it. In such a case, the sword would be rendered useless and likely be discarded.

As we see here from the words of Hebrews, God’s Word is always sharp and prepared to cut. For some of us that is exactly why reading the Bible becomes such a challenge. When the pages are opened, we find ourselves cut to the very core by the words. God always intends for His Word to be clean and precise as it cuts away the things that hinder our walk. The great blessing of “spiritual surgeries” is that the blades precise edge leaves a wound, that when the ointment of the same Word is applied, it heals.

God’s desire in the administration of the scalpel of His Word is to remove the cancer of

sin and afford us an opportunity to heal. As we yield the spiritual power of the sword, we can only find ourselves more and more healthy in the Lord.

Is God trying to use the sword to heal you? Allow His hand to cut away the dross in you life. The result will be a closer walk a cleaner life. ~DJD

### Scripture Fill-In

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

### Bible Quiz

**Short Answer:** Complete the following questions on the Bible.

1. In 2 Timothy 2:15, what term is used for the Word of God? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What four reasons are given in 2 Timothy 3:16 on why the Word of God is profitable?  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \_\_\_\_\_

### Quote of the Day

“Satan would tempt us to despair; but good hope keeps us trusting in God and rejoicing in Him.” ~Matthew Henry

# Wednesday

February 9

**Morning:** *Leviticus 7-9*  
**Evening:** *Matthew 25:31-46*

## Chasing Squirrels

*“To the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.”*  
*Colossians 2:2b-4*

In 2009, Pixar released a computer animated film entitled, “Up.” The film is about an elderly gentleman who feels that he has failed his deceased wife in that they never went on the greatest adventure to Paradise Falls. He had promised that one day they would live there, but one thing led to another and before he realized it, he was a lonely widower. Through a series of events, he ends up on an adventure in South America and is chased by a pack of hostile talking dogs. From these computer animated, talking dogs and Colossians 2:2-4, we will learn a valuable lesson.

In an attempt to add humour to the film, the dogs wore collars that would interpret what the dogs were thinking. Occasionally, right in the middle of a sentence, the dogs would randomly turn and say, “Squirrel!” The film makers were depicting how quickly a dog would get distracted from the task at hand with the presence of a squirrel.

The Apostle Paul, in like manner, wanted his readers to not be distracted by the “squirrels” of worldly thinking. He reminded his readers that he was writing about Christ and that in Christ could be found all the treasures of knowledge and wisdom. His reason for writing this is found in verse four. He writes, *“And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with*

*enticing words.”* In other words, all the wisdom and knowledge that you need can be found in Christ. Do not allow yourself to get distracted with worldly wisdom. Have you been chasing “squirrels?” Stay focused; wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ. ~PO

## Scripture Fill-In

“Be \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ that I am \_\_\_\_\_: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”  
Psalm 46:10

## Bible Quiz

**Unscramble:** Unscramble the following women Biblical characters.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. teshre
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. ymra
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. nnhhaa
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. iecenu
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. saeblehti
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. hbejdceo
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. ratarmh

## Quote of the Day

“Don’t bother to give God instruction; just report for duty.” ~Corrie Ten Boom

# Thursday

February 10

## Five Blessings of Being Born Again

*“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2*

This verse lists several blessings associated with our salvation. Let’s take a moment to consider them.

1. We have been justified by faith. The penalty for our sin has been removed through the sacrificial death of Christ for us.
2. We have peace with God. Though our rebellion has caused us to be enemies with God, our faith in Christ has removed the barrier between us and our God, and we are now at peace.
3. We also have access to Him. We now have a relationship with our God that allows us to have access to His throne. We can come to Him with confidence in our times of need knowing that He will hear our prayers.
4. We are also afforded grace to stand. We can face whatever comes our way because His supernatural grace can sustain us.

**Morning:** *Leviticus 10-12*

**Evening:** *Matthew 26:1-19*

5. Finally, we have hope of future glory. Though we may fail to reflect God’s holy character at times, we can have hope in the fact that one day we will have a sinless glorified body. ~DLW

### Scripture Fill-In

“Be \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ that I am \_\_\_\_\_; I will be \_\_\_\_\_ among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10

### Bible Quiz

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

1. Which one of the following events did the angels NOT announce? (Mt. 1:20-21; Lk. 2:10-12; Mt. 28:5-7)
  - A. The conception of Christ
  - B. The birth of Christ
  - C. The resurrection of Christ
  - D. None of the above
2. Angels are subject to whom? (1 Pt. 3:22)
  - A. Jesus Christ
  - B. Mankind
  - C. No one
  - D. Satan

### Quote of the Day

“The greatest of all miracles is the salvation of a soul.” ~Charles Spurgeon

*Friday*  
February 11

## Principles on Work

What principles does God give regarding our work? First, God wants Christians to be characterized by diligence in their work. Genesis 31:42 says, *“Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked thee yesternight.”* Jacob made it a habit to do more than was expected of him. When his flocks were attacked, he took the losses rather than splitting them with Laban. He worked hard even after several pay cuts. His diligence eventually paid off: his flocks began to multiply. Making a habit of doing more than expected can pay off. It pleases God, earns recognition and advancement, enhances our reputation, builds others’ confidence in us, gives us more experience and knowledge, and develops our spiritual maturity.

God is the source of all our skills, and He wants us to use them to the best of our ability. Exodus 35 describes the various artistic skills in the building of the sanctuary. Good workers take pride in their work because they understand it is for the Glory of God.

