

# Divided We Fall

by

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**Christians Need To Always Live In Unity And Be Well Balanced**

**First Edition**

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**Every Christian I know of started the race following after Christ to win.** But many well-meaning people have been deceived, distracted, and poisoned in their faith, causing them not to follow through on their promises and vows to The Lord. Many have been led off course and have had wavering faith.

**“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”** Matthew 24:12-14.

All Scripture references in this writing are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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## Well Balanced, Or Divided We Fall

Every Believer, **who follows Jesus Christ must learn to become well balanced** in every aspect of their life. Too many Christians, **who follow Jesus and proclaim Him as their Lord, neglect the importance** of being **faithful stewards** and godly **ambassadors at all times**, so that people may see **both the salt and the light in them**, which demonstrates Jesus Christ. People are looking for true hope, not the false hope the world gives.

We are called to endure to the end, being found faithful. **“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”** Matthew 24:13. We must not only be hearers of The Word, **but doers of The Word** as well. *See* James 1:22-27. **“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”** 1 Corinthians 4:2.

**“But without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6. We must demonstrate our continual faith.

**“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”** James 1:26-27.

Do not be lovers of self, or neglect the needs of others. **“THIS** know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **Without natural affection**, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**” 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

**Watch out for religious spirits**, that would try to control you, and put you into a type of bondage where you have a form of godliness, but are really denying the power of God. Christ **came to set us free** from the awful captivity of sin, but many get entangled back into sin or into religious practices trying to earn their Salvation.

I have seen too many professing Christians who are extremely flaky. You encounter them each day all around you. Whether in person, or in entertainment, you see people who live a **lifestyle compromising their faith** in Jesus Christ. I shake my head, almost in disbelief at their words and actions, due to the poor testimony which they reflect back on Jesus Christ, and on God. Christians are required to be followers of Christ, to act like He acted, and to **live their life like Christ in every area.** Christ **never sinned or compromised**, neither should we. God gave us His Word, The Precious Holy Spirit, and His Grace, so **we would be empowered to be a victor.** Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. He wants us to walk like He did, and to be overcomers. **“...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”** 1 John 3:8.

Jesus spoke of what would happen to him that overcomes. He desires us to be well balanced overcomers that are not divided, but are working and walking in unity and agreement. **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;** to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. **For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”** Romans 1:16-17. The Gospel is **The Power Of God** unto Salvation **for all who believe.**

We must all have **The Love Of God** balanced with **The Fear Of The Lord.** There are serious consequences for disrespecting or disobeying your Heavenly Father, His Word, Jesus Christ, and The Precious Holy Spirit.

## A Faithless, Deceived, And Disobedient Generation

The Holy Bible talks about the time, nearing Christ's Return, when all kinds of evil and sin would abound in the world. "THIS know also, **that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.** For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, **Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.** Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so **do these also resist the truth:** men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was. But thou hast fully known my doctrine, **manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions,** which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. **Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.** But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. **But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;** And that from a child thou hast known **the holy scriptures,** which are able to make thee wise unto salvation **through faith** which is in Christ Jesus. **All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:** That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. I CHARGE *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.** For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine;** but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, **make full proof of thy ministry.**" 2 Timothy 3:1-4:5.

The preaching of The Word is what changes people. Signs, wonders, healings, and miracles are wonderful. They get the attention of people and point them to Christ, but it is The Word Of God that truly changes the heart and soul of a person. We need **to be careful** not to overly emphasize the worship music and miracles, and neglect the extreme value of the preaching of The Word, which builds up faith, corrects, and teaches us. **Your faith will grow, only to the level** that corresponds with the amount of time, effort, and intrinsic value that you place on God's Word. Will The Word have a shallow or a deep root in your life, or will it be stolen? Remember the Parable of The Sower. See Matthew 13:3-23. "...and how shall they hear without a preacher?" **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** Romans 10:14,17. Hear The Word!

So many are sick, oppressed, and depressed today, because they are not walking in true love toward God and their fellow man. If we love God, we would not sin. With the evil and violent world that we live in, many are afraid and downcast. We are commanded to **overcome the world** and its evils, **by our faith in Jesus Christ.**

**"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear:** because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. **If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar:** for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, **That he who loveth God love his brother also. WHOSOEVER believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God:** and every one that loveth him that begat

loveth him also that is begotten of him. **By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even our faith.* Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"** 1 John 4:18-5:5. We are to overcome the world by our faith.

### **The Essential Requirement To Demonstrate Your Faith**

**We are called to be overcomers in life.** The Holy Bible is full of examples of God's desire to **bless** a person who has demonstrated by their faith that they fully believe in God, and in Jesus Christ. Those who arise from the problems and circumstances thrown at them in life, and who refuse to deny God, are the true overcomers.

