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1 January 2011

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

God is so good to us! We are able to study His Word and know that He will help us to know His will. 2 Timothy 2:15 says, **“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”** When you do your part God will always do His part.

God bless you as you study God’s Word this month.

Gladly in His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Jason".

Dr. Jason B. Brittain





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Saturday January 1

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1-2
Matthew 1

Praise the Lord! We are working our way through the book of Psalms verse by verse. Psalms 77:12 says, **“I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds.”** If we would meditate on the Word more we would all do better. When we meditate, we give God the opportunity to take His Word and personalize it for our lives. It is good to know what God is saying to others but it is vitally important to know what He is saying to us personally. So, spend some time meditating on God’s Word and you will be blessed for your efforts.

Look at Matthew 1:20, **“But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”** Joseph was engaged to Mary and she was pregnant. Joseph didn’t know that God was working in all this and he was going to divorce her. When God spoke to Joseph, he was willing to do what God said.

Matthew 1:24, 25 **“When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.”** Sometimes really significant things get read right over. **When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him.** Do you realize how significant that was? God spoke and Joseph did what God said.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I know that meditating on Your Word is something I should do more. Please help me to really do what You are speaking to me right now. I also see that Joseph was a man who was willing to obey You and he was so blessed. Help me to keep hearing what You speak to me from the Word, and through my meditation. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Sunday January 2

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 3-5
Matthew 2**

Praise the Lord! I want to give you the same verse we covered yesterday. Psalms 77:12 **“I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds.”** Yesterday, we talked about the first part of this verse that says we should meditate. Today I want to show that we are supposed to really consider God’s mighty deeds as well. Way too often people read the Word and they seem to be in a hurry to finish what they are reading. We should really consider God and His mighty deeds. As you really think about those things it will be easier for you to trust God with the things you are facing in life. After all, if God can help others then He can help you too.

Yesterday, we talked about Joseph and his obedience to God. I know we will never face that same things he was facing but God speaks to us all and we need to obey like Joseph did. Matthew 2:19, 20 **“After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.””** I really believe that Joseph was able to hear these specific instructions because he had obeyed the Lord before this. When we obey the Lord it is easier for us to hear more in the future. When we disobey the Lord it dulls our ability to hear His voice in the future.

The next verse says, **“So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.”** He heard and he obeyed. Obey the Lord when He speaks to you. It will position you to hear more and it will make it more likely that you will obey Him.

Prayer: Lord, I not only want to read the Word I also want to really consider what I am seeing about You and Your ways. Please help me to get everything You are speaking to me. I also commit myself to obeying You and Your Word. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Monday January 3

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 6-8
Matthew 3**

Praise the Lord! In our reading from Psalms, the author is talking about how wonderful God is. Psalms 77:13 **“Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God?”** Don’t you like the fact that this verse talks about some gods with a small g and it talks about our God with a capital g? You see, we serve the real God and there is no other like Him. There might be other entities that people serve but that doesn’t make them God. Also don’t miss the fact that our God is holy and He is mighty! Thank God that we serve the real God.

In Matthew 3, we have some more examples of people walking in obedience to God and His will. John the Baptist is another example. He was called and he did just what God wanted him to do. Matthew 3:1-3 **“In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”** The Word had even prophesied what he would preach and he obeyed God.

Then there was a time when Jesus needed to obey God and be baptized. John didn’t think he was qualified to baptize Jesus but both John and Jesus needed to obey God. This is an interesting thing. They both had to be obedient for God’s will to be accomplished. I hope you are a person of obedience and I hope you have friends that are committed to obeying God as well.

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that I have given my life to You and I know that You are really God. I want to obey You all the time. I can see that my obeying You is good for me and that it is helpful for those I am around. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Tuesday January 4

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 9-11
Matthew 4**

Praise the Lord! I have laid out the Scripture Readings on here to help you to read all the Bible this year. It will be easier if you do the reading every day and not get behind. Psalms 77:14 **“You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.”** Thank God that we serve the real God. He is the God of miracles and power. The more we know that the more faith we will have to turn to Him for help when we need it.

The devil came and tempted Jesus. Jesus overcame the devil with the Word every time! Matthew 4:6, 7 **“If you are the Son of God,”** he said, **“throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”** Jesus answered him, **“It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’** It is interesting that the devil quoted the Word to Jesus but he was distorting it. Jesus spoke the Word in a perfect and pure way and defeated the devil.