God wants us to work hard and do our best, even with small and seemingly unimportant tasks. Ruth 2:7 says, *“And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.”* Ruth’s tasks, though tiring, and perhaps degrading were done faithfully. What is your attitude

**Morning:** *Leviticus 13*  
**Evening:** *Matthew 26:20-54*

when the task you have been given does not require your full potential? It may be a test from God of your character that might open up new doors of opportunity. ~AP

### Scripture Fill-In

“Be \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ that I am \_\_\_\_\_; I will be \_\_\_\_\_ among the \_\_\_\_\_, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10

### Bible Quiz

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

1. In Exodus 20:9 and Deuteronomy 5:13, the Israelites were commanded to work how many days of the week?  
A. 3                      C. 6  
B. 5                      D. 7
2. According to Proverbs 21:25, the desire of the slothful man does what to him?  
A. Compromises his character  
B. Kills him  
C. Depresses him  
D. Makes him not fit for Heaven

### Quote of the Day

“The world is moved not only by the mighty shoves of the heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.”  
~Helen Keller

# Saturday

February 12

## Intimacy with Jesus

Don't you long for greater intimacy with Christ? I do, and I sometimes have to counsel myself on how to make this happen. Christ has not moved; He is longing for your and my fellowship. Remember, that is why we were created.

The same principles that apply to getting to know someone apply here as well. First, we should begin learning more about the One we want to know. We should ask questions and do some fact finding in God's Word on a daily basis. I recommend reading about Christ's prophecy, His birth, and His heavenly position for starters. We need to remind ourselves *Just Who Jesus Is* to keep our proper focus. He is the prophesied, Son of God, sitting at the right hand of the Father. Read Revelation chapter five, and see Him as the slain Lamb Who is the only One worthy to open the sealed scrolls. There is some fact finding! Second, observing someone is imperative in getting to know what they are all about. Try gazing upon Jesus in a concentrated study of Him in the Scriptures. The gospels will take you there. Watch how He responds to the will of His Father and how He mingles with mankind. Third, spending time with someone is climatic on making or breaking a relationship. Talking to Jesus should be ongoing throughout your day. "Text messaging," if you will, has its place. However, to really get to know Jesus, you must have the long conversations with Him. I have learned that **I have time to pray**. If I can get up in the wee hours of the morning to train a puppy, and leave work to let the dog

**Morning:** *Leviticus 14*

**Evening:** *Matthew 26:55-75*

out, I have time to pray. It's all about where my heart is.

Jesus Himself gave us a perfect example (for He is perfect!) at the tender age of twelve. He was a "missing person" for three days, and His parents were in a state of sorrow by the time they found Him in the temple. He simply replied in Luke 2:49, ". . . **Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?**"

LORD JESUS, help us to have the heart desire to be all about YOU. Blessed be your name, the sweet name of JESUS. ~NBM

### Scripture Fill-In

"Be \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ that I am \_\_\_\_\_; I will be \_\_\_\_\_ among the \_\_\_\_\_, I will be exalted in the \_\_\_\_\_." Psalm 46:10

### Bible Quiz

**Completion:** Complete Psalm 42:1-2.

"As the hart (1) \_\_\_\_\_ after the water brooks, so panteth my (2) \_\_\_\_\_ after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for (3) \_\_\_\_\_, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"

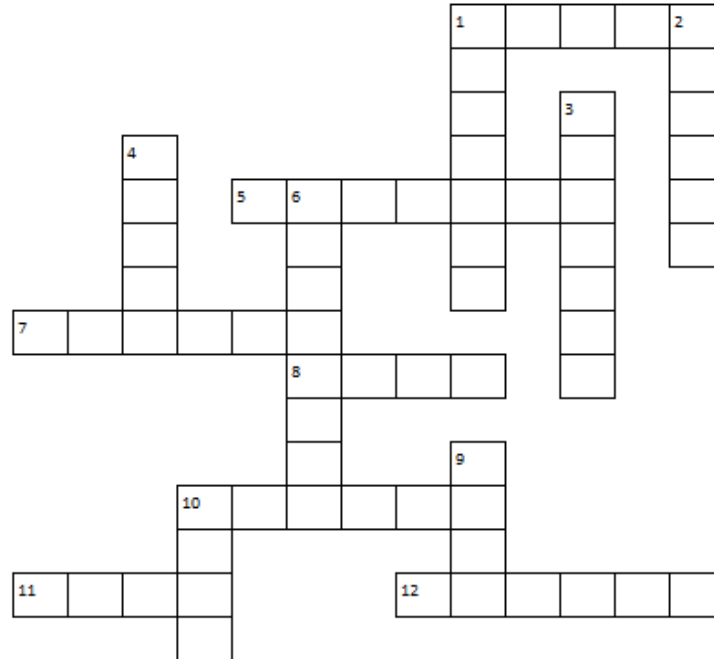
### Quote of the Day

"Our joy and our hope can be as steady as the sunrise even when the happenings around us are transitioning from wonderful to tragic."

~James Dobson

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## Biblical Men of the Faith



### ACROSS

1. Discover and adopted by Pharaoh's daughter (Ex. 2:5-10)
5. Father of many nations; name was changed (Gen. 17:5)
7. Gave excuses why he could not judge Israel (Jdg. 6:1-15)
8. Keeper of sheep; murdered (Gen. 4)
10. Successor of Moses (Num. 27:18-23)
11. Father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth (Gen. 5:32)
12. Persecuted by King Ahab (1 Ki. 18:7-10)

### DOWN

1. Disciple, tax collector (Mt. 9:9)
2. Elkanah and Hannah were his parents (1Sa. 1-2)
3. Faithful believer, Paul's son in the Lord (1 Cor. 4:17)
4. Close friend of King Saul's son Jonathan (1 Sa. 18:1-4)
6. Also known as Joses; sold his land and laid the money at the apostles' feet (Acts 4:36-37)
9. Consented to stoning Stephen; converted and his name changed (Acts 8-9)
10. Author of Revelation (Rev. 1:1-6)

Answers on p.32

# Sunday

February 13

**Morning:** *Leviticus 15-17*

**Evening:** *Matthew 27:1-31*

## True Love

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9*

As a small child, I was always the one telling on myself. On the rare occasion I misbehaved, I ran to my daddy in tears ready to tell what I had done. Daddy was always ready to hold me, wipe away my tears, and also to forgive. That’s my earthly daddy; my Heavenly Daddy is also ready to hear my story, wipe my tears, and forgive me.