We must deny the lies, and refuse the enticements to sin, that this world has to offer us, and instead embrace the truth contained in God's Word. If we truly believe in Jesus Christ, He will not deny us before The Father. We are required to express our faith, by confessing Jesus Christ before others, by our words and our actions. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." Matthew 10:32-34.

**We must confess Jesus Christ with both our mouths and our deeds.** We must never deny Him! We are to be living epistles, at all times showing forth our faith in Jesus. His Praise shall continually be in our mouths.

"...The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; **That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, **Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.** For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.** How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? **and how shall they hear without a preacher?"** Romans 10:8-14.

"Little children, let no man deceive you: **he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil;** for the devil sinneth from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**" 1 John 3:7-8. Express your faith!

"**And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock:** and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, **and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.** But he that **heareth, and doeth not,** is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately **it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.**" Luke 6:46-49.

**If we confess Christ** to the world by our words and actions, **He will confess us** before His Father. If we deny Christ, then **He will deny us before His Father!** **What a dreadful day it will be for the person who denies Jesus,** when they appear before Him! We must always be diligent to never doubt God, His Word, or His Son.

**“Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”** Matthew 7:19-27.

*“It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with **him**, we shall also live with **him**: If we suffer, we shall also reign with **him**: if we deny **him**, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.”* **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** But shun profane *and* vain babblings: ...” 2 Timothy 2:11-13,15-16.

### **To Him That Overcomes**

**“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”** Revelation 3:5.

### **Trust In The Lord**

One of my favorite verses is: *“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.”* Psalm 118:8. For, *“The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?”* Psalm 118:6.

**“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”** Matthew 6:33-34. *“Pray without ceasing.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

We all need to learn the lesson of **placing our total reliance upon The Lord, and not depending upon our own flesh or our reasoning abilities.** God is seeking people who will totally rely upon Him for everything!

### **Unity And Agreement**

The Bible is clear that we need to have unity and agreement between Believers. There is power in agreement and unity, but there is confusion, distrust, and division when there is a lack of agreement between Believers.

**“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”** Amos 3:3. When we find that there is some disagreement between us and others, we should be quick to settle the matter to restore proper unity. *See* Matthew 5:21-26.

The enemy will do everything in his power to divide, hinder, deceive, and discourage us. His goal is to get us to **stop believing in God, and in one another.** He knows there is **power in unity and agreement**, so he tries to destroy our faith in, and agreement with, God and others, so we become offended, divided, and powerless.

## Deception All Around

Those who consider themselves to be Christians or followers of Jesus Christ, need to be extra careful in these last days to avoid all the deception that is rampant around them. We are regularly being deceived by seducing spirits working on behalf of the devil, to get us to substitute believing in God's Truth for believing in lies.

The devil wants nothing more than to deceive, confuse, and bewitch you, so that you will be ineffective, and fail to accomplish God's plan for your life. One of the ways he accomplishes his deceptive tasks is to get you to a place where you call evil good and good evil. Rarely does it happen overnight, but by a gradual move to get you to embrace his false doctrines, and become seduced by his deceptive works. False manifestations are sure to follow, to attempt to trick you into believing what you are experiencing, or seeing, is really from God.

Satan is a master impersonator. He can appear in various forms, including as an "angel of light," as revealed in 2 Corinthians 11:14. We are not to be afraid of him, but we **must not be ignorant** of the enemy's devices. "**Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.**" 2 Corinthians 2:11. **Fear** is often used against Christians, as well as the weapons of **deception** and **false manifestations**.

The devil is the ultimate con artist. First he gets your confidence by telling you some truth, to beguile you to believe and "prove" to you, that either he, or one of his servants, is really of, or from, God. After you accept their confidence building *truth scheme* lie as evidence of their godliness and truthfulness, you will be open to believe them when they introduce false doctrines, evil, the promise of power, and many false manifestations.

This very subtle deceptive trick, is one of the enemy's most common ways of getting you to open up a door to let him in, to influence your life. Once you believe that something, or someone, **is really of God**, you are apt to believe their future statements, actions, and manifestations, no matter how **erroneous** they really are.

**Be careful** who you let **speak over you**, or **impart** things into your life. Psalm 83:3 warns us of the enemy's strategy: **they are cunning to conspire against God's people, and plot against those who God cherishes**. We must always be watchful, and diligent, to preserve our true faith and trust in God, and not allow ourselves to be deceived into substituting the lie for the truth "...who hold the truth in unrighteousness;" Romans 1:18.

We are **to know those** who speak over us or have authority over us. "And we beseech you, brethren, to **know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;**" 1 Thessalonians 5:12.

Do not let anyone that you do not know lay hands on you. Be very careful when laying your hands on others. "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure." 1 Timothy 5:22.