Matthew 4:8-10 **“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,”** he said, **“if you will bow down and worship me.”** Jesus said to him, **“Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’** We end up serving the one we worship. The devil wanted Jesus to worship him but Jesus knew we need to worship God and we will end up serving Him and Him alone!

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for Your power and Your miracles. I only look to You for help and protection. I also thank You for showing me that I can defeat the devil with the Word. Help me to renew my mind to the Word so I will have plenty of ammunition to defeat the devil. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Wednesday January 5

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12-14
Matthew 5:1-26

Praise the Lord! Psalms 77:15 **“With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah”** One of the benefits of going straight through the Word verse by verse is the fact that we really get to see everything. This verse reminds us that God is mighty and He uses His might to help us as His people. If we really believed this and always remembered it we would never be afraid. After all, if God is for us who could be against us?

Matthew 5, 6 & 7 are called the sermon on the mount. We are so blessed to know that it is God’s will for Him to reveal His ways to us. Some people don’t know this but we do. Look at Matthew 5:14-16 **“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”** God wants to use us to spread His light in the world. Don’t hide your light. People need to see it so they can be drawn to Jesus.

Matthew 5:23-24 say, **“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.”** Being right with people is a high priority. Let God speak to you from this and then do what He tells you to do.

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that You are mighty and that You use Your might to help and protect me. Help me to renew my mind to this and not forget it when I am tempted to get scared. I also want to let Your light shine in and through my life so others can be drawn to You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Thursday January 6

Scripture Reading: Genesis 15-17
Matthew 5:27-48

Praise the Lord! I hope you are doing both your Old Testament and your New Testament readings every day. We need ALL of the Word so don't miss out. Psalms 77:16 **"The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed."** This is a very poetic way of showing that God is in control of every thing. We believe that God created everything and that everything is held together by Him. This sure answers a lot of questions that other people get all confused about.

Matthew 5:43-45 **"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."** Jesus has a very high calling on our lives. Now, please don't get the idea that we have to do these things in our own strength. We cannot do that and no one else can live like God wants in their own strength. The good news is the fact that Jesus can and will help us to live like He wants. We need to give our lives to Him and let Him live His life out through us.

If the verses I just gave aren't a high enough standard to make you rely on Jesus then look at this one, Matthew 5:48 **"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."** If this doesn't make you rely on Jesus then you probably need to read it again. Thank God that He will help us to live like He wants.

Prayer: Lord, I know that You are the Creator of all things and that You are the One who holds all things together. Help me to take this knowledge and know that You created me and You will hold me and my life together. I am so aware that I need Your Lordship in my life. I can't do anything without You and yet You say I can do all things with Your help. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Friday January 7

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18-19
Matthew 6

Praise the Lord! Psalms 77:17 **“The clouds poured down water, the skies resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth.”** Did anyone ever tell you that thunder was the sound of angels bowling? Well, this verse tells us that God is the One who is in control of the thunder and lightning. We should find it very easy to trust God when we know that He is in control of everything.

Matthew 6:33 says, **“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”** If we would take care of first things first then we would have God’s help on everything else in our lives. I know we would all like to have God’s help and so I want to remind you that His blessings come His way. Seek Him first and you will have His help.

The next verse says, **“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”** Can you imagine living your life free from worry? Well, that is what God wants for you. That kind of a worry free life only comes as we trust God for everything and keep seeking Him first. Look at what Paul wrote in Romans 8:31 **“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?”** If we are seeking God first, having His help in every area of our lives and knowing that God is for us, then we can have a worry free life. It doesn’t mean we won’t face problems but we will trust God rather than worrying.

Prayer: Lord, I love You so much and I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. Please help me to live like You want. Help me to seek You first and to know that I will have Your help. I also know that I should trust You and not worry so much. Please teach each me to pray more and worry less. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Saturday January 8

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 20-22
Matthew 7**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 77:18 **“Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked.”** God has so much authority that the whole earth trembles when He speaks. I don’t know if this is literal or not but I know that He could make the earth tremble and shake if He wanted to.

Matthew 7:1-2 **“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way as you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”** If we sow judgement we will reap judgment. This is why we should show forgiveness and mercy to others.