In the verse above it tells us how to be forgiven. First, we must confess our sins. In essence, tell on ourselves. Remember, sins are anything from telling a little white lie to committing murder. Secondly, the verse tells us He is faithful and just. He is constantly loyal, and His judgment is correct and true. Thirdly, we see His forgiveness. After repentance, He cleanses us from unrighteousness. Jesus states in Matthew 26:28, *“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”* This is the *Good News*; Jesus shed His blood for all mankind.

Again, this is true love; Jesus laid down His life for you and me, so we can live forever with Him in Heaven. ~ *KAH*

## Bible Quiz

**Fill in the Blank:** Complete the following verses on the love of God toward mankind.

1. **Romans 5:5**—“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”
2. **Romans 8:39**—“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to \_\_\_\_\_ us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
3. **Ephesians 3:19**—“And to know the love of Christ, which \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.”
4. **1 John 3:1**— “Behold, what manner of love the \_\_\_\_\_ hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”
5. **1 John 4:10**— “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his \_\_\_\_\_ to be the propitiation for our sins.”

## Scripture Fill-In

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”  
Psalm 51:10-12

## Quote of the Day

“In math, if you divide an infinite number by any number, no matter how large, you still have an infinite quotient. So Jesus' love, being infinite, even though it is divided up for every person on earth, is still infinitely poured out on each one of us!” ~*Charles Spurgeon*

# Monday

February 14

## Oh How He Loves YOU!

*“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.”*  
*Ephesians 3:17-19*

I especially remember Valentines Day while in the third grade. I was in my class room, and Anthony gave me a box of chocolates and fled the room in a burst of embarrassment. At recess that day, he had his friends pretend to let him beat them up, so I would be impressed with his upcoming manhood. Well, that little relationship lasted probably about a day. But, I did feel quite special on that day in third grade.

I am sure many of you have funny Valentine’s Day stories from your childhood from making valentine’s boxes to receiving a special box of candy. I always had fun running home and counting all the little cards and rereading them over and over again.

Everyone wants to feel special, feel loved and appreciated. Unfortunately, we look for people and relationships to fulfill that longing, and sometimes that may happen. But, if you are honest with yourself, even a relationship or many friends cannot completely fulfill that longing. That kind of love can only come from your Heavenly Father, and oh, how He loves YOU. I think of the little chorus, “Oh How He Loves You and Me,” and the special lyrics written by Kurt Kaiser:

**Morning:** *Leviticus 18-19*

**Evening:** *Matthew 27:32-66*

*Oh, how He loves you and me,  
Oh, how He loves you and me.  
He gave His life, what more could He give;  
Oh, how He loves you, Oh, how He loves me,  
Oh, how He loves you and me.*

What more could Jesus Christ give other than His life to prove His love for you. Oh sinner, run to His open arms of forgiveness today and bask in His unconditional love for YOU!

~MFV

### Scripture Fill-In

“Create in me a \_\_\_\_\_ heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.” Psalm 51:10-12

### Bible Quiz

**Matching:** Match the husband with his wife.

- |                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| ___ 1. Aaron (Ex. 6:23)    | A. Abigail  |
| ___ 2. Nabal (1 Sam. 25)   | B. Deborah  |
| ___ 3. Lapidoth (Jdg. 4:4) | C. Elisheba |

### Quote of the Day

“Human love fails and will always fail. God’s love never fails.” ~*Corrie Ten Boom*

# Tuesday

February 15

**Morning:** *Leviticus 20-21*  
**Evening:** *Matthew 28*

## Walk in Him

*“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6-7*

When did you trust Christ as your personal Saviour? Were you young? Five? Six? Ten? Twelve? Did you grow up going to Sunday school and church each week? Did you memorize Scripture in “AWANA” or a similar program? If so, *“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.”*

Did you trust Christ as a teenager? Was it at a campus meeting at school? Was it at summer camp? Was it during a revival? Did you grow up in a teen group attending activities and lock-ins? If so, *“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.”*

Did you trust Christ as a young adult? Did a good friend invite you to church? Maybe you came to a church activity or special day first. Did you trust Christ at a home Bible study or did you find your way to a church because your child wanted to go to a Vacation Bible School? If so, *“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.”*

Did you trust Christ in the later years of your life? Were you invited to see a grandchild baptized the day you trusted Christ? Did you finally just set aside your preconceived notions of that religious “stuff” and find in Christ a Saviour? If so, *“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.”*

No matter when you trusted Christ, we are commanded to: “walk in Him,” and be “rooted and built up in Him.” If we are to “walk” (which implies motion) and be “rooted” (which implies attachment) we can recognize that where we walk, Christ goes with us. No matter when you trusted Christ, stay close to Him and grow. ~PO

## Scripture Fill-In

“Create in me a \_\_\_\_\_ heart, O God; and renew a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.” Psalm 51:10-12

## Bible Quiz

**Unscramble:** Unscramble the following words to make a Bible verse found in Ephesians 4.

I	prisoner	Lord	walk	vocation
of	the	the	that	beseech
ye	called	you	are	wherewith
of	worthy	the	ye	therefore

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Quote of the Day

“If you have no will to change it, you have no right to criticize it.” ~Anonymous

# Wednesday

February 16

**Morning:** *Leviticus 22-23*

**Evening:** *Mark 1:1-22*

## The Wickedness of the Tongue

*“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.”*  
*James 3:6*

In chapter one of James, we see that the mature believer is patient. Chapter two explains that the mature believer practices the truth, and in chapter three, explains that the mature believer has power over his tongue.

