

Follow Through

by

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We Need To Constantly Maintain Our Faith in Jesus Christ

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.

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.” 1 Corinthians 9:24-25.

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

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Follow Through Of Our Faith

God is seeking people today whose lives clearly demonstrate true belief and faith in Jesus Christ, who glorify, honor, and reverence both God, and His Son, Jesus Christ. Our goal, as Christians, should be to have **fruit that remains**, which is pleasing and acceptable unto God, that is the evidence of our true faith in Christ. **In life we have many opportunities to deny Jesus, His Word, and His instructions.** At almost every turn there is something that is trying to get people to be deceived, distracted, selfish, unfaithful, rebellious, disrespectful, or judgmental. **The enemy wants us to be separated** from the protection, provision, wisdom, and love of God, and wants us to dishonor, sin, and rebel against The Almighty God, who is The Creator Of The Universe, just like he sinned and rebelled against God, and was cast out of Heaven.

The devil's act of rebellion in Heaven failed, when in his pride he tried to exalt himself above God. Now that he and his followers know that their eternal punishment is near, they want to **take as many souls as possible with them, to be eternally separated from God.** Their aim is to steal from you, and if possible, to kill and destroy you. God sent His Son, **Jesus Christ, to redeem us from the bonds of sin, as the perfect sacrifice,** through His Sinless Life, through the shedding of His Precious Blood. This free gift is offered to those who truly follow after and believe **Jesus Christ**, in all His Fullness, having faith and trust in Him as both their Lord and their Savior. The enemy **will try to get you to deny Jesus Christ**, by getting you to demonstrate by your words, thoughts, attitudes, or actions your lack of belief and trust in Jesus, and in God.

When a person is not giving the proper honor, respect, and reverence to God, and to Jesus, which is rightfully due Them, **sin will abound**, and will cause the person to **experience separation from God.** Unless the sin is repented of before a person dies, there will be no escaping the penalty of being eternally separated from God. Sin is a horrible taskmaster, that causes people to engage in deeper sins, controlling them, becoming a heavy weight around them, always keeping them in bondage. Jesus came to pay the ultimate price, with His Blood, to set the captives and oppressed of the devil free from the bondage, weight, and penalty of sin. This is **The Good News**, which is The Gospel Of Jesus Christ. **If you cry out to God, in the name of Jesus Christ, His Son, and truly repent of your sins, He will receive you unto Himself and set you free.** *See my Gospel writing and other Christian writings, for more information about how to start and live a life pleasing to Jesus.*

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.” “For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. **For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**” Romans 6:16-17,20-23.

Concerning your walk with Christ, what you start **you must finish.** God is looking for those who will follow Jesus Christ. He demands **our obedience**, following through on our promise to have faith in Jesus, no matter what the cost. We are tested to see if we will honor, love, and respect Jesus Christ. After all, God wants us to spend eternity with Him and Jesus. **Rebellion and disrespect** will be severely dealt with by God. **“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived:** neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

The problem is that many people who profess Jesus Christ, will often turn their back on Him and deny Him, when they face any pressure or intimidation. People who waver in their faith are unstable in all their ways.

“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. **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 1:2-8.

We are to remain unspotted from the world. “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 1:27. “**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.” 1 John 2:15-16. Avoid all worldly entanglements.

Follow Through In Prayer

Prayer, simply put, is communication with God. We ought to always pray. Prayer changes things. Too many Christians seem to neglect, forget, or put off prayer. Prayer is one of our most valuable weapons in spiritual warfare. Too many people see praying as weakness, but the contrary is true. Prayer strengthens people.

“AND he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought **always to pray**, and not to faint;” Luke 18:1. “**Pray without ceasing.**” 1 Thessalonians 5:17. “Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;” Romans 12:12. “**Continue in prayer**, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;” Colossians 4:2. “**Praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Ephesians 6:18. “If my people, which are called by my name, **shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways;** then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14. We need to humble ourselves and pray.

God is seeking genuine, heartfelt, spirit-led prayer. He delights when His People will come to Him in prayer. Prayer shows submission to God’s authority, and lets Him know that we can do nothing apart from Him. We reverence and respect God, and Jesus Christ, through prayer. Combine prayer with worship, and if medically possible, with fasting (check with your physician for their advice before beginning any fast of food or water).