Would you like another reason to do what Jesus said in the first part of Matthew 7? Matthew 7:24-27 **“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”** When we do what the Word says we will be safe. When we don’t do it we are heading for a crash. Isaiah 1:19 **“If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land.”**

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful when You speak to me from the Word. I want to hear everything You speak to me and I want to obey You quickly and completely. Help me to be willing and obedient. I also ask You to bless all my brothers and sisters who are doing these devotions. Help us all to grow into all that You have for us. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Sunday January 9

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 23-24
Matthew 8**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 77:19-20 say, **“Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen. You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.”** God is always willing to lead us when we seek His guidance. Thank God that we know He loves us and He is never hiding His will from us. Our part is to seek Him, hear from Him and then do what He says. Doing those things will lead us to all that He has for us.

Look at Matthew 8:1, 2 **“When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”** Many people have this same question today. You see, most people know that God can heal but they are not always sure He is willing.

The next verse says, Matthew 8:3 **“Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.”** Jesus was willing! Hebrews 13:8 says, **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.”** Jesus never changes so He is still willing. Psalms 103:3 says that God **“Forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.”** The Word needs to be the basis for our beliefs. The Word clearly says that Jesus is willing to heal, He never changes and God wants to heal all our diseases. The more you renew your mind to these things the better you will do.

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that You are my Lord and Savior and I am glad that You lead and guide me. I want to believe all of Your Word. I know that I am blessed to have You speaking to me from the Word and I certainly don't want to doubt You or Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Monday January 10

Scripture Reading: Genesis 25-26
Matthew 9:1-17

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78 is a Psalm where we are told many of the wonderful things God has done and we are encouraged to share them with others. Psalms 78:1 **“O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.”** He was setting the stage for the accounts he was going to give of many wonderful things God had done. Listen, I know God has done wonderful things in your life too. Are you willing to share what God has done with others? They need to hear about how wonderful and loving God is and you need to tell them. Doing those things will be good for you and them.

Matthew 9:10-11 **“Later, as Jesus was in a home sitting at the dinner-table, many tax-collectors and other disreputable people came and joined him and his disciples. The Pharisees noticed this and said to the disciples, “Why does your master have his meals with tax-collectors and sinners?”** Jesus was criticized for many things and the fact that He spend so much time with sinners was one of those things. We need to realize that Jesus was affecting them rather than them affecting Jesus.

Look at the next two verses, Matthew 9:12-13 **“But Jesus heard this and replied, “It is not the fit and flourishing who need the doctor, but those who are ill! You should go and learn what this text means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ In any case I did not come to invite the ‘righteous’ but the ‘sinners’.”** Of course Jesus spent time with sinners. They were the ones He came to save and we should be thankful since we were in that group!

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all the wonderful things You have done in my life. Help me to be willing to share them with others so they can know Your goodness too. I also thank You for coming and saving me. Help me to reach out to unsaved people to influence them for good. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Tuesday January 11

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 27-28
Matthew 9:18-38**

Praise the Lord! I want to give you the same verse we covered yesterday, **O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.** Yesterday, we talked about the first part of this verse but today I want us to think about the last part. This man was impressed with God AND he was willing to tell people about it. If people were to listen to your words (and they are) who would they think you are most impressed with? 1 Corinthians 1:31, **Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."** If we boast about anyone we should boast about the Lord!

Look at Matthew 9:22 **"But Jesus turned round and saw her. "Cheer up, my daughter," he said, "your faith has made you well!" And the woman was completely cured from that moment.**" Please think about the part that I underlined because I want you to really get this and then I want to show you some more about how important our faith is.

Matthew 9:29-30 **"Then he touched their eyes, saying, "You have believed and so it shall be." Then their sight returned, but Jesus sternly warned them, "Don't let anyone know about this."** Their faith worked for them too! I want to stress how important your faith is but I don't know what I could say that would make more of an impact than the verses we just looked at. Their faith healed them and they got just what they were believing for.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to represent You well. I know that I need to be willing to speak up for You and all that You have done for me. Help me to never be ashamed. I also see that my faith is important and I want to be a person of great faith. Help me to build my faith as I spend time in Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Wednesday January 12

Scripture Reading: Genesis 29-30
Matthew 10:1-23

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:2 says, **“I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old--”** Now, some people think parables hide truth but they only hide things from people who don’t want to hear and understand. For people who want to understand a parable will make things clearer. Sometimes we share the Word in a very straight forward way and other times we tell stories or parables that illustrate the truth of God’s Word. Either way we need to speak up for God.