Who is in control (verses 1-4)? If your tongue is under God’s control, you will seriously watch what you say. Words usually lead to deeds. The person who can control the tongue shows he can control the whole body. A Quaker proverb says, “Of your unspoken words, you are the master; of your spoken words, the servant; of your written works, the slave.”

Give God your tongue and your heart each day, and ask Him to use you to be a blessing to others. Proverbs 12:18 says, *“There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.”* ~OV

### Scripture Fill-In

“Create in me a \_\_\_\_\_ heart, O God; and renew a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy \_\_\_\_\_; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”  
Psalm 51:10-12

### Bible Quiz

**Matching:** Match the Biblical character with his description.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Ramaah

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Rahab

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Rabbi

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Rei

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Rehoboam

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Rabsarius/Rabshakeh

A. A woman of Jericho, ancestor of Joseph of Nazareth (Josh. 2; Mt. 1:5)

B. Became king after Solomon’s reign (1 Ki. 11:43)

C. An Israelite, remained loyal to David during usurpation of Adonijah (1 Ki. 1:8)

D. Son of Cush (Gen. 10:7)

E. A title of a Jewish teacher (Jn. 3:2)

F. A title of an Assyrian officer (2 Ki. 18:17)

### Quote of the Day

“It is bad to think ill, but it is much worse to speak it, for that implies consent to the evil thought and a willingness to infect others with it.” ~*Matthew Henry*

# Thursday

February 17

## The Greatest Love

*“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”  
John 15:13*

Our world speaks often of love. Unfortunately, understanding the interpretation of the world’s view of love is difficult. The world says, “If you love me you will do it.” Or perhaps sometimes, it says, “If you love me you won’t do it.” In either case, the focus of the word love is selfish in its intent.

Real love is expressed in the desire of the lover to give selflessly of themselves for the benefit of the one they love. Real love does not contain a condition or a prerequisite. Instead, real love simply displays a sincere desire for what is best for the object of its affection.

Jesus is the ultimate picture of love. Romans 5:8 says, *“While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* He loved us when we had no desire for Him and no intention of ever displaying it. In fact, He loved us and died for us even if we never were to turn to Him. Even if we were to remain His enemy by choice for our entire lives, He loves us. He demonstrated this real love as he asked that the Father forgive those who took His life.

Jesus told His disciples, *“Greater love hath no man than this, than a man lay down his life for his friends,”* and then He demonstrated it on the cross. Do we love Him with the same intensity? If we say yes, how do we demonstrate it? Do you love your friends enough to lay down your life for them? Tell them about Jesus, and you show how much you love them.

~DJJ

**Morning:** *Leviticus 24-25*

**Evening:** *Mark 1:23-45*

### Scripture Fill-In

“Create in me a \_\_\_\_\_ heart, O God; and renew a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy \_\_\_\_\_; and take not thy holy spirit from me. \_\_\_\_\_ unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.” Psalm 51:10-12

### Bible Quiz

**Who Said It?** Label each quote with the Biblical character who said it.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. “Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise.” (Jn. 2)

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. “Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.” (Jn. 3:1-2)

### Quote of the Day

“Jesus—a simple name with so much power and meaning, but on that night so long ago, a tiny baby, wrapped by Mary in swaddling clothes, waving little arms, hungrily sucking a fist, was like any other newborn baby. He was helpless and dependent, and Mary was His hope of survival, His nourishment, his very lifeline. God entrusted His most priceless gift to a very human, very young, earthly mother. Why? Because God so loved—that He gave. He relinquished His hold on his Son and placed Him in fragile human arms.” ~Jeanette Oke

*Friday*  
February 18

## Called with a Purpose

*“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.” 2 Timothy 1:9*

When we were lost as a result of our own sin, we were saved by God, for we could not save ourselves. Our salvation was not according to our own works. God the Father saw our need. God the Son came to pay the price of our salvation. The Holy Spirit of God convicted us and regenerated us. God went through a lot to save us, and He did it for a reason.

When God saved us, He had a goal in mind. This verse says that He has called us with a holy calling. God’s call to salvation and to consecration are not in vain. His desire is for us to be completely consecrated to Him, vessels set aside for His service and to accomplish His will. We are called to His holy purpose—to follow Him as our head and to find our place as members of His spiritual body, the church. The church is His ordained institution to accomplish His plan and to advance His kingdom here and now. But this verse also tells us that this has been his plan before the foundation of the earth. It also reminds us that His grace is available to us so that we can have the spiritual strength necessary to fulfill our role in serving Him.

Before the world began God had a plan. He called us to salvation and to His service so that we could accomplish His will. ~DLW

**Morning:** *Leviticus 26-27*  
**Evening:** *Mark 2*

## Scripture Fill-In

“Create in me a \_\_\_\_\_ heart, O God; and renew a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy \_\_\_\_\_; and take not thy holy spirit from me. \_\_\_\_\_ unto me the \_\_\_\_\_ of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.” Psalm 51:10-12

## Bible Quiz

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

1. What was Paul’s last instruction at the end of Colossians?
  - A. Treat one another fairly with love.
  - B. Remember my bonds.
  - C. Serve without looking back.
  - D. Relocate the church meeting room.
2. Which one of the following men was also imprisoned with Paul when he wrote Colossians? (Col. 4:10)
  - A. Aristarchus
  - B. Nymphus
  - C. Archippus
  - D. None of the above

## Quote of the Day

“Our culture exalts self-fulfillment, self discovery, and autonomy. But according to Christ, it is only in losing my life that I will find it. Only by committing myself as a “living sacrifice” to the larger Body through loyalty to Him will I find my true reason for being.”

