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1 August 2010

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Praise the Lord! We are blessed to be able to study the Word. Matthew 4:4 **Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"** If the Word was that important to Jesus then it surely should be to us.

God bless you as you study God's Word this month!

Gladly in His Service,

Dr. Jason

Dr. Jason B. Brittain





Sunday August 1

**Scripture Reading: Psalms 65-67
Romans 2**

Praise the Lord! I am glad you have this set of devotions. Being in God's Word will help you to grow. We are working our way through the book of Psalms verse by verse. Psalms 69:10 says, **"When I weep and fast, I must endure scorn."** David was in a very hard situation. Many people were opposing him and yet he kept crying out to God. As we read on we will see that God saved him. Thank God for all the times He has come through for us.

Look at Romans 2:28-29 **"A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God."** This is a very important truth. Being a Jew is a matter of the heart and not a matter of outward things. When we gave our lives to Jesus He circumcised our hearts and now we are God's people.

Look at the last phrase in these verses, **Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.** We need to live to please God and not people. There are many examples in the Word that show people trying to please people and they always got off track. You have probably seen examples of this in your life too. Now, when we live to please God it doesn't mean that everyone will like it. We are seeing that David lived for God and many people opposed him but he was still doing the right thing and God saw him through it all. Ephesians 5:10 says **"Find out what pleases the Lord."**

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. I want to please You in everything I do and I don't ever want to be distracted from Your perfect plan and will for my life. I want to know what things please You and I want to do those things. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Monday August 2

Scripture Reading: Psalms 68-69
Romans 3

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:11 **“When I put on sackcloth, people make sport of me.”** David was living for God. He was going through a time when he should be mourning and when he sought God people made fun of him. Have you ever had a time like this? If you ever do face something like this let me encourage you to make your pursuit of God the most important thing in your life. He will meet with you and He will help you to know Him and His purposes better. You see, you can grow through hard times and growing in Him is always a good thing.

2 Corinthians 5:21 **“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”** I know we are not covering 2 Corinthians 5 now but this verse ties right in to what we are going to talk about for today. Some people try to be righteous by their own efforts and always fail. Others (like you and me) put our faith in what Jesus has done for us and God makes us righteous.

Romans 3:21-24 **“But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”** We are righteous because we have put our faith in God and He has made us righteous.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and Your opinion of me is more important than anything else. I am so thankful that You see me as righteous because Jesus paid the price for all my sins. I know that I could never be good enough in my own strength and so I am going to rely on You and Your good work in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Tuesday August 3

**Scripture Reading: Psalms 70-72
Romans 4**

Praise the Lord! We have one more verse where David talks about the hard thing he was going through. Psalms 69:12 **“Those who sit at the gate mock me, and I am the song of the drunkards.”** No one likes to be mocked and I am sure this was especially hard for David. You see, he hadn’t done anything wrong. He was actually seeking God and yet he was ridiculed and mocked. I am really looking forward to the verse we will cover tomorrow because we will see that David is still seeking God and that is the good part of this whole story.

Abraham was a man of great faith. God promised him a child and he held on to that promise for 25 years. Romans 4:18-21 **“Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”**

Are you fully persuaded that God has power to do what He has promised you? That is how Abraham held on and that is how we need to hold on too. Never quit believing God. I hope it doesn’t take a long time for you to have what God has promised you but even if it does it will be worth it all. So, don’t quit believing God!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am committed to living for You. I am so thankful for all the promises You have made to me and I am never going to quit believing them and I am going to stand in faith as long as it takes. Thank You for encouraging me today with Abraham’s example. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Wednesday August 4

Scripture Reading: Psalms 73-74
Romans 5

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:13 **“But I pray to you, O LORD, in the time of your favour; in your great love, O God, answer me with your sure salvation.”** We have read many verses where David described the hard things he was going through and the people who opposed him but he made it through all that. Now he says, **But I pray to you, O LORD.** You see, David did not hide the hard things he was facing but he kept praying to God for help. Don’t ever give in to the temptation to quit calling on God for help. He is the One who can and will help you. So, don’t quit! I know some of you need that encouragement today.

Look at Romans 5:17 **“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.”** Take a second and read that verse again. You see, I don’t want you to miss what it is saying.