Matthew 10:1 **“He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.”** God has always wanted to use His people in the ministry and we see Jesus doing that here. Look at what Psalms 103:3 says about God, **“He forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.”** The Old Testament says it was God’s will to heal ALL diseases and we see Jesus sending out His disciples to do God’s revealed will.

Look at Matthew 10:7, 8 **“As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”** Now, it is important for us to remember that verse 1 says Jesus gave them the authority to do these things. You see, none of us could do these things on our own.

Prayer: Lord, I know that I should speak up for You more and I want to. Help me to really represent You well in my actions and my words. I also thank You for all that You have done for me. I don’t want to miss out on anything You have done for me and I want to be used more to help others. I know that I need Your help. Help me to know more about the authority that You want me to use. In Jesus ‘ Name, Amen.



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Thursday January 13

Scripture Reading: Genesis 31-32
Matthew 10:24-42

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:2-3 **“I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old-- what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us.”** The older generation had shared what they had seen God do and now the younger generation was willing to brag on God. I have been making the point that we need to share the good things God does for us and these verses show that we need to share them with those older and those younger than us. Just brag on Jesus and let people know about all that God has done for you.

God loves you! That is why He takes such good care of you. Matthew 10:29-30 **“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”** I know this seems almost too good to be true but we have God’s Word on it. He loves us this much and knowing that should make it much easier to trust Him with every detail of our lives.

Matthew 10:41-42 **“Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”** When we take care of those God loves He will take care of us.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all that You have done in my life and I want to be more willing to share with others. Help me not to be shy or ashamed. I know that You love me and that Your love always takes care of me. Help me to bless others more. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Friday January 14

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 33-35
Matthew 11**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:4 says, **“We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.”** Are you like this? Are you willing to share the good things God has done in your life with the next generation? You should be. It will be good for them and it will be good for you. Look at Philemon 1:6, **“I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.”** When we share our faith it is good for us!

Look at Matthew 11:11 **“I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”** This was an amazing compliment for John the Baptist and an even greater one for us. John was greater than anyone born in the Old Testament and we are greater than John. How can this be? It can be because we have given our lives to Jesus and now He lives in us.

Look at the wonderful promise Jesus made us in Matthew 11:28-30 **“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”** You can believe every bit of this promise because it is impossible for God to lie.

Prayer: Lord, I want to be more willing to share my faith with others. I know You have moved in my life and I don't ever want to shrink back from bragging about You. I also thank You for saving me. Help me to live like I should and thank You that I can always run to You when I need help. I love You so much. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Saturday January 15

Scripture Reading: Genesis 36-37
Matthew 12:1-21

Praise the Lord! I have been writing to you about being willing to share what God has done for you with others. Now, look at Psalms 78:5 **“He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children.”** We are commanded to teach our children about the Lord. James 1:25 says, **“But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.”** God blesses us when we do what He tells us to do. So, share the wonderful things God has done for you and you will have more of God’s blessings.

Look at Matthew 12:13-14 **“Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.”** Jesus healed this man and they wanted to kill Him. This always amazes me. I would have become a follower of Jesus and stayed close to Him. In another place we are told that they hated Jesus because they were in darkness and so they hated the light. On another occasion we are told that they were jealous of Jesus and that is why they wanted Him dead.

His enemies reacted and wanted to kill Jesus but look at His reaction to all this, Matthew 12:15 **“Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick.”** Jesus kept doing what He was called to do. Take a second and look up Romans 8:29 and you will see that we are being conforming into His image!

Prayer: Lord, I want Your blessings in my life and I know that my obeying You releases them. Help me to share my faith more. I also thank You for teaching me Your ways as I spend time in Your Word. I don't want to miss out on anything You have for me. Help me to know how to be more like You all the time. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Sunday January 16

Scripture Reading: Genesis 38-40
Matthew 12:22-50

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:5-6 say, **“He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so that the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.”** We are commanded to tell the next generation about how wonderful God is and then they will be able to tell the subsequent generations and everyone will have the opportunity to know Him and live for Him.

Look at Matthew 12:34 **“You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.”** We need to know that people speak out of the abundance that is in their hearts. So, you can know what is in a person by listening to how they talk. We also need to take this truth and apply it in our own lives. Store up a good abundance in your heart and you will speak words of life. If you find yourself speaking anything less than that change the abundance in your heart and your words will follow.

Matthew 12:50 **“For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”** I often write to you about being a doer of God’s Word and this verse sure underscores all that. When we really live like God wants (that is being a doer) then we show that we have given our lives to Jesus and it demonstrates that we really are His children.