~Paul Brand & Philip Yancey

# Saturday

February 19

## Guidelines for Money

What guidelines does the Bible give us for managing money? First, God has given us all that we have. We are responsible to care for our own needs and the needs of our family so it is not a burden on others. However, we should be willing to give up anything if God asks us! This kind of attitude causes nothing to come between us and God. Obey what God tells you to do with your money.

Secondly, we must use money in accordance with the love of Christ. We cannot love God with all our hearts and yet keep our money to ourselves. Loving Him totally means using our money in ways that pleases Him.

Our obedience to Christ is tested by how we use money. Luke 16:13 says, ***“No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”*** Here are some conclusions we can draw from this passage in Luke:

1. Let us use our resources wisely, because they belong to God and not to us.
2. Money can be used for good or evil; let us use it for good.
3. Money has a lot of power, so we must use it carefully and thoughtfully.
4. We must use our material goods in a way that will foster faith and obedience.

~AP

**Morning:** Numbers 1-2

**Evening:** Mark 3:1-21

## Scripture Fill-In

“Create in me a \_\_\_\_\_ heart, O God; and renew a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy \_\_\_\_\_; and take not thy holy spirit from me. \_\_\_\_\_ unto me the \_\_\_\_\_ of thy salvation; and \_\_\_\_\_ me with thy free spirit.”  
Psalm 51:10-12

## Bible Quiz

**Matching:** Match the king with his country.

- |                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| ____ 1. David<br>(2 Sam. 3:10)        | A. Babylon |
| ____ 2. Nebuchadnezzar<br>(Jer. 21:2) | B. Israel  |
| ____ 3. Ahasuerus<br>(Esther 1)       | C. Salem   |
| ____ 4. Pharaoh<br>(Gen. 41:46)       | D. Persia  |
| ____ 5. Melchizedek<br>(Gen. 14:18)   | E. Egypt   |

## Quote of the Day

“If life is to have meaning, and if God’s will is to be done, all of us have to accept who we are and what we are, give it back to God, and thank Him for the way He made us. What I am is God’s gift to me; what I do with it is my gift to Him.” ~Warren Wiersebe

# Sunday

February 20

## Bless the Lord

### Read Psalm 103

*“Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.”* Of course, this is verse one of Psalms 103. What an all-time favorite of Christians! Most of us have memorized it, taught it, and even sung it in a chorus. I personally can not imagine ever tiring of it. For my life, it is one of my staple verses.

I don’t recite or sing it just in the good times. I specifically remember when my husband was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia, that this was the first verse that I quoted, and it was my first prayer after hearing the news. It wasn’t because I was so very spiritual. It was because He *Is* Holy and He *Is* in control over it all. God had touched my husband in a unique way that was to be revered. There were no mistakes. God’s name was and is to be blessed in the good times and in the bad times.

Looking at the rest of the chapter, we are reminded of so many reasons to rejoice in His name. Verse three mentions that He forgives all our iniquities and that He is the Great Physician. It is He Who has redeemed our lives from utter destruction, and it is He Who crowns us with loving kindness and tender mercies. He gives us good things to eat so that our strength is made new. It is He Who is merciful and gracious. It is He Who doesn’t deal with my sin according to what I deserve. It is He Who pities me like my own dear father. Praise be to His name, because He remembers my frame and

**Morning:** Numbers 3-4

**Evening:** Mark 3:22-35

remembers that I am made of dust! I am so happy He sees me in this light. He knows my limits and will not stretch me beyond what I can handle. His throne is above the heavens, and He rules above all. He is my LORD. Is He truly yours? *“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”* ~NBM

### Scripture Fill-In

“Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.” Psalm 55:22

### Bible Quiz

**Thought Reflection:** List five reasons why you should bless the Lord.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Quote of the Day

“The whole meaning of prayer is that we may know God.” ~Oswald Chambers

# Monday

February 21

## Genuine Wisdom

*“This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” James 3: 15, 17*

There is a heavenly wisdom that comes from God, and there is a man-made wisdom that does not come from God. The Bible contains many examples of the folly of man’s wisdom. For example, in Genesis 11:1-9, they thought that they could build a tower to reach the heavens.

We see evidence of false wisdom in James 3:14 which says, *“But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.”*

1. Envy - Selfish ambition and zeal.
2. Strife - Spirit of self seeking only creates rivalry and division in the church.
3. Boasting - Pride loves to boast.
4. Deceit

Evidence of true spiritual wisdom is seen in James 3:13 and 15:

1. Meekness - Power under control.
2. Purity
3. Peace
4. Gentleness - Gentleness without weakness.
5. Compliance - Easy to live and work with.
6. Mercy
7. Good Fruits
8. Sincerity

**Morning:** Numbers 5-6

**Evening:** Mark 4:1-20

Worldly wisdom produces trouble. Godly wisdom produces blessing. ~OV

## Scripture Fill-In

“Cast thy \_\_\_\_\_ upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.” Psalm 55:22

## Bible Quiz

**Matching:** Match the king to his country.

- |                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| _____ 1. Bera<br>(Gen. 14:2)      | A. Gath    |
| _____ 2. Og<br>(Josh. 9:10)       | B. Sodom   |
| _____ 3. Sihon<br>(Josh. 13:10)   | C. Bashan  |
| _____ 4. Achish<br>(1 Sam. 21:10) | D. Judah   |
| _____ 5. Asa<br>(1 Ki. 15:33)     | E. Heshbon |

## Quote of the Day

“God wants us to worship Him. He doesn’t need us, for He couldn’t be a self-sufficient God and need anything or anybody, but He wants us. When Adam sinned it was not he who cried, “God, where art Thou?” It was God Who cried, “Adam, where art thou?”