Christian Believers open the door to the devil when they exhibit prayerlessness, a lack of spending the proper time with God in prayer. The lack of proper **reverence and consecration to God**, can give the enemy access. **Unbelief, fears**, lack of commitment, **disobedience, sin**, and insecurities, can also open one up to attacks of the devil. **True belief in Jesus Christ** is what God desires, as evidenced by the fruit of **our actions**, and **our faith**. Unstable, double-minded people are not who God desires. He wants those willing to "sell out" wholly to Him in faith! Be the overcomer that God has destined you to be! **Seek His Ways and His Kingdom, and ask His help to overcome all evil, trials, and temptations**, so that you may **stand in faith**. God permits the enemy to try people's faith. Pray to God, in Jesus' Name. God **can trust** those who pass the trials and testing.

## Who Has Led You Astray?

Deception comes in many forms, and packages, that can easily trick us into permitting it to influence us in many ways, including the changing of our thoughts and beliefs. Just as Eve was deceived by Satan in The Garden, by being offered special knowledge and power [to be like God, knowing Good and Evil] if she would act on the evil one's instructions to disobey God and eat of the forbidden fruit, we will be given the choice to believe or reject God's Instructions. The enemy will come, often using other people, attempting to deceive us to stop demonstrating our faith in Christ and obedience to His Instructions. Believers are tempted to not wait on God, but rather to accept a lie that the enemy's agent is pushing. Be careful who you allow to lead you, for they may at first gain your trust by speaking truthful things, and then reveal their true motives.

That is why we are admonished to know them that labor among us, and those who are over us in The Lord. We must "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" **"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."** Matthew 7:15-16,20. We are to **inspect fruit, but not to judge others.**

Be careful whom you associate with, and whom you permit to speak over you, to lay hands on you, pray for you, and teach you. Whomever you follow, and give authority to, will hold much sway over you. The enemy wants your allegiance and your devotion. He wants power over your thoughts and all other areas. If he can deceive you to accept doctrines of devils, instead of God's truth, he can control you in many ways. **His main purpose is to separate you from God's protection.** Once you are deceived enough to believe and act upon the enemy's lies, **you have sinned against God**, because you are no longer demonstrating faith in God. You may **be deceived** into believing that you are really serving God, **but in reality the devil is deceiving you.**

Seducing Spirits have now gone out into the world, teaching doctrines of demons to deceive God's people. "NOW the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times **some shall depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;" 1 Timothy 4:1. They will try to separate people from believing upon and having true faith in Jesus Christ. They will attempt to substitute their false doctrines for The Truth contained in God's Holy Word. Hold fast to God's Word, and "...**earnestly contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 3. "Little children, **let no man deceive you**: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous." 1 John 3:7. "**Let no man deceive you** by any means: *for that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. Hold fast to The Truth and Faith! "Behold, I come quickly: **hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.**" Revelation 3:11.

**True prophets** encourage people to **repent** of their sins. They strive to turn the hearts of people back to God. **False prophets** often speak flattering words, teach **strange doctrines**, and **will draw people to follow them**. God's true messengers will unite Believers to repent, to pray, and walk in humility, purity, and righteousness.

Movies, television, and video games are some of the prime tools of the enemy to cloud your faith and seduce you into substituting lies for God's Truth. The evil one knows, that if you stop believing on Jesus Christ, you will be ineffective for manifesting God's Kingdom here on Earth. The Holy Bible warns us against allowing any evil sights, words, or thoughts into our minds. Any seed that you permit to grow will produce a **harvest!**

There are popular movies, books, and entertainment today that may purport to be Christian, but in reality are filled with pagan and occult references, which are forbidden for Christians to partake of. Watch out for things that have to do with magic, a power force, spells, incantations, wizards, witches, sorcerers, strange creatures, divination, astrologers, fortune tellers, mediums, any occult practices, or any other **thing that claims to have any power, that is not clearly identified as coming from a proper, holy relationship with The One True God!** We are to avoid the many things and people, that may appear to have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.**” 2 Timothy 3:5.

**Avoid all things** that desire to separate you from total belief in Jesus Christ as the only way to God! “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6.

Be careful what you allow yourself to watch, or be entertained by, for it will affect you. “**I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.**” Psalm 101:3.

We need to stand in our faith in God, through Jesus Christ. “Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the **old paths**, where *is* the good way, and **walk therein**, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, **We will not walk therein.** Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, **We will not hearken.** Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what *is* among them. Hear, O earth: **behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law**, but rejected it.” Jeremiah 6:16-19.

“When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou **shalt not** learn to do after the **abominations** of those nations. **There shall not be found among you any one** that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth **divination**, *or* an **observer of times**, or an **enchanter**, or a **witch**, Or a **charmer**, or a **consulter with familiar spirits**, or a **wizard**, or a **necromancer**. For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. **Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.** For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so *to do*. The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;” Deuteronomy 18:9-15. The True Prophet is Jesus!