Prayer: Lord, I am thankful for all that You have done in my life and I want to be willing to share with others. I know that the goodness I have experienced would help them to trust You like I have. Help me to store Your Word up in my heart so I will have a good abundance and I know that my words will follow. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Monday January 17

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 41
Matthew 13:1-32**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:6-7 **“So that the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.”** When we tell people about God’s goodness they will have the opportunity to follow Him. Then they tell others and they can know Him as well. So, be thankful for all the blessings God brings into your life and be willing to tell others. They really do need to hear about God’s goodness.

Look at Matthew 13:11 **He replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.”** We are so blessed. God wants to reveal His ways to us. I do want to tell you that God doesn’t share everything with us at one time. He gives us what we need right where we are. Then as we are faithful with what we know we position ourselves to hear more and He will teach us more when we are ready.

We can see this in the parable of the sower. Look at Matthew 13:23 **“But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”** This person was good soil. He held onto the Word and the Word produced in his life. He was faithful with what he had and then he received more.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want more people to know You. Help me to do my part in that process. I am so thankful that someone shared Your love with me and I want to do the same for others. Help me to learn all that You are teaching me and help me to be faithful. I really do want to be used more and I know that being faithful right now is what I need to do. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Tuesday January 18

Scripture Reading: Genesis 42-43
Matthew 13:33-58

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:8 **“They would not be like their forefathers--a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.”** Some people hear about the goodness of God and they reject what they are hearing. This verse calls them stubborn and rebellious. We don't want to be like that. We want to be open to all that God is showing us and we need to always be ready to learn more.

Matthew 13:45, 46 **“Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”** Jesus used parables to reveal spiritual truths. You see, everyone could relate to finding a valuable treasure in a field and buying the field to get the treasure. Jesus was showing that the Kingdom of God is very valuable and we should give everything we have to get the Kingdom.

In the last part of chapter 13, we read that Jesus went into a place where people rejected Him. Look at Matthew 13:58 **“And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.”** Their lack of faith kept them from receiving what Jesus had for them. If they had believed in Jesus and put their faith in Him they could have had the miracles they needed. Earlier in Matthew, we covered a time when Jesus told people that their faith had healed them. That is the opposite of this. Let's be people of faith and get all that God has for us.

Prayer: Lord, I don't ever want to be stubborn or rebellious towards You. I want to submit to You quickly and completely. I know that Your will is always right. I also thank You for the Kingdom and I want to be a person of faith. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Wednesday January 19

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 44-45
Matthew 14:1-21**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:9-10 **“The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned back on the day of battle; they did not keep God’s covenant and refused to live by his law.”** These people rejected God and His instructions for them. We should accept everything God speaks to us because that will give us life. Look at what Jesus said in Matthew 4:4 **“It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”** Thank God we are able to study His Word and receive life from it.

Earlier in the book of Matthew, we talked about John the Baptist and I said that he fulfilled God’s purpose for his life. God had a calling on his life and God even laid out what he should preach and he did what God wanted. Because of those things he was a success in God’s eyes and that is what really mattered. King Herod was not happy with John and he actually put him to death.

Now, look at Jesus’ reaction to this tragic event. Matthew 14:13-14 **“When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.”** John was Jesus’ first cousin and when He heard about John’s death He wanted to get away for a while but people who were in need showed up. So, Jesus healed them! Jesus stayed on track doing what God had called Him to do.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your Word. Help me to be more like John, the Baptist and Jesus. I want to know Your will for my life and I want to do it! I know that pleasing You is what is most important and I certainly want to please You more than anyone else. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Thursday January 20

Scripture Reading: Genesis 46-48
Matthew 14:22-36

Praise the Lord! In Psalms 78 we are reading about some people who weren't living for God. Psalms 78:11 says, **"They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them."** The Word has been telling us to remember all that God has done and these people didn't do that. Then they forgot about God and His goodness. You see, the more we remember God and His goodness the easier it will be to really live for Him. So, remember all that He has done for you and tell others. Doing these things will be good for you and it will be good for those who hear about God's goodness.

Matthew 14:34-35 **"When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him."** Why do you think they were bringing the sick to Jesus? I know the answer to this probably seems simple but do you apply the simple answer in your life? Of course they brought the sick to Jesus so He could heal them. Do you put this into practice in your life or do you think it only applied to these people?