~A. W. Tozer

# Tuesday

February 22

## Who's Your God?

*"O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 136:2*

This verse gives us an amazing title for our God. He is called the God of gods. There have been false religions since the days of Cain and Abel. With each differing religion, there is a different god. The different gods have different claims and have different characteristics. Is one god better than another? Which is the true God? Here the God of the Bible is called the God of gods, superior to any other being. What makes Him different?

He is the God who punished Adam and Eve when they disobeyed in the Garden. Then, He promised to provide a Deliverer for them. He is the God who promised a son to a fatherless Abraham and then gave Him Isaac. He is the God who overpowered the gods of Egypt and then delivered His people from Pharaoh's hand. He is the God who overthrew the inhabitation of the promised land to provide a home for His people. He is the God who left His home in Heaven and put on human flesh. He is the only God who defeated Satan both in the garden and in the grave. He is the God who hung on the cross at His first coming and will rule from a throne after His second coming.

He truly is the God to Whom we should give thanks. He alone is the God Who is worthy of our allegiance. He is the God of gods. ~DLW

**Morning:** Numbers 7

**Evening:** Mark 4:21-41

## Scripture Fill-In

"Cast thy \_\_\_\_\_ upon the \_\_\_\_\_, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Psalm 55:22

## Bible Quiz

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

- How many chapters are in the Book of Malachi?  
A. 1                      C. 3  
B. 2                      D. 4
- How many chapters are in the Book of Lamentations?  
A. 3                      C. 7  
B. 5                      D. 10
- How many chapters are in the Book of Ezra?  
A. 3                      C. 7  
B. 5                      D. 10
- 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John has a combined total of how many chapters?  
A. 3                      C. 7  
B. 5                      D. 10

## Quote of the Day

"The possession of the good news of the Gospel involves the obligation to share it."

~William Barclay

# Wednesday

February 23

## Spoils of War

*“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” Colossians 2:8*

It happens all too often on the campuses of colleges all over the country. It happens in churches and while someone is reading a new version of the Bible. It happens after one has missed church for several weeks in a row. It happens during conversations with “intelligent” nonbelievers. It happens! Strong followers of Christ fall away from the beliefs of Scripture. A teen will graduate from high school and attend a state university. The professor will challenge his beliefs and belittle his faith, and before you know it he is “spoil.” A young believer will attend an up-beat, exciting church with an “easier-to-read” version of the Bible and a new doctrine will creep in and “spoil” him too. A mature saint will not feel good for a few weeks, decide to spend a few weeks at the lake; a few months will go by and before he knows it he has not been to church in a year. The agnostic will begin to make sense. The Bible will become too confusing and impractical. One day you will wake up and realize that you are the spoils of a spiritual war.

The word “spoil,” in verse eight is a military term for the things that get taken after a fight. Through philosophy and vain deceit, Satan would like nothing more than to pull you away from the truth. If you are saved, he knows he can not take your soul to Hell. However, if he can render you useless for the cause of Christ,

**Morning:** Numbers 8-10

**Evening:** Mark 5:1-20

he has won a small battle. Are you on the verge of becoming the spoils of a spiritual war? The Apostle Paul warns you to beware! Do not allow it to happen. Be alert! Study the Word so you can recognize error. ~PO

### Scripture Fill-In

“Cast thy \_\_\_\_\_ upon the \_\_\_\_\_, and he shall \_\_\_\_\_ thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.” Psalm 55:22

### Bible Quiz

**Order:** Put the following minor prophet books in order of appearance in the Bible.

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| ____ 1. Obadiah | ____ 3. Amos  |
| ____ 2. Joel    | ____ 4. Jonah |

### Quote of the Day

“We have lost the art of worship. We are not producing saints. Our models are successful businessmen, celebrated athletes, and theatrical personalities. We carry on our religious activities after the methods of the modern advertisers. Our homes have been turned into theatres, our literature is shallow, our hymns border on sacrilege, and scarcely anyone seems to care. Christianity is little more than objective truth, sweetened with song and made palatable through religious entertainment, but we call them to have fun in His name. Christ calls men to carry a cross.” ~A. W. Tozer

# Thursday

February 24

## Thankfulness

*“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.” Psalm 92:1*

How important is it to express thankfulness? We should always be expressing thankfulness. 1 Chronicles 16:4 says, *“And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel.”* Certain Levites were appointed to give praise and thanks to God. Praise and thanksgiving should be a regular part of our routine, not reserved only for celebrations. Praise God all the time and you will find that you will NOT take God for granted.

Here are four aspects of thankfulness:

1. Remember what God has done.
2. Tell others about Him.
3. Show God’s glory to others.
4. Offer gifts of self, time, and resources.

If you are truly thankful to God...your LIFE will show it.

Thankfulness ought to be a major ingredient in all our relationships. During the Christmas season, we give thanks and express our gratitude toward Christ, but it should be a daily habit NOT just during Christmas time. We can never give thanks enough to God...so don’t stop! When you have an attitude of thankfulness, your life will change in every way. ~AP

**Morning:** Numbers 11-13

**Evening:** Mark 5:21-43

## Scripture Fill-In

“Cast thy \_\_\_\_\_ upon the \_\_\_\_\_, and he shall \_\_\_\_\_ thee: he shall \_\_\_\_\_ suffer the righteous to be moved.” Psalm 55:22

## Bible Quiz

**Completion:** Complete Psalm 147:1-7.

“(1)\_\_\_\_\_ ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is (2)\_\_\_\_\_; and praise is comely. The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel. He healeth the (3)\_\_\_\_\_ in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. He telleth the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. (5) \_\_\_\_\_ is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is (6) \_\_\_\_\_. The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground. Sing unto the LORD with (7)\_\_\_\_\_; sing praise upon the harp unto our God.”