When Adam sinned death reigned. When we accept Jesus into our lives we are to reign in life! I hope you let the significance of that sink into your thinking because it will give you more boldness and confidence for life. Also, don’t miss the part that says we are to reign **IN LIFE**. That means we don’t have to wait till we get to heaven. God wants you to enjoy His blessings right now.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You always hear my prayers. Help me to pray more. I know that You are always ready to help me. So, I am going to call on You all the time like David did. I also thank You for speaking to me today from Romans. Help me to know more about reigning in life. This sure sounds good to me and I don’t want to miss out on anything You have for me. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Thursday August 5

Scripture Reading: Psalms 75-77
Romans 6

Praise the Lord! I wanted to spend a little more time on the verse we looked at from Psalms yesterday. Psalms 69:13 **“But I pray to you, O LORD, in the time of your favour; in your great love, O God, answer me with your sure salvation.”** David said he prayed to God **in the time of His favour.** Now, I have some really Good News for you. It is always **the time of God’s favor** for us because of Jesus! Jesus paid for all our sins AND He took all the punishment for them too. Thank God that we have the favour of God.

Romans 6:1-2 say, **“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?”** Romans 6:23 **“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** Thank God that Jesus paid the total price for our sins and separation from God.

Don’t miss what Paul said in Romans 6:6 **“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--”** Because Jesus has died on the cross for our sins we are now dead to sin and alive to God. So, we need to live like born-again, spirit filled forgiven Christians should live.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your favour being on my life. I know that I could have never earned it on my own and I am so thankful for Jesus. Help me to know how I should live and empower me to really live that way. I needed Your help to be saved and I need Your help to live like You want. I also ask You to bless my Pastor and the other men and women who are in leadership in my Church. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Friday August 6

Scripture Reading: Psalms 78
Romans 7

Praise the Lord! David is crying to God for help. Psalms 69:14 **“Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink; deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters.”** This reminds me of the time when Peter saw Jesus walking on the water. Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, until he got distracted. Matthew 14:30, 31 **“But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?””** Thank God that Jesus saved Peter and He saves us too.

In the last part of Romans 7, Paul is lamenting his inability to avoid sin. Now, I don't want you to get the idea that Paul lived like this forever. He ended up putting his trust in Jesus and then he did much better. Look at what Romans 7:24-25 say, **“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.”**

Paul was powerless to overcome temptation without God's help. But **Thanks be to God**, Jesus was there to help him. This is an important point because we need Jesus' help too. Look at the first verse of our reading for tomorrow. Romans 8:1 **“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”** Thank God that He helped Paul and he will help us too.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for rescuing me when I call out to You. I know that I can't live like You want without Your help. I know that I need to renew my mind to these things so I won't forget them when I need them the most. Please bless all of my brothers and sisters who are doing these devotions. Help us all to keep our trust and confidence in You and You alone. I love You so much. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Saturday August 7

Scripture Reading: Psalms 79-81
Romans 8:1-18

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:15 **“Do not let the floodwaters engulf me or the depths swallow me up or the pit close its mouth over me.”** Thank God that He is always with us to protect us. He even protects us when we forget to ask for His help. Haven't there been times when He has protected you even though you hadn't asked for His protection? We should be so thankful for His presence and His protection.

Romans 8:5-8 **“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.”**

Thank God that we are not controlled by the sinful nature any more! In case you need to see that in the Word, Romans 8:9 **“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”** We have given our lives to Jesus and so we belong to Him! We have the Holy Spirit in us and we are new creations in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:17 **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”**

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for everything You do in my life. Thank You for Your ever present protection. I have failed to thank You at times but I really do appreciate Your help. I also ask You teach me how I should live as a new creation. I thank You for being my Lord and Savior and I want to represent You well. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Sunday August 8

Scripture Reading: Psalms 82-84
Romans 8:19-39

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:16 **“Answer me, O LORD, out of the goodness of your love; in your great mercy turn to me.”** Thank God that He hears us when we pray. AND thank God that He has goodness, love and great mercy for us. We need all of those things and we are blessed to know that they come from God.

Romans 8:31 **“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?”** Hallelujah! Thank You Jesus! Verse 32 says, **“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”** Hallelujah! Thank You Jesus!

I just feel like giving you great verses for you to rejoice over. Romans 8:37-39 **“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** Hallelujah! Thank You Jesus! We are so blessed to be able to study the Word freely. The more we see how blessed we are the more we should praise God. So, keep being diligent and let the praises flow.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much and I am thankful that You only have good things for me as Your child. I want to have all the goodness, love and mercy You have for me. I know that I need those things and I am glad that I know to come to You for them. I also thank You for speaking so many wonderful things to me from the Word. Help me to be transformed as I renew my mind to Your Word. I also ask You to bless my Church today. Help us to be there on time and ready to worship You. Please bless the people who lead Praise and Worship. They are a blessing and I bless them. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday August 9

Scripture Reading: Psalms 85-87
Romans 9

Praise the Lord! Have you ever felt like David felt in Psalms 69:17? **“Do not hide your face from your servant; answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.”** He was asking God to help him and he was asking God to do it quickly because he was in trouble! If you have ever been there and God rescued you then you should be very thankful for His help. Sometimes people are thankful for a short time and then they seem to forget but we need to diligently thank God for all that He has done in our lives.

