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1 May 2011

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

God bless you for setting out to study God's Word this month. You have made a wonderful decision. God wants you to know His will and His ways. You will learn many of those things from the Word.

God bless you as you study His 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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Sunday May 1

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 1-2
Luke 22:54-71

Praise the Lord! We are working our way through Psalms 82 and verse 7 says, **“But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler.”** The truth that all men are going to die applies to everyone. Unless Jesus returns we are all going to die. Those who have Jesus as their Lord and Savior will enjoy eternal life with Him and those who don't know Him will miss out. I sure want to be on God's side and I am so glad that we know Jesus is the only Way to the Father.

In our reading from Luke 22, we see that Peter denied the Lord just like He said he would. Here is the good news in all this. Jesus knew that Peter was going to blow it here but Jesus didn't quit on Peter. This is good news because Jesus isn't going to quit on us either. Look at what Paul wrote 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.”** Jesus is the One who started a good work in our lives and He is the One who will finish His work. Thank God for His patience.

Look at Luke 22:63-65 **“The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and demanded, “Prophecy! Who hit you?” And they said many other insulting things to him.”** Jesus went through all these things for us. You see, He was suffering for our sins. He was sinless. He was paying the penalty for our sins so we could be forgiven.

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that I have given my life to You. Thank You for being my Lord and Savior. Please help me to really live for You. I never want to deny You or let You down. Help me to know that You have totally paid for my sins and help me to walk in the freedom You have provided for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Monday May 2

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 3-5
Luke 23:1-26

Praise the Lord! Psalms 82:8 says, **“Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations are your inheritance.”** This is the last verse of Psalms 82 and it points back to the fact that God is in control of all things and He is the One who will be the Judge. Thank God that we know these things. You see, it is good to trust Him rather than trying to figure everything out on our own. He is trustworthy.

Look at Luke 23:1-2 **“Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king.”** Jesus had been arrested and He was on trial. His opponents were trying to come up with some charge so they could convict Him. They were having a hard time because Jesus was totally innocent. I mean He had literally never done anything wrong. He was sinless.

So, they said Jesus was against paying taxes to Caesar but this was not true. Jesus had actually instructed people to pay taxes to the government but He also said that we should give God what He deserves too. Look at Luke 23:4 **“Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”** Pilate was in charge and he even admitted that none of the charges against Jesus were valid and yet he still put Jesus to death. You see, God was the One who was in control here. Even though Jesus was innocent He was going to die on the cross for our sins.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for the reminder today that You are in charge of all things. Help me to remember this when I am tempted to fret and worry. I know that I can trust You. I also thank You so much for paying the price for my sins. I was totally and completely lost without You and now I want to live totally and completely for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Tuesday May 3

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 6-7
Luke 23:27-38

Praise the Lord! In Psalms 83, the author is asking God to come to the aid of His people. Psalms 83:1 says, **“O God, do not keep silent; be not quiet, O God, be not still.”** He knew they needed help and he was crying out for God to help. This is what we should do when we are in need of help. Cry out to God in faith knowing that He will hear and help you. That is putting your faith into action.

Look at what Jesus said in Luke 23:34 **“Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.”** Jesus actually prayed that God would forgive the people who were crucifying Him. You see, Jesus came to pay the price for sin so forgiveness could be extended to anyone who would accept it. This even included those who put Him to death. Thank God that His forgiveness is even extended to us.

Luke 23:38 says, **“There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”** Yesterday, we talked about the people trying to find some charge to bring against Jesus. Well, the charge was supposed to be written and displayed above the person being crucified. This was the closest they could come to a real charge and they actually ended up proclaiming a great truth about Jesus. He was the King of the Jews. Actually, He was the King of kings and the Lord of lords and He was laying down His life so people could be forgiven for their sins.

Prayer: Lord, I am glad that I know to cry out to You when I need help. Please help me to really call on You more often. I know that You always want me to draw near to You and I want to live like You want. I also thank You for dying on the cross so I could be forgiven. I accept Your salvation and I want to tell others the Good News. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Wednesday May 4

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 8-9
Luke 23:39-56

Praise the Lord! Psalms 83:2 says, **“See how your enemies are astir, how your foes rear their heads.”** I am sure God knew all about what was going on but it was still ok for this man to tell God what he was going through. You see, God loves us and He cares about everything that affects us. So, if you are facing something hard cry out to God and tell Him all about it. Know that He loves you and He is going to help you.

When Jesus was crucified there were two thieves who were also crucified. Jesus was innocent and these men were guilty. Look at Luke 23:39 **“One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”** This man was just asking Jesus to get him off the cross. Look at what the other thief said, Luke 23:40-42 **“But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”** This man was putting his trust in Jesus as Savior.

Look at Luke 23:43 **“Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”** This man went to heaven with Jesus! Aren’t you glad that Jesus saves people like this? Let me make it a lot more personal. Aren’t you glad that Jesus saves people like you and me?