Matthew 14:35-36 **"And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed."** Bringing the sick to Jesus worked out well for them and it will work out for us too.

Prayer: Lord, I don't ever want to forget all that You have done for me. I also know that telling others will help me to remember them and it will be good for those who hear. Help me to run to You for help and for healing when I need it. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Friday January 21

Scripture Reading: Genesis 49-50
Matthew 15:1-20

Praise the Lord! Now, the writer of Psalms 78 is going to list some of the things God has done. Psalms 78:12 **“He did miracles in the sight of their fathers in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.”** Please notice what is going on here. He had been instructing us to tell others about God’s power and goodness and now he is doing just what He told us to do. Thank God that there are some people who preach the right things AND do what they preach. Follow people like this and live like that for the people you influence.

Look at Matthew 15:3 **“Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?”** These people were making a huge mistake. They were making their traditions more important than the Word. The Word always needs to be the most important thing in our lives.

Look at how serious this was in Matthew 15:7-9 **“You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”** Because they were putting traditions ahead of the Word even their worship was in vain. We have talked a lot about how important worship is and this shows that doing this can even ruin our worship. I am so thankful that you are spending time in the Word every day and I want to encourage you to really let the Word affect every area of your life.

Prayer: Lord, I want to be a doer of Your Word and not a hearer only. Also I don't want anything to stand in the way of my accepting everything You speak to me from the Word. Help me to be quick to learn and quick to obey You in all things. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Saturday January 22

Scripture Reading: Exodus 1-3
Matthew 15:21-39

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:13 **“He divided the sea and led them through; he made the water stand firm like a wall.”** Thank God for reminders like this. He has protected people in the past and He will protect us too. Look at the promise Isaiah 43:2 gives us, **“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”** Thank God for His protection!

Matthew 15:28 **“You certainly don’t lack faith,”** returned Jesus, **“it shall be as you wish.” And at that moment her daughter was healed.** Jesus was a healer. Hebrews 13:8 **“Jesus Christ is always the same, yesterday, today and for ever.”** Jesus is still a healer! This woman came in faith and would not be denied and Jesus healed her daughter. Some people miss out because they quit too soon.

Matthew 15:29-30 **“Jesus left there, walked along the shore of the lake of Galilee then climbed the hill and sat down. And great crowds came to him, bringing with them people who were lame, blind, crippled, dumb and many others. They simply laid them at his feet and he healed them.”** These people came in faith and would not be denied and Jesus healed those they brought too. Some people miss out because they quit too soon. Hebrews 6:12 **“We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”**

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your protection. I sure wouldn't want to face life without Your help and protection. I also thank You for teaching me Your ways through the Word. Help me to really get all that You are teaching me and help me to have faith for everything You promise me. I also want to have more-patience. In Jesus ' Name, Amen.



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Sunday January 23

**Scripture Reading: Exodus 4-6
Matthew 16**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:14 **“He guided them with the cloud by day and with light from the fire all night.”** This is talking about how God guided and protected His people when they were coming out of Egypt. We need to let accounts like this build our faith that God will guide and protect us too. You see, God never changes. If He took care of them then He will take care of us. Our part is to believe that and stand in faith no matter what we are facing.

Matthew 16:1 **“The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.”** I want to be very clear about something. When people came to Jesus in faith they received what they asked for. These people were not like that. They didn’t come in faith. They were testing Jesus and so they missed out. Matthew 16:4 **“A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.” Jesus then left them and went away.”** They not only didn’t get what they asked for Jesus also left them.

Matthew 16:21 **“From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”** This was a wonderful revelation about the greatest event ever. Matthew 16:22 **“Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”** Peter missed what Jesus was saying but Jesus was going to keep helping him and Peter was going to make it.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for guiding and protecting me. Thank You that You have never quit on me. I really do want to be a person of faith who believes what You say and who lives like You want. In Jesus ‘ Name, Amen.



Monday January 24

Scripture Reading: Exodus 7-8
Matthew 17

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:15 **“He split the rocks in the desert and gave them water as abundant as the seas;”** When God’s people needed water He gave them water! What a wonderful God we serve. When God was preparing Moses to lead His people He revealed Himself to Moses as, “I am!” That means whenever we have a need we can go to Him and ask Him if He is able to help us and the answer will always be, “I am!”

Matthew 17:22-23 **“When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.” And the disciples were filled with grief.”** When we read about Jesus telling the disciples that He doing to die on the cross we should be filled with joy over it but they weren’t. They expected Jesus to take over and establish His Kingdom right then. So, when Jesus talked about the cross they couldn’t see how that would fit in.