God’s goal is to humble us, so that our faults and sins are fully exposed now, rather than later: when we see Him face to face. He wants to purify us, and will use trials and tribulations, if necessary, to get us to change.

Too many people only ask for prayer when someone is dying, or has a serious illness or problem. Often the problem has progressed to a near fatal stage. What a shame that they did not ask for people to pray sooner! When there is **unity in prayer**, the power of prayer is concentrated, focused, and often has a quicker result.

Prayer, combined with reading God’s Word, builds up your **faith**. “But ye, beloved, **building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God...**” Jude 1:20-21. Do not miss out on the opportunities to change the hearts of people, and the world around us, through prayer.

Follow Through On Submission

God is a respecter of authority, and he expects Christian Believers to also respect the authority that is over them. To do otherwise, would be to rebel against and reject God's Authority, as they represent His Authority. Be careful not to complain or murmur against the authority that is over you. Respect and honor them always. God's Kingdom in Heaven and also here on Earth, operates under a principle of submission to His Authority. God is worthy of all respect, and all submission, to both His Authority and also to His Delegated Authority. All authority in Heaven and Earth is placed there by God, and is to be honored and respected, no matter how much you disagree with them. If God's Delegated Authority does not violate God's Laws, they must always be obeyed. You are not to obey an instruction only if you are told to do something that violates God's Laws.

Let God be their judge, if they do wrong in His Eyes or they use or mistreat people. Your job is not to judge, but rather to pray for, honor, and support those in the various positions of leadership over you. This includes employers, spiritual leaders, civil government, parents, your husband, and others that God places you under. Remember that David respected and honored Saul's authority/position, even though Saul tried to kill David. David learned how to honor and respect God's Delegated Authority over him, and he was rewarded for that.

Too many people want to take justice into their own hands, and speak bad about, insult, and punish leaders. Moses had to contend with a group of people that complained and rebelled against his authority many times. God wants us to have both a submissive heart (attitude) and obedience. God looks at hearts and actions. He knows if we honor His Authority, by whether or not we respect those He has delegated. Beware of rebellion.

We should doubly honor those in spiritual authority over us, especially those who labor in teaching The Word of God to us: "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of **double honour**, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine." 1 Timothy 5:17. "Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) **That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.**" Ephesians 6:2-3. "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so **love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.**" Ephesians 5:33. "I EXHORT therefore, that, first of all, **supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks**, be made for all men; **For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.** For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4. "...**Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.**" Acts 23:5. "**Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.** Servants, *be* subject to *your* masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward." "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well." 1 Peter 2:17-18,13-14. "LET every soul be subject unto the higher powers. **For there is no power but of God:** the powers that be are ordained of God. **Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God:** and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour." Romans 13:1-7.

Follow Through On Drawing Near To God

The Holy Bible is filled with conditions that we are to meet if we want to see something happen. One of the very powerful promises is contained in James 4:8, “**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...**”

God says that if we take the first step, and draw near to Him, then He will draw near to us! Seek Him with all your heart! In James 4:7, we are told to submit ourselves to God and to resist the devil. “**Submit yourselves therefore to God.** Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Submission to authority prepares the way for us to resist the devil so that he will flee from us. Then, as we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. God resists proud people, but is drawn to those who are humble. “...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” James 4:6. He tells us to cleanse ourselves of sin and to purify our hearts. “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. **Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.**” “**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**” James 4:8,10.

Once we meet God’s conditions, then we will see Him draw near to us. If you are having trouble resisting the devil, purifying your heart, removing all sin, submitting to God’s Laws and His Authority, and being humble, ask God for help and He will surely give it. The devil wants us to rebel against God and authority. Symptoms are a hardened heart, living proudly in the world, and not drawing near to God. **Always resist the devil.**

God’s greatest desire is to see us dwell with Him forever, continually having fellowship with Him and Jesus. He is calling us to meet His Requirements and to draw near to Him, so that He may draw near to us and have sweet, intimate fellowship with us. He desires that we walk in His Presence, knowing and abiding with Him.

Be good stewards with the gifts God has given you, and do not take Him for granted! **Always be thankful. Think not of yourself more highly than you ought.** “I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. **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. For I say, through the grace given unto me, **to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;** but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Romans 12:1-3.

God has The Holy Spirit draw people unto Christ. Then we must draw near to Him daily. “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me **draw him:** and I will raise him up at the last day.” “**All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**” John 6:44,37.