Romans 9:14-15 **“What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”**” Of course we know that God is not unjust. He has provided a way of salvation and anyone who accepts that way can be saved. John 14:6 **“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.”** Jesus is the Way of salvation and He is the only way to the Father.

Romans 9:16 **“It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.”** It is all about God and His mercy. John 3:16 **““For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”** God, in His love, sent Jesus to die on the cross so the Way of salvation could be opened up. John 3:17 **“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”** Thank God!

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all the times You have come to my rescue. I would be lost without Your help. I am also thankful that Jesus died on the cross for my sins. Help me to always rely on Him and His work rather than anything that I have done. I also ask You to bless my Pastor’s family today. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Tuesday August 10

Scripture Reading: Psalms 88-89
Romans 10

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:18 **“Come near and rescue me; redeem me because of my foes.”** Do you know there are some people who are fearful of God? They either aren't saved or they don't know Him very well. We know that God loves us and He always wants to meet our needs. So, we can ask Him to come near and know that it will be a blessing to us when He does. Thank God for Him rescuing us and for Him redeeming us from our enemies.

The book of Romans is a wonderful book and I believe God is speaking to you from it. Romans 10:9-10 say, **“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”** We need to believe and speak that Jesus is Lord to be saved.

Romans 10:9-10 talk about salvation but I want to go a little different direction with this for today. 2 Corinthians 4:13 **“It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.”** Believing and speaking is how we receive salvation AND it is how we receive other things from God. Mark 11:23 **““I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.”** Make sure you are believing the right things by knowing the Word. Then speak what you believe in faith and you will receive.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the many times You have come to my rescue and saved me. I thank You for my initial salvation but I also know You have saved me many times since then. Help me to believe and to speak what I believe. I know that You are talking to me about the words I speak and I want to speak words that line up with Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Wednesday August 11

Scripture Reading: Psalms 90-92
Romans 11:1-21

Praise the Lord! I just noticed that Psalms 91 was in our reading for today. Take a little time and read it again *slowly* and let God bless you with confidence for your life. Psalms 69:19 **“You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed; all my enemies are before you.”** There is something here I don’t want you to miss. God knows what you are going through. It is OK for you to pray and tell Him about your struggle but know that He already knows. We need to believe that He is going to help us and we need to speak what we believe in faith. Did you notice how I reminded you of what we covered yesterday?

Look at Romans 11:3-4 **““Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me”? And what was God’s answer to him? “I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.””** The Prophet Elijah is talking to God here. He said that he felt all alone. God told him that He had many other people who were following Him.

What does this have to do with us, you ask? Well, there are times when we feel like we are the only ones living for God. We feel like no one else knows what we are going through, has ever gone through it and we feel that no one cares. Well, I have news for you. You are not alone. God is working with many other people and they sometimes go through hard things too. You may feel alone but you are not. Reach out to other believers and you will find someone who is able to help you because God has helped them.

Prayer: Lord, I am thankful that You are all knowing. Help me to remember this when I start to feel like You don’t know what I am going through. Also, help me to remember that I am not all alone. Help me to reach out to others and let them help me. Then help me to help others when I see them struggling. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Thursday August 12

Scripture Reading: Psalms 93-95
Romans 11:22-36

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:20 **“Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none.”** David was looking for someone to help him. Thank God that he was turning to God. You see, God was the One who could really help him. God does use people but even if there isn't anyone in the natural to help, God can help us. Praise His Name that He is always with us. He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Romans 11:29 says, **“For God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.”** Praise God! This is Good News because you are called. I know you might not know that but you are called. So, I know you probably want to see that in the Word. So, here goes. Romans 1:6 **“And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.”** Galatians 5:13 **“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.”** 2 Thessalonians 2:14 **“He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”** These are not all the verses that say you are called but these are sure good ones. So, you are called and God is not going to revoke His call on you. Let that sink in and you will have more confidence!

Romans 11:36 **“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory for ever! Amen.”** All this is from God to God and for God’s glory for ever. Amen!