In my opinion, Narnia, Harry Potter, The Hobbit, The Lord Of The Rings, and Star Wars, are filled with evil and occult images that all Christians would be wise to avoid. These movies and books do not portray God or Jesus Christ, but instead offer counterfeit versions of God or Christ to deceive their moviegoers and readers.

In no way do I believe they present the true Gospel Message of Salvation through Jesus Christ. They portray other gods, witchcraft, wizards, magic, mystical beings, and feature sources of power and life that deny God.

Just because something appears to have some truth in it does not mean it is entirely to be trusted. As I talked about earlier, con artists and the devil often gain a person’s confidence first, to show that they can be trusted, then introduce doubt, error, and evil to manipulate and get their desired way with very unsuspecting people. Watch out for deception in everything! There are even religions, churches, and ministers who may appear to be good, but in reality have wrong motives and doctrines that are designed to manipulate and deceive people. Be on guard at all times. Flee evil. Be about “...rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15. “**Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.**” 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22.

## Desperate For God - Hungering After God

**God desires to be sought by us** with all of our heart and mind! How hungry and desperate are we for God? Are we diligently seeking Him? Do we place God first in our thoughts and actions, or is He an afterthought? Do we earnestly contend for the faith, and continually strive to know and please God, and follow His Ways?

People often wonder why God does not move, or come in the fullness of His Presence in their midst. Perhaps they are neglecting investing time in fellowship with God in prayer, and in studying His Word and His Ways.

The proof of any **important** relationship is demonstrated by the amount of undivided time that we choose to spend with that person. Marriages often suffer when there is a lack of communication and quality time spent with a spouse, which often leads to a failure or breakdown of their trust, intimacy, and relationship.

Where does your **relationship with God rank** in your life? How “sold out” are you for Him? Are there any people or things that you have allowed to be more important in your life than God? If so, they have become idols, which have taken the rightful place of God in your life. In The Ten Commandments, God is clear that He forbids idols and placing any other gods before Him. *See both* Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21.

Do you truly put God first, and love Him with all your heart, mind, and strength? Do you love others as you love yourself? “And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments *is*, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment. And the second *is* like, *namely* this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:29-31.

The enemy will **try to divide us from God, and also from one another**, by introducing doubt and deception into our relationships with God and other people. If we are not careful, we can become self-centered and lose the desire to have meaningful relationships with God and with others. Satan is still encouraging people to sin, just like he did with Eve, by **enticing them to become their own gods, to do whatever pleases them**. “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods**, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:4-5.

**God is calling us to submit to Him and to His Ways, and to resist the devil**. God will not force us to have a relationship with Him. He desires us to repent from our sins, and to be obedient to Him instead of the devil. “**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**” James 4:7. If we desire **to know God, and be in fellowship with Him, we must receive cleansing for sin through Christ’s Blood, draw near to God, and walk in purity**. “**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...**” James 4:8.

### The Gospel Is Designed To Be Offensive

(1 Corinthians 1:18, 2 Corinthians 2:14-16)

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is designed to be offensive to unbelievers — those who are dead in their sins and on their way to Hell. How else could a loving and just God be fair to all of His Creation? If an earthly father did not discipline his child, he would be accused of not being a good father. The same goes for our Heavenly Father! If God did not convict and correct us of our sins, how would we ever know to change? The mere act of telling someone that they are in error is offensive to many, but if they heed the correction, repent, and turn

their lives around, a great thing is accomplished! It is not our role as Christians to bash people or attempt to force someone to “believe on Jesus Christ” against their will. We are called to make available God’s Truth to all who would accept Him, and also believe on His Son, Jesus. We are called to be **messengers** of The Truth, **not enforcers** of punishment against people who are in sin, and in rebellion against God. **We are to love the sinner and the Believer**, and to demonstrate God’s Love and Hope by the way we live our life, so we testify of God’s Grace and Righteousness. We must **not compromise** our faith, get entangled in sin, or live our lives as poor witnesses for Christ. **There is only one way to God** — through having **faith in Jesus Christ!** “Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way**, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, **but by me.**” John 14:6.

It is not God’s Will for people to perish, but to repent and be saved. “...As I live, saith the Lord GOD, **I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live:...**” Ezekiel 33:11.

**The Gospel** is good news to them that believe in Christ, **but it is divisive** to unbelievers. “Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:” Luke 12:51. Truth will exclude people, by exposing their true condition of being dead in their sins if they do not believe in Christ. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, **that whosoever believeth in him should not perish**, but have **everlasting life**. For God sent **not his Son into the world to condemn the world**; but that the world through him might be saved. **He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**” John 3:16-18.

The Gospel of Christ is **both offensive and exclusive**. You can not “roll your own religion,” or come to God apart from truly **believing** in Jesus Christ. Also, when you **believe** in someone, you **must demonstrate** your belief by your words, thoughts, and actions. Many people profess faith in Christ, but do they demonstrate it?