## Quote of the Day

“Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it.” ~A. W. Tozer

*Friday*  
February 25

## Looking for the Answer

*“By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honor, and life.” Proverbs 22:4*

A short time ago, I was in a local grocery store and saw the headlines on a magazine. “(Insert famous actress) on Life, Love, and What Makes Her Happy.” I have no idea what the article said, nor do I really think that the article had much essence. This title in magazines, newspapers, and books has been quite overdone, and the only reason that I can figure out why it continues to surface is that PEOPLE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR THE ANSWER! People want to be happy. People want a productive, fulfilling life. Unfortunately, the general public looks to celebrities, famous actors, millionaires, and sports heroes for the answers, thinking that these people “have it all.” Well, obviously, they do not have the answer, or else every other day you would not see a celebrity filing for divorce, overdosing on drugs, committing crimes, and putting an end to his life.

Our verse for today points us in the direction of how to “have it all.” *“By humility and the fear of the LORD . . . .”* Natural tendency and human nature make us prone to want to be someone special, to want our name in the big lights, and to want to outshine the person next to us. As we develop a fear and reverence of our Saviour, humility develops. When we realize Who Christ really is, we realize how little we truly are.

Fellow believers, we have the answer! Pray that the Lord helps you develop a healthy fear of Him and a lifestyle of humility, and daily

**Morning:** Numbers 14-15  
**Evening:** Numbers 6:1-32

focus on making these qualities a reality in your life. ~MFV

## Scripture Fill-In

“Cast thy \_\_\_\_\_ upon the \_\_\_\_\_, and he shall \_\_\_\_\_ thee: he shall \_\_\_\_\_ suffer the \_\_\_\_\_ to be moved.”  
Psalm 55:22

## Bible Quiz

**Short Answer:** Answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. What king of Judah showed foreign kings his resources and was reprimanded by the prophet Isaiah? (1 Ki. 20:12-21)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What king was stricken by leprosy because he went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the alter of incense and was unworthy to do so? (2 Chron. 26)  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Quote of the Day

“One must reach the point of not caring two straws about his own status before he can wish wholly for God’s kingdom, not his own, to be established.” ~C. S. Lewis

# Saturday

February 26

## Do You Trust Yourself, or Do You Trust in Jesus Christ?

*“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:26*

Do you have true, saving faith in Jesus Christ? Here are some questions you may ask yourself as you examine your heart:

1. Was there a time when I honestly realized I was a sinner and admitted this to myself and God?
2. Was there a time when my heart stirred me to flee from the wrath to come? Have I ever seriously been exorcised over my sins?
3. Do I truly understand the Gospel, that Christ died for my sins and arose again? Do I understand and confess that I cannot save myself?
4. Did I sincerely repent of my sins and turn from them? Or do I secretly love sin and want to enjoy it? Or do I hate sin and fear God?
5. Have I trusted Christ and Christ alone for my salvation? Do I enjoy a living relationship with Him through the Word and in the Spirit?
6. Has there been a change in my life? Do I maintain good works, or are my works occasional and weak? Do I seek to grow in the things of the Lord? Can others tell that I Have been with Jesus?
7. Do I have a desire to share Christ with others? Or, am I ashamed of Him?

**Morning:** Numbers 16-17

**Evening:** Mark 6:33-56

8. Do I enjoy the fellowship of God’s people? Is worship a delight to me?
9. Am I ready for the Lord’s return? Or will I be ashamed when He comes for me?

These are questions we all need to ask ourselves, whether we are truly trusting Christ or not. ~OV

### Scripture Fill-In

“Cast thy \_\_\_\_\_ upon the \_\_\_\_\_, and he shall \_\_\_\_\_ thee: he shall \_\_\_\_\_ suffer the \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_.”  
Psalm 55:22

### Bible Quiz

**Unscramble:** Unscramble the letters to reveal some of the fruits of the spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. dgesosno
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. tlgsensene
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. oyj
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. itfah
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. kmssenee

### Quote of the Day

“It is better to die for a conviction than to live with a compromise.” ~Vance Havner

# Sunday

February 27

## The Fullness of the Godhead

*“For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” Colossians 2:9*

In the fictitious world of comic books and movies, we have been introduced to heroes and superheros. Many of them wear a costume or suit to protect their identity. To the average “citizen” of Gotham, the identity of Batman is unknown because Batman wears a mask. The people of Malibu, California, rely on Ironman when he is in his suit. The people of Forrest Hills, New York, do not know the identity of Spiderman because he wears an outfit. In the Batman suit dwells Bruce Wayne. Even though he is Batman, he is still Bruce Wayne. Ironman is still Tony Stark; even in the suit. In the Spiderman costume dwells Peter Parker. Even though they are known by their outfit or costume, inside dwells a “real” person.

The Apostle Paul reminds his readers that Jesus Christ (who by the way, is NOT a fictitious character but a real person), has within Him *“all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”* In other words, this Jesus is one hundred percent God even though he was in human form.

The mystery of the incarnation is that God became a man and retained His Godhead. While being one hundred percent man in the body of Christ, He was one hundred percent God. *“In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”*

Jesus did not try to hide His identity. He was Who He said He was. He was God in the flesh. He triumphed over evil through His death on the cross and resurrection from the

**Morning:** Numbers 18-21

**Evening:** Mark 7

dead. We can trust Him; for we *“are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power”* (v.10). ~PO

### Scripture Fill-In

“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.” Psalm 56:3-4

### Bible Quiz

**True or False:** Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. When the Holy Spirit descended at the time of Jesus’ baptism, it took the bodily shape of a raven. (Mt. 3:16 & Lk. 3:22)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Jesus claimed in John 10:30 that He and God the Father were one Person.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit make up the Godhead body.

### Quote of the Day

“Modern mankind can go anywhere, do everything and be completely curious about the universe. But only a rare person now and then is curious enough to want to know God.”