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that You are always with me and that I can always turn to You for help. I also know from Your Word that I am called and that You are not going to revoke Your calling on me. Help me to live my life worthy of Your calling. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Friday August 13

Scripture Reading: Psalms 96-98
Romans 12

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:21 **“They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.”** You know that David was writing about people who were opposing him. In this verse we see that they were not just speaking against him. They were actively working to harm him. Thank God that David could still find protection and encouragement in the Lord. We need God’s protection and encouragement just like David did and we will get it by seeking God no matter what we are facing.

Romans 12:1-2 say, **“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.”** These two verses are so important. They tell us to present our bodies to God as living sacrifices and to renew our minds to the Word of God. When you take care of these two things you will be blessed and you will be in God’s will.

Romans 12:17-19 **“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.”** Renew your mind to these truths and do them. Then trust God to take care of everyone else.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. It was literally the best decision I have ever made. I want to present my body to You as a living sacrifice and I want to renew my mind to Your Word. Please help me. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Saturday August 14

Scripture Reading: Psalms 99-102
Romans 13

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:23-24 say, **“May their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and their backs be bent for ever. Pour out your wrath on them; let your fierce anger overtake them.”** David was asking God to take care of his enemies. The things David asked for might seem harsh but at least he was asking God to deal with them. You see, people sometimes strike out at their enemies on their own and that is a mistake. We need to trust God to take care of them. I don’t know if God did these things to them or not but I do know that God took care of David.

Yesterday, we talked about presenting our bodies to God as living sacrifices and renewing our minds to the Word. I said that doing those things would bring God’s blessing and they would make sure we are in God’s will. Well, now Romans 13 talks about our submitting to those who are in authority. I know this sometimes takes a lot of faith but we are people of faith! Renew your mind to these things and do what God says. It will be good for you.

Romans 13:14 **“Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”** Put on Jesus like you would your clothes and then live like you have done that. Always be mindful that He is with you and His presence is a good thing. He is always with us. We just need to be more mindful of Him.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You are in control of all things and that includes my enemies. I want to focus on You and I am going to keep seeking You. I am going to keep my priorities right and let you take care of the rest. Please help me to renew my mind to the Word more. I even mean the parts that seem hard like submitting to those who are authority. I know that Your way is right. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Sunday August 15

Scripture Reading: Psalms 103-104
Romans 14

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:25-26 **“May their place be deserted; let there be no-one to dwell in their tents. For they persecute those you wound and talk about the pain of those you hurt.”** David continues to ask God to take care of his enemies. I hope you can learn from this. Philippians 4:6 **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”** Another version says, **“Don’t worry about anything - instead pray about everything!”** That includes your enemies.

Matthew 6:9-10 **This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”** Pray for God’s Kingdom to come and for His will to be done in your life. As His Kingdom comes in your life it is coming to the earth.

Romans 14:17-18 **“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.”** Now we know more about God’s Kingdom. We can also pray for **righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.** I often pray for the Kingdom to come and for His will to be done in people’s lives and I ask for them to walk in **righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I love Your Word. I am so thankful for all that You are speaking to me and I want to be a doer of Your Word and not a hearer only. I pray for Your Kingdom to come and for Your will to be done in my life. I want all the righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit that You have for me. I really do want my life to be pleasing unto You and I know that happens as I live like You want. Please bless all my brothers and sisters who are doing these devotions and bless all our Churches. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Monday August 16

Scripture Reading: Psalms 105-106
Romans 15:1-20

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:27-28 **“Charge them with crime upon crime; do not let them share in your salvation. May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous.”** I want my name to be written in the book of life and I want it to stay there! I know that will happen for us because our trust and confidence is in Jesus and what He has done for us. I just read these verses again and I sure don't want to be God's enemy!

Romans 15:4 **“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”** God wants you to have endurance. That means being able to keep living for Him no matter what happens. Romans 15:5 **“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus.”** This verse says that God is the One who will give you the endurance you need. Thank God! He tells us what we need so we can pursue it and He even tells us that He will help us to get it. By the way, both of these verses also tell us that we need encouragement and they tell us that He will give us those things too.

Romans 15:13 **“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”** Now, He promises to give us joy and peace. Thank God that He is our Lord and Savior.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that I have given my life to You and I never regret it. I also thank You that everything I need for life and godliness is all in You. I want to be filled with Your Spirit and I want to stay filled. I am never going to quit serving You and I know that I can only do that with Your help and the endurance that You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Tuesday August 17

**Scripture Reading: Psalms 107-108
Romans 15:21-33**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:29 **“I am in pain and distress; may your salvation, O God, protect me.”** David acknowledged the problem and then he kept his trust in God. Thank God that He has protection for us. Hebrews 4:16 **“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”** We can always run to God for help and it is especially important for us to do that when we are in need.