We are to **follow through**, and **always Draw Near To Him**, seeking fellowship, His Presence, and direction.

We show our desire to be drawn near to God, and to Jesus, **by hungering** for them. We may be tested to see how hungry we are for God and His Ways. “Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” Matthew 5:6. We demonstrate our faith, by continually desiring to draw near to God.

“**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. Great are the rewards of drawing near to God, and seeking Him with all of your heart. “**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.”

Follow Through Having Fear Of The Lord

Many people today, including those who call themselves Christians, or followers of Christ, are missing out on a tremendous opportunity to be empowered by and be close to God's Manifest Presence. Many desire an intimate relationship with God through Jesus Christ, yet few are willing to do what is required to have this wonderful relationship. Contrary to popular belief, God is not hard to find. **God desires to be found by us.**

"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." Proverbs 8:17. **"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."** Jeremiah 29:13. **"For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death."** Proverbs 8:35-36. **"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."** Proverbs 9:10. **"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."** Proverbs 1:7. **"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."** Proverbs 8:13.

Fear Of The Lord, means to have a profound reverence and awe of God, to venerate God, and to have proper fear and respect for Him. We should all tremble before Him. This is especially true of all those who **sin or rebel against Him**, those who **practice evil**, or those **who disbelieve** in God, or His Son, Jesus Christ.

God wants to manifest His Presence to us. The problem comes when we treat God, Jesus, or His Kingdom with anything less than the proper respect and reverence. We may find that we have disqualified ourselves from experiencing His Presence. True worship is not possible without having a fear and reverence for God.

Jesus really emphasized this concept: *"Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, **This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**"* Matthew 15:7-9.

*"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and **to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.**"* Psalm 89:7. God demands an atmosphere of utmost respect for His Presence to be with people. The protocol for experiencing deeper things of God, including His Presence, requires you show the proper reverence and respect He is Worthy of. **Many Christians say they love God, but they do not Fear Him.**

Properly Fearing God will prevent sin. *"And Moses said unto the people, **Fear not:** for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not."* Exodus 20:20. God wants us to sanctify and fear Him at all times, to regard Him as Holy. While God is to be feared, we, like Moses, must not be afraid to approach Him. See 1 John 4:18 and Hebrews 12:18-29.

"...I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me...before all the people I will be glorified..." Leviticus 10:3.

"The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant." Psalms 25:14. **"Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him."** Deuteronomy 10:4. You shall revere and follow God.

*"He that hath my commandments, **and keepeth them,** he it is **that loveth me:** and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and **I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.**"* John 14:21.

Follow Through With Evangelism

“And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**” Mark 16:15.

As Christians, we are all called to preach The Gospel Of Christ to all the nations, and to occupy until Jesus comes. We are to be about The Master’s Business. How many of us have neglected our true calling to send The Gospel to all the parts of the world? Will Jesus be pleased with your stewardship of your time, money, and talents? Not everyone can go into all parts of the world personally, but they can surely send those who are called to go through their prayers and financial support. “...**Follow me**, and I will **make you fishers of men.**” Matthew 4:19. “For the Son of man is **come to seek and to save that which was lost.**” Luke 19:10.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**” Matthew 28:18-20. “...**Occupy till I come.**” Luke 19:13.

This world has nothing for us, as true Believers in Christ. **We must not love the world, or the things in the world**, but rather we must have Christ’s vision of love and eternal destiny for the people living in the world. “Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world...” 1 John 2:15. “**Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.**” Colossians 3:2. Our sole desire should be to love God and other people.

How can we love others without telling them about the blessed gift of Salvation that is provided for all those who **would truly believe** on The Lord Jesus Christ? See my *Gospel* writing and my other Christian writings for more information about **Salvation through Jesus Christ**. When we truly believe on Jesus Christ, and on His Finished Work, we are free from the penalty of sin and given the opportunity to spend eternity with Him. Salvation is the ultimate display of God’s Love. We are to **tell the world** of The Good News of Jesus Christ!

God wants all Christians to follow through in their believing in Jesus Christ, never doubting or denying Him, always being ready to share the Good News with anyone who would listen. “**But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience;...**” 1 Peter 3:15-16. Be a good witness.

“...**Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal:** that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, **One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour:** other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.” John 4:35-38.