Jesus warned His Followers that they would be **despised and hated because of His Name’s Sake**. “And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name’s sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Mark 13:13. God’s Word clearly says that Jesus will be despised by people (Isaiah 49:7,53:3) and they would **hate Him without cause, and also hate His Father**. “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have **chosen you** out of the world, therefore **the world hateth you.**” “**He that hateth me hateth my Father also.** ...but now have **they both seen and hated both me and my Father. But *this cometh to pass***, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, **They hated me without a cause.**” John 15:18-19,23-25.

We speak “...**not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**” 1 Corinthians 2:4-5. We are to **please God**, not people. We must not compromise our faith. “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for **if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.**” Galatians 1:10.

“**By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. **For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.** Who is he that overcometh the world, **but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**” 1 John 5:2-5. “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.**” “...**If ye continue in my word, then** are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you **free.**” John 16:33, 8:31-32.

## Total Dependence

Who do you depend on at all times, with all things in your life? Who is always faithful? Who can be trusted? People will always disappoint you, but Father God, Jesus Christ, and The Holy Spirit may always be trusted! **“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.”** Psalm 118:8. **“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”** Psalm 20:7. **“I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.”** Psalm 91:2.

**“Trust in 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. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.”** **“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.”** **“The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.”** Proverbs 3:5-9,13,19. God and His Wisdom can be trusted at all times!

**God wants to be diligently sought and fully relied upon.** “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. **And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.** And I will be found of you, saith the LORD:...” Jeremiah 29:11-14.

**“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”** Matthew 6:33. **“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”** Matthew 5:6. If we put God first, He will provide all that we need. Be careful not to neglect or mistreat God.

**“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”** Isaiah 55:6-9. God wants us to totally depend on Him.

**“I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.”** Proverbs 8:17. **“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith... Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)”** Hebrews 10:22-23. God is faithful and true, keeping all of His Promises.

God desires to be **sought and believed.** “With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” Psalm 119:10-11. **“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”** Hebrews 11:6. **We must totally depend on Him!**

**“God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”** 1 Corinthians 1:9-10. **Jesus Christ is coming for His Church, that is not divided, but is in unity.**

Avoid being exiled from God: “...who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth...” Galatians 3:1.

## Trials And Temptations

**“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”** 1 Peter 4:12-13.

You will face trials, temptations, and tribulations in this life, but do not be discouraged. “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. **“He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”** Psalm 23:3-4. **We must learn obedience to God through overcoming the hardships that life presents us with in this carnal world.** We should **pray always** as Jesus did, and intercede on the behalf of others who are perishing, and are in torment. We are called by God **to endure** this life to the end. “Though he were a Son, yet learned he **obedience** by the things **which he suffered**; And being **made perfect**, he became the author of **eternal salvation** unto all them that obey him;” Hebrews 5:8-9. God is looking for people who would **overcome** this world **by faith** in Jesus.

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering...**” James 1:2-6. God’s Wisdom is available.

We are called to patiently endure life and trust God to deliver us. “**Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**” 2 Timothy 3:12. **We must not give in to** the temptations and hardships that this world offers. Jesus paid the ultimate price on The Cross, by shedding His Precious Blood so that we may “...have life, and...have *it* more abundantly.” John 10:10. Jesus **gave** His Life for **all those who trust in Him**. God wants us to be **restored** back to Him, through our faith in Jesus Christ. Recovery will follow restoration.

After our relationship and right standing to God **are restored back**, through our faith in Jesus Christ, He can begin **the work of restoration and recovery**, of what we have lost, and what has been stolen from us by sin. We must do our part, and ask for God’s Grace, so that we may **stay free from sin**, so His Work may be done.

Jesus Christ is looking for people who believe in Him, and are **overcomers**, who live their lives in purity and holiness, who love both Him and The Father, and who love their fellow man. If we learn to walk in **humility**, and learn **to rely on Him** for everything, we will say that “He must increase, but I *must* decrease.” John 3:30.

**Jesus promises much to overcomers:** a new name, white garment, power over the nations, to not be hurt by The Second Death, to eat of The Tree Of Life, and be a pillar in The Temple Of God. *See* Revelation 2 and 3.

**“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises:** that by these ye might be partakers of the **divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, **giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**” 2 Peter 1:4-8. **Depend on God’s Faithfulness!**

## Stay In Agreement With God And God's Word

We survive the trials and chaos in this life by making sure that we are always in full agreement with God and with The Word Of God. We will know God's Will, when we spend time with Him in prayer and in His Word.

Anything that does not agree with God's Word must immediately be rejected, to avoid a bad seed or thought taking root in our mind. Our words are extremely powerful. They must be in **full agreement** with The Truth. If you speak something false, bad or negative into existence, you will have to suffer the consequences of that.