Romans 15:30 **“I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.”** Isn't this interesting? Paul wanted them to join in the struggle by praying. I have seen lots of times when people (yes, even Christians) have entered into struggles in other ways and it has almost always ended up in a mess.

Romans 15:31-33 **“Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed. The God of peace be with you all. Amen.”** Paul wanted them to pray that he would be rescued and that he would be able to come to them and preach the Gospel in Rome. Well, they must have prayed because that was exactly what happened. I think we should pray and ask God to help us to pray more.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that I can always run to You for help. Please help me to pray more. I can see that prayer is what is needed much more than my entering struggles in my own strength. I know this is a key that I needed to hear today. Please help me to remember this when I am tempted to do things any other way. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Wednesday August 18

Scripture Reading: Psalms 109-111
Romans 16

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:30 **“I will praise God’s name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.”** Remember that David was right in the middle of a huge problem. People were literally trying to kill him and yet he kept praising God. Listen, praise God all the time and especially when you are in a battle. Sing to Him and glorify His Name with thanksgiving. There really are things you can be thankful for and focusing on them will be good for you.

Romans 16:1-2 say, **“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me.”** In Paul’s day, women were often treated as second class citizens but that certainly wasn’t Paul’s attitude. He commended Phoebe as a servant in the Church and he pointed out that she had helped many including himself. It amazes me that some people still fight over how much women can be used. Galatians 3:28 **“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”** We are all one in Christ Jesus.

Romans 16:20 **“The God of peace will soon crush satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.”** We have the victory because Jesus has totally and completely defeated the devil.

Prayer: Lord, I want to consistently praise You more no matter what I am facing. Thank You for all that You are speaking to me from the Word. Help me to be a doer and not a hearer only. I also thank You for the revelation that You always want to use ALL of Your people in Your work. I don’t want to stand in anyone’s way. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Thursday August 19

**Scripture Reading: Psalms 112-115
1 Corinthians 1**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:30-31 say, **“I will praise God’s name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. This will please the LORD more than an ox, more than a bull with its horns and hoofs.”** God isn’t looking for us to sacrifice some animal. He wants us to praise Him. Hebrews 13:15 **“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name.”** Praise the Lord continually!

1 Corinthians 1:2 **“To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours:”** Now, I know when Paul first wrote this he wrote it to a specific Church in Corinth but God had it preserved for all of us. Paul also said he wrote to those who had been sanctified in Christ Jesus. That is you! Look at what Jesus said in John 17:17 **“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”** We have been sanctified by Jesus through the Word.

1 Corinthians 1:30 **“It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.”** Jesus is our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Praise the Lord! Now you know why I say that giving our lives to Jesus was the best decision we ever made. We could never have so many wonderful things without Him.

Prayer: Lord, I want to offer You a sacrifice of praise continually. I know that You deserve it and I want to show my love for You more. I also thank You for sanctifying me and for continually speaking to me from the Word. I don't want to miss out on anything You are speaking to me. I love You so much. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Friday August 20

Scripture Reading: Psalms 116-118
1 Corinthians 2

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:32 **“The poor will see and be glad--you who seek God, may your hearts live!”** David had been writing about our praising God and now he said the poor would see and be glad. You see, there are lots of people in this world who need to be encouraged and some of them will be encouraged when they see us praising God. It will give them hope that they too can know God and live for him. So, let the praises flow so others can see and be drawn to God.

We are blessed to be able to study the Word and we are especially blessed to be able to study ALL of the Word. As you know, I have laid out the Scripture Readings in these devotions in a way that will help you to read all of the Bible each year.

Here is an example of why we need ALL of the Word. 1 Corinthians 2:9 **“However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”--”** This verse seems to be saying that we can't know what God is going to do. BUT look at the next verse, 1 Corinthians 2:10 **“but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.”** We need ALL of the Word. It was true in the Old Testament that many things were not revealed but we have the Holy Spirit who knows all of God's will and He reveals them to us! Again I say, thank God that we can study ALL of the Word.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all that You are doing in my life and I want to let Your goodness show. Help me to be a good witness for You in the things I say and in the way I live my life. I also thank You for ALL of Your Word. Thank You for allowing me the freedom to study it openly and freely. Help me to get all that You want to teach me and help me to be willing to share what I know with others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Saturday August 21

Scripture Reading: Psalms 119:1-48
1 Corinthians 3

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:33 **“The LORD hears the needy and does not despise his captive people.”** Thank God that He hears the needy. I say that because we are often needy. We should also thank God that He looks out for us when we find ourselves in captivity. Oh, I know we should never get into any bondages but we do at times and He still loves us and helps us.