~A. W. Tozer

# Monday

February 28

**Morning:** Numbers 22-25  
**Evening:** Mark 8:1-21

## It's Time to Grow Up

*“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.” Hebrews 5:12*

Grow up! If a summary of this verse were to be written, these two words would be the result. The author of this letter to the Hebrews does not mince words. Neither does he make a flowery attempt to address the reader's immaturity with tenderness. He cuts to the quick.

These believers had been saved for a while and were still expecting to be bottle fed the foundational truth of God. They needed to stop acting like spiritual babies. At this point in their walk, they should be eating spiritual meat that they themselves had harvested from God's Word. In fact not only should they be feeding themselves, but they should be involved in the feeding of others.

No longer should they be wrestling with obedience in the basics of Biblical teaching (baptism, faith, giving, abstaining, etc.). Having followed God in these areas, they should have been teaching others to do the same. Without a maturing diet, any developing child would be malnourished and eventually die. That was the state of the believers in Hebrews.

How long have you been saved? Do you still rely on one spiritual meal served to you with a spoon from your pastor each week? Have you taken up your Bible and begun to feed yourself? Are you actively involved in

giving meals to those who are spiritually less mature than you? If you have been saved for any real length of time then you should be growing and using your gifts and abilities for the Lord. If you are not, shame on you. It is time to grow up! ~DJD

## Scripture Fill-In

“What time I am \_\_\_\_\_, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.” Psalm 56:3-4

## Bible Quiz

**Thought Reflection:** Be honest with yourself. How are you doing spiritually? Are you still relying on “milk” when you should be eating “solid food” at this point of your walk with Christ? Use the blanks below to write a prayer to God about your desire to grow spiritually.

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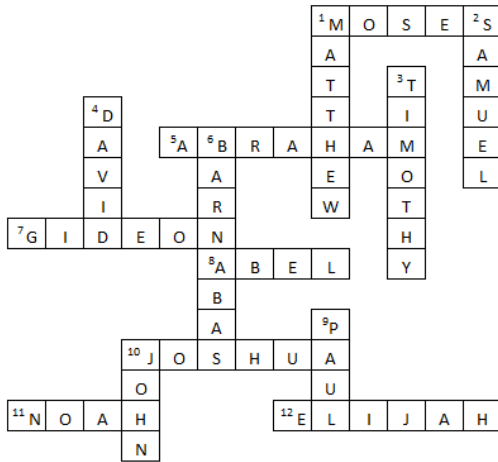
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## Quote of the Day

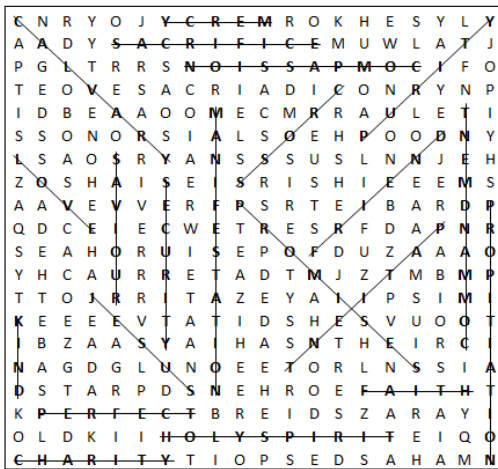
“Our Father refreshes on the journey with some pleasant inns, but will not encourage us to mistake them for home.” ~C. S. Lewis

# Answers

## Cross-Word Puzzle



## Word Search



## Bible Quizzes

- Feb. 1 pg. 2 1. A 2. D  
 Feb. 2 pg. 3 1. Prince of Peace, Creator, Controller 2. Answers will vary. 3. Most High  
 Feb. 3 pg. 4 1. T 2. F 3. F  
 Feb. 4 pg. 5 1. B 2. A 3. C

## Bible Quizzes (Continued)

- Feb. 5 pg. 6 1. F 2. T  
 Feb. 6 pg. 8 Answers will vary.  
 Feb. 7 pg. 9 1. D 2. B 3. E 4. A 5. C 6. F  
 Feb. 8 pg. 9 1. Word of Truth 2. Doctrine, Reproof, Correction, Instruction in righteousness  
 Feb. 9 pg. 10 1. Esther 2. Mary 3. Hannah 4. Eunice 5. Elisabeth 6. Jochebed 7. Martha  
 Feb. 10 pg. 12 1. D 2. A  
 Feb. 11 pg. 13 1. C 2. B  
 Feb. 12 pg. 14 1. Pantheth 2. Soul 3. God  
 Feb. 13 pg. 16 1. Love 2. Separate 3. Passeth 4. Father 5. Son  
 Feb. 14 pg. 17 1. C 2. A 3. B  
 Feb. 15 pg. 18 Ephesians 4:1  
 Feb. 16 pg. 19 1. D 2. A 3. E 4. C 5. B 6. F  
 Feb. 17 pg. 20 1. Jesus 2. Nicodemus  
 Feb. 18 pg. 21 1. B 2. A  
 Feb. 19 pg. 22 1. B 2. A 3. D 4. E 5. C  
 Feb. 20 pg. 24 Answers will vary.  
 Feb. 21 pg. 25 1. B 2. C 3. E 4. A 5. D  
 Feb. 22 pg. 26 1. D 2. B 3. D 4. C  
 Feb. 23 pg. 27 1. 3 2. 1 3. 2 4. 4  
 Feb. 24 pg. 28 1. Praise 2. Pleasant 3. Broken 4. Number 5. Great 6. Infinite 7. Thanksgiving  
 Feb. 25 pg. 29 1. Hezekiah 2. Uzziah  
 Feb. 26 pg. 30 1. Goodness 2. Gentleness 3. Joy 4. Faith 5. Meekness  
 Feb. 27 pg. 32 1. F 2. T 2. T  
 Feb. 28 pg. 33 Answers will vary.