Look at Matthew 17:27 **“But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”** Peter was asking Jesus about paying taxes and Jesus helped him to pay his taxes. Have you ever thought about God helping you to pay your taxes? Well if you have ever been able to pay your taxes that was a gift from God because every good thing comes from God. James 1:17 **“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”** Thank You for being the Great I AM in my life.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to be more thankful for all that You do for me! Help me to realize more of what You do for me and help me to be more thankful. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Tuesday January 25

Scripture Reading: Exodus 9-10
Matthew 18:1-20

Praise the Lord! We have been talking about God's ability to meet the needs of His people. For today look at Psalms 78:16 **"He brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers."** He didn't just give them a little trickle or just enough. He had the water they needed flow like a river! Thank God that He is always able to give us more than enough. Ephesians 3:20 says, **"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."** God is able to do more than you could ever ask or imagine.

Matthew 18:1-4 **"At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."** God's Kingdom is much different than the kingdoms of the world. The way to be great in God's Kingdom is to be humble and serve others. You see, doing those things is what Jesus did and we become great in God's Kingdom by becoming more like King Jesus.

Matthew 18:19-20 **"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."** God always blesses unity and these verses show that God blesses us when we pray in unity.

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad I have given my life to You. Thank You for always meeting my needs and doing even more than I could ask or imagine. Help me to remember that I am blessed so I can be a blessing to others. I also ask You to help me to live in unity with my brothers and sisters. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Wednesday January 26

**Scripture Reading: Exodus 11-12
Matthew 18:21-35**

Praise the Lord! We have been seeing how much God blessed His people in the wilderness but now look at Psalms 78:17 **“But they continued to sin against him, rebelling in the desert against the Most High.”** God was blessing them but they kept rebelling against Him. Don’t be like this. When God blesses you choose to live for Him all the more.

Look at Matthew 18:21 **“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”** It is interesting that Peter knew that Jesus would want him to forgive people. Think about this because many people miss this important point. We need to start off with the truth that God wants us to forgive and then Peter’s question comes into play. Basically he was saying that he knew Jesus wanted us to forgive but how much.

Jesus then tells a parable about how we need to forgive because we have been forgiven. You see, we need to forgive just like we have been forgiven. God has forgiven all of our sins and we need to forgive all of other people’s sins. Then Jesus ended up by saying that if we don’t forgive others we won’t be forgiven. The opposite of this is true too. When we forgive others we will be forgiven as well. You see, we are going to reap what we sow. If we sow unforgiveness we will reap unforgiveness. If we sow forgiveness we will reap forgiveness.

Prayer: Lord, I really do want to live for You. I know that every blessing in my life is a gift from You and they make me want to live for You even more. I also know that what I sow is what I am going to reap. Please show me if there is anyone that I am not forgiving and help me to forgive them just like You want. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Thursday January 27

Scripture Reading: Exodus 13-15
Matthew 19:1-15

Praise the Lord! In Psalms 78, we continue to read about people who were rebelling against God. Psalms 78:18 **“They willfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved.”** I am sure glad we don’t live like this. We know that God wants to bless us and we are learning to be thankful when He does bless us but we sure don’t ever want to demand that He blesses us. That would be wrong and this verse says they were willfully putting God to the test. Don’t be like this.

Matthew 19:1-2 **“When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.”** I love Jesus so much. People came to Him with needs and He met their needs. In this case, they needed healing and He healed them!

Matthew 19:13-15 **“Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.”** Jesus is meeting the needs of the children here. You see, He always had time to bless people. If people needed healing, He healed them. If children needed a blessing, He blessed them.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all the blessings You bring into my life. I don't ever want to be demanding towards You. I know that Your love is the basis for everything good in my life and I want to be more thankful. I also thank You for meeting all my needs and I want to be quick to help others when I can. Help me to know that I am blessed so I can be a blessing to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Friday January 28

Scripture Reading: Exodus 16-18
Matthew 19:16-30

Praise the Lord! Psalms 78:19 says, **“They spoke against God, saying, “Can God spread a table in the desert?”** Have you ever wondered why God did anything for these people? They seem to be so demanding and they were even speaking words of doubt and unbelief here. Well, I have some good news for you. God blessed them because He loved them and they were His people. So, He provided for them even though they weren’t living like He wanted. Thank God for His mercy and His patience.