1 Corinthians 3:1 **“Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ.”** Paul was saying that these believers should have progressed further than they had. They should have been more mature. Now, I am sure this is true for all of us. Don't you feel like you should have grown more than you have by now? Well, here is some Good News in all this. God had not quit on them, Paul didn't quit on them and no one has quit on you either. We just need to keep growing right now.

1 Corinthians 3:16 **“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?”** This is another verse that tells us why there is still hope for us. When we gave our lives to God the Holy Spirit moved into our lives and now He is living in us. He hasn't moved out and He hasn't quit on us. Praise the Lord! Listen to what Paul said in Philippians 1:6 **“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”** God started the good work in our lives and He is going to finish it. Praise God!

Prayer: Lord, thank You for always hearing me when I call out to You. Help me to call to You quicker when I am facing problems. I am also very thankful that You are the One working in my life. I know that You are never going to quit on me and I am never going to quit on You. Help me to keep growing in You and help me to be more mature. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Sunday August 22

Scripture Reading: Psalms 119:49-104
1 Corinthians 4

Praise the Lord! Do you remember all the problems David talked about in the first part of Psalms 69? Well, look at Psalms 69:34 “**Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and all that move in them.**” David has come a long way. We need to be like David. If you are going through hard things it is all right to tell God all about them but don’t stop there. Keep drawing near to God and end up praising Him like David did. Believe me, there are always things to praise God for. Don’t get bogged down in your problems without letting Him lift you out so you can praise Him!

1 Corinthians 4:1 “**So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.**” This is quite a verse. First of all, notice that we are called to be servants of Christ. When you gave your life to God, He took it and now He wants you to live for Him. Our living for Him means we need to love God and love people. We live those things out by serving God and serving people. Jesus even said that the way to be great in the Kingdom of God is by being a servant. So, when you see a need; serve!

The second thing I want to comment from this verse is the secret things of God that we know. 1 Corinthians 4:20 says, “**For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.**” This is a secret thing to those outside the Kingdom. They think they have to work everything out in their own strength but we know that God can always help us.

Prayer: Lord, I know that You are always worthy of my praise. I don't ever want to be so bogged down in my problems that I forget to give You the praise- You deserve. I also thank You for teaching me Your ways and I want to be a servant more. Help me to serve others at Church today and help us all to grow in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday August 23

**Scripture Reading: Psalms 119:105-176
1 Corinthians 5**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:34-35 say, **“Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and all that move in them, for God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah. Then people will settle there and possess it;”** God is always worthy of our praise. He is always saving and rebuilding. Aren't you glad that God has saved you? Aren't you glad that He is always rebuilding you and your life?

1 Corinthians 5:1-2 say, **“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?”** Paul was addressing a situation that was going on in the Church at Corinth. I am not going to address the specific situation but rather talk about the overriding principle. We should not tolerate sin in the Church. Now, we will always have people who are growing and struggling with temptations but this was a case where they were putting up with a serious ongoing sin and they were almost proud of their open mindedness and we shouldn't ever be open minded about tolerating sin.

1 Corinthians 5:6 **“Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?”** Don't tolerate sin because it affects everyone.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You that You always have good things for me as Your child. I also ask You to help me to know how to accept sinners so they can grow and yet not tolerate what I should not tolerate. I know that You were always able to strike the balance where You could love people (even sinners) and yet You always stood for righteousness. Help me to do the same. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Tuesday August 24

Scripture Reading: Psalms 120-123
1 Corinthians 6

Praise the Lord! Psalms 69:34-36 **“Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and all that move in them, for God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah. Then people will settle there and possess it; the children of his servants will inherit it, and those who love his name will dwell there.”** David ends this Psalm knowing that God’s people are going to have all that God has for them. David’s enemies could not hold him back and our enemies can’t hold us back. We need to keep drawing near to God and know that He is in control.

1 Corinthians 6:19 **“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;”** In the Old Testament the temple was a building but now we are the temple of God. This is so important.