“...**The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.**” Luke 10:2. *See also* Matthew 9:37-38. Pray for workers, who sow, tend, and harvest. Also pray for those who are included in the **harvest of souls**, “...that they might **be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.**” Isaiah 61:3.

How you conduct yourself in life is a living epistle, a witness, for Jesus Christ. Will you dishonor, or honor, God, and Jesus Christ? Will you practice lawlessness in this life, or be busy helping, supporting, and praying for the laborers, who are working in the Lord’s Harvest Field? **Be obedient, doing the work he has for you.**

Follow Through On Your Assignment

In addition to doing your part with evangelism and prayer, you need to follow through with **your assignment** from God for your life. Many people fail to successfully complete their **God-given assignment** here on earth for a variety of reasons, including the lack of discernment of their true assignment, lack of preparation for the assignment, lack of patience waiting for the separation or release into their assignment, deception, sins, cares of the world, and distractions. **We need to protect our assignment** with preparation, diligence, and prayer.

Too often **we allow** our assignment to get stolen, delayed, or aborted. “**Humble yourselves therefore under** the mighty hand of God, that he may **exalt you in due time**: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. **Be sober, be vigilant**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom **resist** stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all **grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory** by Christ Jesus, after that ye have **suffered a while**, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.” 1 Peter 5:6-10.

Do not desire to imitate or copy any other person, or their ministry. Rather imitate **Jesus Christ**, and strive to be the unique person with the unique gifts and talents that God has blessed you with. Stir up His Gifts in you.

Follow Through On Being Faithful To The Lord

God is jealous over His Relationship with us! As Believers, we are betrothed to Jesus and must always honor and respect Him. We must never put any person, thing, god, or idol above The Lord or above God. “For thou **shalt worship no other god**: for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, **is a jealous God**.” Exodus 34:14.

As Paul wrote, we should guard over Believers with Godly jealousy, to protect and preserve them for Christ, “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may **present you as a chaste virgin** to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 11:2. We are to be above reproach, always walking in purity.

Be very careful who, and what, you surround yourself with, as it will likely rub off and influence you. Wrong people can be very damaging to our relationship with Jesus Christ. Better to remove all questionable people from your life, than to put them up as idols in place of Christ. If you give anyone, or anything, more respect, honor, time, money, and attention than you do Jesus Christ, you are in danger of lifting them up as an idol.

“**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. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: **and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing**.” 2 Timothy 4:2-8. Strive to be faithful to your assignment.

At the end of running our race during this life, we should desire to hear The Lord say, “...**Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord**.” Matthew 25:21. *See also* Matthew 25:23 and Luke 19:17.

Follow Through Having Knowledge Of God

There are many people who say that they know God, and His Son, Jesus Christ, but they often do not live in a manner that pleases God and Jesus Christ. Some have a form of godliness, but deny His power. God is not interested in formalities, or outward expressions of people trying to be holy, but instead He is interested in the purity residing in the heart. **“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”** 2 Timothy 3:5,7.

The World is trying to give us more and more of its knowledge, whose pace is ever increasing. Yet God says that the world’s knowledge is temporal, puffing one up, yet His Knowledge is eternal and will bring benefits. If we allow the world’s knowledge to be our final authority, it will deceive, direct, and control us, and it will keep us from properly seeking after, and believing, God’s Knowledge, which is contained in His Holy Word.

We, as Christians, may be persecuted for our beliefs, and our profession of faith in Jesus Christ, but this had been foretold a long time ago. **“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, throughly furnished unto all good works.”** 2 Timothy 3:12-17. **We must know God’s Word!**

The average Christian may only spend a few minutes (if that) in Bible Study and prayer each day, yet often allows himself to be exposed to worldly news, information on The Internet, and television programs, for many hours. Something is out of balance. What, or whom, do we yield to, and give our time and energy to? Are we pursuing a relationship with Jesus Christ, along with a deeper knowledge of Him, and of God, or are we pursuing sensual, carnal things and ideas, and allowing ourselves to be filled up with worldly knowledge?

We need to “unplug from the world,” and return back to a simpler time when people gave God the attention, time, and respect that He is worthy of. Neglect of your relationship with God and Jesus Christ, will open you up to be seduced and deceived by the world, and by sin, forgetting God. **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”** Hosea 4:6.