Matthew 19:16 **“Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”** Please read the rest of this story in our reading for today. This man wasn’t willing to put his total trust in Jesus. He trusted in his own wealth more than God and because of that he missed out on the salvation Jesus had for him.

Look at what the disciples said in Matthew, 19:27 **“Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”** They had put their total trust in Jesus! Look at the blessing they received in Matthew 19:29 **“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.”** They were blessed in this life and for all eternity. Now, let me review. The first man trusted in material things and he missed out in this life and in the life to come. The disciples put their total trust in God and they were blessed in this life and for all eternity. I hope we are like the second group.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. Thank You for always taking care of me. I want to put my trust in You and keep it there. I want to use the blessings You bring into my life to bless others. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Saturday January 29

Scripture Reading: Exodus 19-21
Matthew 20:1-16

Praise the Lord! In Psalms 78:20 the people are talking to God and they say, **“When he struck the rock, water gushed out, and streams flowed abundantly. But can he also give us food? Can he supply meat for his people?”** This is interesting. They knew that God had supplied them the water they needed in abundance but now they were asking if God could feed them. Listen, when God does something to meet one of your needs let that build your faith to believe Him for even more. Thank God that He never runs out of power!

I hope you are doing both your Old Testament and your New Testament Readings every day. We need all of the Word and the more you read it the more God will be able to speak to you and teach you His ways. 2 Timothy 2:15 says, **“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”** When you do your best God will always do His part and teach you.

In the first part of Matthew 20, Jesus taught a parable about a man hiring people and they all were paid the same amount. This shows that everyone who is saved goes to heaven. One person may get saved and live for the Lord many years. Another person may get saved right before they die but they both go to heaven. Who made that rule? God did. And He is the King of the Kingdom and He makes the rules. Thank God that we haven't waited until the end to give our lives to God. Living for Him is so much better.

Prayer: Lord, I know that You have met my needs in the past and I know that You will always meet my needs. Help me to never doubt Your ability or Your willingness to take care of me. I also thank You for saving me and I am glad that I am living for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Sunday January 30

Scripture Reading: Exodus 22-24
Matthew 20:17-34

Praise the Lord! We read about the people doubting God in yesterday's verse from Psalms 78. Now, look at verse, 21 **"When the LORD heard them, he was very angry; his fire broke out against Jacob, and his wrath rose against Israel."** If you ever needed an encouragement not to doubt God this should do it. God had met their needs many times and yet they doubted that He would do it again. They were either doubting His ability or His willingness. Either way God was angry with them. Let's be sure to believe in God and the things He promises us.

Matthew 20:25, 26 **"Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant."** It is ok to want to be great in the Kingdom of God but we have to go about it God's way. Being a servant is God's path to greatness.

Matthew 20:34 **"Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him."** Compassion has been described as love put into action. Jesus loved these men and so He healed them. Now, they played a part in the process too. They had faith but their faith would not have produced except for the fact that Jesus loved them and He will willing to put His love into action.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I don't ever want to doubt either Your ability or Your willingness to take care of me. I thank You for Your faithfulness and Your patience with me. Thank You for showing me about compassion today. Help me to be a person of compassion and help me to know how to really help people who are in need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday January 31

Scripture Reading: Exodus 25-26
Matthew 21:1-22

Praise the Lord! Yesterday we saw that God was angry with His people and in today's verse we see more about what caused Him to be angry. Psalms 78:22 **"For they did not believe in God or trust in His deliverance."** I am sure you can see from this that we need to believe in God and trust in His deliverance. If we don't do these things then we are into idolatry. God has to be number one in our lives.

Matthew 21:9 says, **"The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!"** Hosanna means, "Save, save now!" These people knew that they needed God's help and they were crying out to the right One. Jesus was the Messiah and He was the only One who could really help them.

Now, look at Matthew 21:22 **"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."** That is an amazing promise. Now, of course we have to be asking for things that are in His will. Look at 1 John 5:14-15 **"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him."** As we study the Word we know His will better and then we can have more confidence as we pray. We are so blessed to know these things. You see, God loves us and so He reveals His ways to us so we can be blessed.

Prayer: Lord, I know that giving my life to You was the best decision I ever made and I am never going to draw back from trusting You for everything in my life. I also thank You for showing me that I can know Your will and pray with confidence knowing that You will answer my prayers. In Jesus' Name, Amen.