1 Corinthians 6:20 **“you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.”** We now belong to God and we are to honor God with our bodies. Romans 12:1 **“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.”** Ephesians 5:10 **“and find out what pleases the Lord.”** Present your body to God, find what pleases Him and honor God with your body.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that I have given my life to You and I am thankful that You are working in my life. Please teach me more of what it means to be Your temple and help me to live like I should. I want to present my body to You, find what pleases You and I want to honor You with my body. I know that I really need Your help for all these things and I thank You for Your help in advance. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Wednesday August 25

Scripture Reading: Psalms 124-127
1 Corinthians 7:1-24

Praise the Lord! Psalms 70 is a short Psalm and it is David crying out to God for help. Psalms 70:1 **“Hasten, O God, to save me; O LORD, come quickly to help me.”** I am sure you can sense the desperation in David’s voice because you have probably felt just like this at times. There are times when we need God to help us and we need His help quickly. When you find yourself in situations like that do what David did. Cry out to God for help.

1 Corinthians 7:22 **“For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord’s freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ’s slave.”** Paul is saying that people sometimes have different things to learn when they come to Christ. A person who was a slave needs to learn that they are now free in Christ. A person who was free needs to learn that they are now a slave to Christ. Don’t get hung up on the words used here. Get the message that is being shared.

1 Corinthians 7:23 **“You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.”** We were bought with a price. Jesus paid the greatest price ever paid for us because God loves us. Galatians 5:1 **“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”** God has set us free so don’t allow any bondages in your life.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much and I am thankful for all the times You have come to my rescue. I am also thankful for all that You have taught me and I want to learn all that You have for me to learn. I trust You to teach me what I need and I am thankful for the men and women that You are using to teach me the Word. Help me to know that my freedom comes from You and help me to stay free. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Thursday August 26

Scripture Reading: Psalms 128-131
1 Corinthians 7:25-40

Praise the Lord! Look at what David prayed in Psalms 70:2 **“May those who seek my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace.”** David knew there were people who wanted to harm him but David didn’t strike out at them in his own strength. He prayed and asked God to take care of them. Romans 12:19 **“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.”** Can you trust God enough to let Him handle your enemies?

1 Corinthians 7:26 **“Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for you to remain as you are.”** The believers at Corinth had written some questions to Paul and he was answering their questions. In verse 26, we see that Paul was taking current events into consideration as he answered their questions. He referred to “the present crisis”. You see, the Church was being persecuted and so the advice Paul gave was given because of the persecution that they were facing. So, he told people who were not married to stay single because it is harder to face persecution with a family.

Now, we know that God doesn’t want all of us to stay single because He blesses marriage and children. So, we need to look for the universal truth that was undergirding the advice that Paul gave. Here’s what I want to emphasize for today. We need to make God number one in our lives and keep Him number one no matter what we face.

Prayer: Lord, I want to trust You more. I know that You have always taken care of me and I want to commit my whole life to You. I trust You to take care of my enemies. You call me to bless them and pray for them and I am going to obey You. I also want to keep You first in my life. I don’t want anything or anyone to be more important than You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Friday August 27

Scripture Reading: Psalms 132-135
1 Corinthians 8

Praise the Lord! Psalms 70:3 says, **“May those who say to me, “Aha! Aha!” turn back because of their shame.”** Have you had times when people were opposing you and every time something bad happened to you they said, “Aha! Aha!” because they thought God was surely punishing you? Well, I have good news for you. God loves you and He is not punishing you. He might convict you when you do wrong but He wants you to repent and be forgiven. People who set themselves up as judges over everyone else should be careful because they will reap what they sow.

In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul is writing to answer questions about meat that had been sacrificed to idols. In that day many sacrifices were made to idols and a person could buy that meat for less than other meat. So, the people in the Church were asking if it was ok for a Christian to buy and eat that meat. Paul basically said we are free in this matter as long as it doesn't hurt someone else. 1 Corinthians 8:9 **“Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling-block to the weak.”**

You see, saving some money on our food bill is not important enough to hurt someone else. 1 Corinthians 8:13 **“Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.”** Paul was putting the needs of others ahead of his own and that is how we should live too.

Prayer: Lord, I don't care what others say about me. I only want to live for You and I want to please You no matter what. I also want to look out for others. I wouldn't want my freedom to hurt others. Help me to know how to apply this in my life because I want to please You and I want my life to be a blessing to those who know me. I also ask You to bless my Pastor and family today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Saturday August 28

Scripture Reading: Psalms 136-138
1 Corinthians 9

Praise the Lord! Psalms 70:4 **“But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, “Let God be exalted!”**” If you seek the Lord then you should rejoice and be glad in Him. If you love His salvation then you should be saying, “Let God be exalted!”. And you should be saying that ALL the time because God is always worthy of our praise and worship.