Our thoughts need to be continually on The Lord and on keeping and learning His Ways. Without knowledge of Him, we will perish, being led about and governed by our own thoughts and sinful ways. Apart from the Counsel Of God, including God’s Wisdom, we are nothing. Many people do not properly acknowledge God or respect Him. **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.”** Psalm 111:10. **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”** Proverbs 9:10. **“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”** 2 Corinthians 10:5. Allow yourself to be led by God.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24.

Follow Jesus In His Overcoming

We, as Believers, and true followers, of Jesus Christ, are called to follow Him in His Overcoming. Jesus has done everything for us, so that we might inherit eternal life, and be free from sin and eternal torment in Hell. It is up to us, as **Christians**, being the **followers of Christ**, to follow Him in all our ways, for all of our days.

Whatever we are filled with dominates us. We either are filled with evil to sin, or else filled with The Spirit Of God, to show forth God's love, glory and goodness for all the world to see. We are called to resist sin and to overcome in this life. We overcome by the Blood Of The Lamb, and by the word of our testimony. We are called to **endure** this life to the end, **following in faith after Christ as dear children**. If we do not know the fullness of the victory that Jesus Christ has already paid for us to walk in, we are ignoring the **great power to overcome in this world**, and to **help others get free**. If our testimony is bad, then we do a great disservice to Believers worldwide. We are to be salt and light in this world, being a **good example for Christ** to others, so that other people would desire to know, and to believe on, Christ. **"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."** Romans 13:14. We are to be like Christ!

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might **by his Spirit** in the inner man; **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 fulness of God.** Now unto him that is able to do **exceeding abundantly above** all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:14-21. We are to be empowered and led by The Holy Spirit.

"And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." **"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"** John 1:5,12. "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ... he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death**, even the death of the cross." **"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."** Philippians 2:4-8,12. God wants **us to overcome**. **"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."** Matthew 24:13.

"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 5:4-5. **"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:** because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." "Beloved, let us **love one another:** for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, **and knoweth God."** 1 John 4:4,7. We are called to endure, and be faithful to God, to the end.

"I counsel thee to buy of me **gold tried in the fire**, that thou mayest be rich; and **white raiment**, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with **eyesalve**, that thou mayest see. **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: **if any man hear my voice, and open the door**, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." Revelation 3:18-21. **Follow through in all areas.**

Follow Through With Our Promises And Vows

We are called to live as ambassadors for Jesus Christ. The people in the world are constantly examining us to see if our words, testimony, and actions, are really glorifying Jesus and lining up with our profession of faith. Many people who profess Christ lead a bad example. They often make, then **break**, their promises and vows. Part of **follow through** in our Christian life includes **keeping our word**, our vows, and our promises to other people and to The Lord. What kind of witness are we, if our word means nothing and serves to tarnish Jesus?

“Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; **By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness** on the right hand and on the left, By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and *yet* true; As **unknown**, and *yet* well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and *yet* **possessing all things.**” “HAVING therefore **these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**” 2 Corinthians 6:3-10, 7:1.

“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.**” 2 Peter 1:4.

“Now thanks *be* unto God, **which always causeth us to triumph in Christ**, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a **sweet savour** of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one *we are* the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life...” 2 Corinthians 2:14-16. Our lives and testimony will demonstrate Jesus Christ to all of the world.

God has promised many promises to Believers in Jesus Christ, but many of these promises are conditional on people following through in their faith, their words, and their conduct in a proper manner which pleases God.

“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 **diligently seek Him** at all times.

God rewards obedience, and our hungering and thirsting after Him. He desires to be sought and found by us. Too many followers of Christ stop believing in Him, as demonstrated by their words and actions, and forget that He is waiting to reward those who diligently seek Him. **When we stop following through** on the vows and promises we previously made to God, and to The Lord Jesus Christ, we are on dangerous ground. Jesus came and purchased our freedom from sin with His Blood. **Faith is doing what God says you should do.**

God demands that we timely and faithfully keep all of our promises and vows. “...I will pay thee my vows, Which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble.” Psalm 66:13-14. “When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for *he hath* no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better *is it* that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.” Ecclesiastes 5:4,5. “When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.” Deuteronomy 23:21. **Be careful what, and to whom, you promise or vow, and let your yes be yes, and your no be no.** See Matthew 5:37, James 5:12.