Your words will always produce a harvest of some type. Stay in prayer, and meditate on God's Word. Prepare your heart, to receive the wonderful words of life, as rich soil, expectantly waiting to produce a good harvest. The devil wants to corrupt your good harvest with weeds, thistles, sins, and all manner of evil. Watch out for his deception, words, and false and corrupted seeds. Do not receive them into your ears, eyes, heart, or mind.

**Never agree with** an evil or false report. Many well-meaning professionals and people will speak words that will cause our faith in God to be negated, wither, and die. Any word, thing, or thought that counteracts God's Truth is false, and must immediately be rejected, and not received, by a Christian Believer. Faith demands it.

Be careful which people you agree with. Friends, and people that you associate with, that you allow to speak into your life and influence you, can impart either life or death, either rejuvenation or poison, by their words. **Be careful of the words that you say and that you pray. Everything you say, and do, influences others.**

Faith, or lack thereof, is demonstrated by your words and actions. God expects your words and actions to line up with His Words and Ways. **"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."** Proverbs 18:21. "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every **idle word** that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. **For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.**" Matthew 12:34-37.

Every Christian should strive to locate the many wonderful words of promise contained in God's Word and stand *in faith* on them. Apply them to your life. Wrap yourself in their truth and power. Allow them time to grow into maturity in your heart, and to transform your life, producing a mighty, powerful harvest of Truth.

When the storms and trials of adversity and suffering come, you shall not be moved, because the deep roots **of your faith in God and in God's Word** shall sustain you by His Many Wonderful Promises. Always keep your demonstration, and confession, of faith pure, to nurture and protect your relationship with God through Jesus. Too many Christians deny God **by a lack of faith.** "...**the just shall live by his faith.**" Habakkuk 2:4.

Above all, God wants **to be believed.** Your goal is to *so believe* in God, and in Jesus Christ, that no enemy or deception will ever be able to cause you to doubt, or to stop believing in The Faithfulness of God and Christ. Do not look to people. God alone is Who you trust in! "...**with God all things are possible.**" Matthew 19:26.

Believe and act on God's Promises. **"(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)"** 2 Corinthians 5:7. **"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"** Hebrews 10:23.

## The Just Shall Live By Faith

We can read The Bible, and many books, but until we put our faith into action, we are only hearers of The Word. **“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”** James 1:22.

The Holy Bible says, “...of making **many books** *there is* no end; and much study *is* a weariness of the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.** For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:12-14. Today we have much knowledge, “...and seal the book, *even* to the time of the end: **many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.**” Daniel 12:4. Many people today are running to and fro, being very busy, preoccupied with worldly pursuits and pleasures. They need to devote the time necessary to seek after God’s Wisdom. **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God,** a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15. **“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”** 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Once we have God’s Word/God’s Wisdom, we need to believe and act upon it.

**“Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.”** Mark 9:23. **All things are possible** to a Believer, who **believes and has faith** in God and in Jesus Christ, **without doubting.** Any promise from The Word Of God, when believed and fully embraced, is empowered by God to produce what it promises. The Gospel “...is **the power of God** unto salvation to every one **that believeth;**...” Romans 1:16. God’s Word is empowered, by His Power, to heal and deliver people. **“He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”** Psalm 107:20. God’s Words “...**are life** unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.” Proverbs 4:22. God really wants **to deliver, heal, bless, and restore** you. **Do you really believe that God wants you healed and whole?** *See for yourself in* Exodus 15:26 and 23:25-26. **Once you believe that God really does want you healed,** believe without doubting or wavering. **“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”** Hebrews 11:6. *See* James 1:6-7. God watches over **His Word to perform it. He stands behind it.** “...**for I will hasten my word to perform it.**” Jeremiah 1:12.

Beware of **traditions of men,** which tell people that God no longer heals, or that they must suffer with their disease. **It is not God’s Will for you to be sick or diseased! Watch out for: “Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition...”** Mark 7:13. **Stand firm in your faith, do not doubt or waver, and remind God of His Promises in His Word, so that He can perform them and be glorified.**

Watch out for prayers that ask God to heal *if it is His will.* It is **always God’s Will** to completely **heal people who come to Him for healing.** If there is a promise from God on a subject, such as salvation or healing, then asking *if it is His will* **negates** any **faith** that you had for Him to do that thing. Do we ask God if it is His Will to save people from sin? **Healing is for all who would believe upon Jesus! Salvation and physical healing are the result of turning away from your sins and reaching out in faith to receive your healing. Believe that Jesus is your sacrifice for both sin and sickness.** “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: **And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up;** and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. **Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**” James 5:14-16. **Jesus still heals and saves!**

## The Essence Of Faith

**We must diligently seek out God's Word to discover His Will** on a particular subject. **Then, if you have no clear leading, or direction, from God's Word on a particular matter, you may ask** *if it be Your will* types of requests and prayers. It is fine to pray "Help my unbelief" prayers, **when you are having trouble** fully believing what God has said, but it is **not proper to combine** *if it be Your will* prayers, when you are struggling to believe what **God has already spoken** on a subject, such as in His Word. The problem often arises when people are not taught to know or to believe God's Word properly. **A person's faith can be so divided**, and contain a **mixture** of true and false confessions, if they are not careful what they say and do.