1 Corinthians 9:11 **“If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?”** Those who work full time in the Gospel deserve to earn their living from those whom they serve. That was true in Paul’s day and it is true today.

1 Corinthians 9:24 **“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.”** Paul often compared the Christian life to running a race. Here are some of the many things we can get from that comparison. Being a Christian is a marathon not a sprint. We need to give our lives to God and then keep living for Him forever. We have to run according to the rules of the race. Jesus is the King of the Kingdom and what He says should settle things in our lives. Here is one more thing we can see from this comparison. We should run to win! I don’t mean winning over other people but we should fight the good fight to win. We should live our lives to have all the victory that God has for us.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I say, “Let God be exalted!” Be exalted in my life Lord. I want to represent You well in everything I do. I know that living for You is the best life there is and I know it is the only way to prepare for eternal life. I ask You to bless my Church tomorrow and all the other Churches that are exalting Jesus. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Sunday August 29

Scripture Reading: Psalms 139-141
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Praise the Lord! Psalms 70:5 **“Yet I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay.”** Thank God that He is always ready to come to our rescue. David said that God was his HELP and his DELIVERER. I guess those two things just about cover every need we have. He can help us and He can deliver us. Thank God!

In the first part of 1 Corinthians 10, Paul was talking about a time in the Old Testament when the people of God missed out on His best because of their disobedience and unbelief. Now look at what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10:11 **“These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come.”** Thank God for the Word. We can learn from the Old Testament and the New Testament. When we read about people making mistakes in the Word, we can avoid those mistakes. When we read about people getting things right in the Word, we can know what we should do.

1 Corinthians 10:13 **“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”** God is always looking out for us. He promises to make sure we will never face anything too hard and He promises to always provide us with what we need to overcome temptation.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for being my help and my deliverer. I know that You are always with me and I am so glad. I also thank You for all that You are teaching me from the Word. I want to learn everything You have for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday August 30

**Scripture Reading: Psalms 142-144
1 Corinthians 10:14-33**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71 is a Psalm where we see a man's total and complete trust in God. Let's read it and learn from it. Psalms 71:1 **"In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame."** You can tell where your trust is when you face something that is too big for you to handle on your own. Do you turn to the world or do you turn to God?

1 Corinthians 10:14 **"Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry."** Don't let anything be more important than God. Matthew 6:33 **"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."** When we diligently seek His Kingdom and His righteousness first then He will help us with all the rest of our lives. Hebrews 11:6 **"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."** God promises to reward us when we earnestly seek Him.

1 Corinthians 10:23-24 say, **"Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.** We are free in Christ but never use your freedom in a way that will hurt someone else. When people do that they are not walking in love like they should.

Prayer: Lord, I trust You and I want to let my trust show so others can live for You. Making that declaration is sometimes easier to say here than it is to live out but I really do want to live my commitment. I also want to seek You and Your ways first. I know that Your blessing is what I really need and I know that it comes when I put You first. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Tuesday August 31

**Scripture Reading: Psalms 145-147
1 Corinthians 11:1-15**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 71:2 **“Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness; turn your ear to me and save me.”** This guy had it right. He knew he needed help and he was crying out to God. Some people don’t know that they need help. Others know they need help but they don’t know where to call. Hopefully we know that we need help AND we know where our help comes from. Call out to God. He will help you.

1 Corinthians 11:1 **“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”** Do you think Paul was being arrogant here? Do you think it would be appropriate for someone to make a similar statement today? How would you react if someone told you to follow their example? Well, it would all depend on whether or not that person was following the example of Christ. Paul was following the example of Christ and so it was appropriate for him to tell others to follow him and it would be appropriate for others to make the same statement. We just need to make sure we are following people who are following the example of Christ.

Look at 1 Corinthians 11:2 **“I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the teachings, just as I passed them on to you.”** Did you notice what I saw there? Paul praised these people. He praised them for learning the ways of God and for holding on to them. So, I guess it would be ok for me to praise you for being in the Word everyday. Keep learning His ways and by all means hold on to what you learn.

Prayer: Lord, I am glad that I can always turn to You for help and I am glad that You never turn a deaf ear to my cries. I also thank You for the men and women You have brought into my life to be good examples for me. Help me to learn from the Word and then help me to learn from the Word they are living in their lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.