When a person has **divided faith**, or wavering faith, **they are unstable** in all their ways, and shall not stand. **"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.** For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. **For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.** A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways." James 1:6-8 **"...every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:"** Matthew 12:25. See also Mark 3:24 and Luke 11:17. God is looking for people who will love Him and truly believe in Him, who have an unmovable, stable faith that is built upon The True Rock, which is Jesus Christ.

**A person must know God's Will.** How else can they have a basis for their faith? **True faith is known faith.** You must have faith in, and believe, **what God has said**, before you can apply that to your life. Healing is an example where you must know from Scripture that it is God's Will that all people would be healed. You must know that God desires to heal you! Once you have settled those matters, without doubting, you apply faith to what you know to be true, from God's Word, and receive your healing. **Faith appropriates God's Promises.**

Many people are afraid to take what God has already promised them. Find God's Will on the matter, and then simply believe to receive whatever God has promised. You **must believe that you will receive** when you ask in faith. God desires to **fulfill His Promises** and His Word. God seeks people who will really believe that **He is able to fulfill The Promises He has given us in His Word.** **Many people miss their blessing or healing because they fail to** receive, believe, or appropriate God's Promises **by faith** that are contained in His Word. **"...ye have not, because ye ask not."** James 4:2. **"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."** John 15:7. **"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:"** Matthew 7:7. We are called to live by our faith. **"...the just shall live by his faith."** Habakkuk 2:4. **Show that you believe God, by having faith in His Promises.**

It is not our will, but God's Will, that must be done in every situation. We must always align ourselves to His Will. When we do not know His Will, we must pray and search The Scriptures, **to discover His Will**, and the corresponding **Promises** contained in His Word. If we can not locate **His Promises in The Word** regarding a situation, we must pray and ask for His Will to be done. The Power Of God is unleashed, and the matter will be settled, when our will comes into alignment with God's Will. **"...Thy will be done..."** Always glorify God and seek His Will. **We are to live our lives so that other people would only see Jesus.** Matthew 6:10, 5:16.

God gave us the precious **Name Of Jesus**, His Son, to be victorious, to **use with authority**, and to overcome **all** things that we encounter. We should pray, speak, and do great exploits through the power in **Jesus' Name**. We honor God by having faith that every one of His Words is true, and by using The Name Of Jesus Christ. See James 5:13-16, 1 John 3:23, 5:13-15, Colossians 3:17, Mark 11:24, John 11:40-42, 14:13-14, 16:23-24, Acts 4:12, 16:18, Philippians 2:9-11, Mark 16:16-20. **Jesus left us His Name to boldly use with power.**

## Continually Abide With God In His Presence

There is a place that Psalm 91 talks about where we can abide under the Shadow of The Almighty, a place of protection that is free from fear or danger. When **we dwell there, no evil thing** shall be able to come near us. **“HE that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.** Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence. **He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.** Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day; *Nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh in darkness; *nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; *but* it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. **Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.** For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his **love** upon me, therefore will I **deliver** him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble: I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.” Psalm 91.

When we abide with God, we dwell with Him as long as we keep His Commandments and remain free from sin. The devil can not attack us when we are abiding under God’s Protection. He will attempt to entice us, to draw us into sin, so that we are no longer being protected by God. **If we leave God’s Protection by sinning, then we are exposed to the devil, and are “fair game” to being attacked.** We have allowed our shield to become lowered, that was protecting us from attacks by the enemy. **God’s Truth is our shield. Having faith in His Truth allows us to extinguish all the fiery darts of the evil one.** **“Above all, taking the shield of faith,** wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” Ephesians 6:16. **“...and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.”** Psalm 91:4. **“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.** The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any **good thing.** Come, ye children, hearken unto me: **I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**” Psalm 34:7-11. **“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield** unto them that put their **trust in him.**” Proverbs 30:5. **“For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.”** Psalm 84:11-12. **“Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us...”** Psalm 62:8. **“...If God be for us, who can be against us?”** Romans 8:31. **“The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee...”** Deuteronomy 33:27. **“Jesus answered and said...This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”** John 6:29. God desires us to be an overcomer, having a living faith, one that is **victorious,** and **never** retreats or doubts. The secret place of The Lord is **with those who fear Him,** having respect, honor, awe, and reverence. **“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him...”** Psalm 25:14. **God’s Presence is in The Secret Place.** When you abide there, you are dwelling in His Presence, having a relationship and audience with The King. Moses knew the blessing of God’s Presence, and refused to be without it. Exodus 33:15. David begged God to, **“Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.”** Psalm 51:11. **We must seek to abide in The Presence Of The King (Matthew 6:33), and hunger and thirst after His Righteousness.**

## Your Wonderful Relationship With God

Every Christian Believer should exhibit a deep sense of **humility**, truly demonstrating our **total dependence on God**. Always be mindful of our **own inability** apart from God. **The preaching of The Word transforms lives.** “**For in him we live, and move, and have our being...**” Acts 17:28. “**He must increase, but I must decrease.**” John 3:30. **I am nothing, He is everything! We must be desperate for God.** Pray to be filled with God and not oneself. Be wholly yielded to God. Hold nothing back. Dedicate all of what you have to God, including all the gifts that He has given to you. Let every part of your being be used by God. Give to the work of God’s Kingdom. Remember to pray always. Avoid all of the cares and distractions of this life.

Live simply, so that the world and material things, do not have a hold on you, or interfere in your relationship with God. A life of modest living on Earth, prepares you to partake of God’s extravagant wonders in Heaven. **Simplify your life**, and enjoy the blessings of living an **uncluttered life**, where **things have no hold on you.**

“**Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but **he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**” 1 John 2:15-17. Remove all worldly things that **will distract you!**

Do not judge or hold anything against others. Be quick to forgive offenses. View others as Christ sees them. “**Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give**, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom...” Luke 6:37-38.

Live a life empowered with a mind that is continually being renewed by the washing of The Word Of God. “And be not conformed to this world: **but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:2. Our thinking must line up and agree with The Word. “...**faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**” Romans 10:17.

**God’s Word has the power to cleanse us, renew us, and empower us with His power.** No other book can make that claim! “**So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**” Isaiah 55:11.

**Understand God’s Word, through prayer, and by revelation of The Holy Spirit.** Delight yourself in The Word Of God—receive and act on it. “**BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.** And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” Psalm 1:1-3. “**Delight thyself also in the LORD;** and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. **Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.**” Psalm 37:4-5.

**We are to remain in God’s Presence, and continue demonstrating faith in Him, and faith in His Word.** That’s when we truly will learn to “**Trust in 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. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.**” Proverbs 3:5-7. **Dwell continually in His Presence!**

## Abiding With The King, Jesus Christ

**“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”** Amos 3:3. Jesus Christ is seeking those who will believe Him, and believe God, and will abide with Him **forever**. He is holy and righteous, and our words and actions must line up with His Purity, in order for us to dwell in His Presence. No corrupt communication, evil, or sin can stand in His Presence. In order for us to walk together with Christ, we must abide with Him in agreement and perfect unity, including that of our words. **Our words and actions must line up** with His. Unfortunately, many Christians are not very careful with their words. **For us to walk together, we must be in agreement.**

We are to be a truth bearer, an ambassador of God’s truth, righteousness, and love. Our words and actions are the confession of **what we believe**. A Christian should always keep his or her word, to glorify God and Jesus, and should **never** lie, exaggerate, stretch the truth, or fail to keep one’s word. **People are looking to see** what kind of testimony you portray to the world. Do you model Christ or model the world? Are your promises and words hollow, or do you **fulfill them? Are you faithful to God and Jesus Christ?** Do you live by example?

We need to abide and dwell so close to Jesus Christ, that nothing else matters! We need to always be looking unto Jesus, having faith in Him, and must never take our eyes off of Him. **“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...”** Hebrews 12:2. **“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”** Philippians 4:13. We can even walk on water without sinking, if we stay looking on Him. Matthew 14:22-33.

Faith needs to be based on **total trust** in Jesus. Purity is vital to faith. Our faith grows as we gaze upon Jesus. As we abide with Christ, we take on more of His Nature, and become more like Him. “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18. The key to a happy Christian life is abiding with The King. “I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. **Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.** If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**” John 15:1-8. Continue **walking in the love** of The Father and The Son.

**Do not let an evil word fall from your lips. You are to abide in His Presence!** Jesus is always listening to everything that you say. **Honor God** with both a pure heart, and with the words that come from your mouth. *See* Matthew 15:8-9. “Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but **that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.**” “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and **they defile the man.** For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:” Matthew 15:11,18-19. We must be cleansed with God’s Word, to walk in purity. Jesus Christ is The King Of Righteousness, The King Of Kings. Our ways and words must line up with His, in order to continually abide with Him, staying in right relationship with His Righteousness and Faithfulness. “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” Ephesians 4:29. *Always abide with The King, having complete faith.* “...Nevertheless **when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?**” Luke 18:8. Pray always.