Prayer: Lord, I am glad that I can always draw near to You and tell You anything and everything I am going through. Thank You that You always help me. I know that You came to seek and to save sinners because that is what You did in my life and I am so thankful. I love You and I want to live for You more and more. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Thursday May 5

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 10-11
Luke 24:1-35

Praise the Lord! In Psalms 83 the writer is talking about people who were persecuting God's people and verse 3 says, **"With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish."** Thank God that we are the ones that God cherishes but that doesn't mean everyone is going to like us. Some people are so sold out to the devil that they oppose everything Godly and they even persecute Christians. We need to keep our eyes on God and live for Him no matter what others are doing.

This may seem like a strange statement but when they crucified Jesus they expected Him to stay dead. You see, everyone else they had ever killed stayed dead but Jesus rose from the dead! Thank God that we serve a risen Savior. Never forget that He died for our sins and He rose from the dead so He could live His life out through us. He is alive forever and His work in our lives will last forever as well.

Look at Luke 24:5 **"In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"** Think about the question asked here. If you want to see Jesus where would you look today? Look among those who are living. I mean those who are alive spiritually. You see, we are alive today because we have given our lives to Him and now He lives through us. So, if you want to see Jesus in action find His people and watch Jesus live His life through them.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for Your love. Our verse from Psalms 83 even says You cherish me. I accept that as true because I know that You love me that much. I also know that Jesus is the One who makes all the difference in my life. Please teach me more of how I should be living as a born again Christian. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Friday May 6

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 12-13
Luke 24:36-53

Praise the Lord! Psalms 83:4-5 Say, “Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more.” With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against You--” There is a very important truth here for us to see. These people were trying to destroy God’s people and yet the last part of these verses say they were forming an alliance against God! Here’s the point. When people oppose God’s people they are really opposing Him. You see, as New Testament believers we are the body of Christ. So, when people come against us they also come against God.

Jesus was raised from the dead and He continued to work with His disciples. You see, once Jesus had paid the price for our sins the message of what He had done needed to be spread. Just like He used His disciples in His work before the cross He still wants to use us after His resurrection.

Luke 24:50-53 “When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.” Now these believers were going to wait for the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Once they were filled with the Holy Spirit they would be ready to do God’s work more. Thank God that He wants to use us and He gives us what we need to get His work done.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so glad that You love me. Help me to remember that You are always looking out for me and that I can trust You when people come against me. I am going to love them and pray for them. I trust You to take care of them. Help me to be a good witness for You and help me to accomplish all that You have for me to do. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Saturday May 7

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 14-15
John 1:1-28

Praise the Lord! Yesterday, I gave you Psalms 83:4-5 and I want to cover them again today. **“Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more.” With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against you--**” I made the point that those who opposed God’s people also opposed Him. Look at Acts 9:1 **“Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest”** and Acts 9:3-4 **“As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”** Saul was persecuting Christians and yet Jesus said, **“Why do you persecute Me?”**

John 1:1 **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”** Jesus has always been the Word and the Word (Jesus) came to us. John 1:14 **“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”** Thank God that Jesus came and thank God that He has given us the Word to study.

Look at John 1:16 **“From the fulness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.”** This is talking about the fact that we only receive good things from Jesus.

This is true because a person can only give what they have. So, Jesus gives us good things because that is what He is full of. Thank God we have given our lives to Him.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that I have given my life to You. Help me to know more about how our lives are linked together. I also trust You to help me with all my problems. Help me to study Your Word and really learn Your ways. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Sunday May 8

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 16-18
John 1:29-51

Praise the Lord! The author of Psalms 83 is listing some of the people who were opposing God and His people. Psalms 83:6-8 say **“The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites, Gebal, Ammon and Amalek, Philistia, with the people of Tyre. Even Assyria has joined them to lend strength to the descendants of Lot. Selah”** This is quite a coalition but do you think they were stronger than God? This is a very important question because way too often people forget all about God when they are being opposed. God is God and we are on His side. So, He will take care of us. Don't ever forget that.

Look at John 1:29 **“The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”** This was an amazing declaration. John recognized that Jesus was the fulfillment of all the Old Testament sacrifices for sin. Jesus was the real lamb of God and He came to pay for all sin once and for all. We are blessed to know these things. There are people who know they are trapped in sin but they don't know that Jesus can forgive them and set them free.

Now, look at John 1:35-37 **“The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.”** When these guys realized who Jesus was they followed Him. I hope you have made this same decision because it is the right decision.

Prayer: Lord, I know that You are all powerful and no one can stand against You. Help me to stay close to You and to keep my trust in You and You alone. I also thank You for dying on the cross for my sins and I am going to live for You! In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Monday May 9

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 19-20
John 2

Praise the Lord! Look at Psalms 83:9 **“Do to them as you did to Midian, as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon.”** God had protected them before and he was asking God to do it again. When you are facing a hard situation it is good to remember all the times God has helped you in the past. Doing that will help you to trust God for what you are going through right now. Believe me, God has not changed. He will protect you just like He has in the past. Don't ever forget that.

Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine at a wedding. This shows that Jesus is able to take something very common and ordinary and turn it into some very special. He is doing that same thing in our lives. Don't you remember what you were like before you gave your life to Jesus? Well, Jesus is making a huge difference in your life. He is turning you into something very special. You are now a child of God!

John 2:11 **“This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.”** Now, Jesus is still the same and He wants us to have the same reaction to the works He is doing today. He is changing us like He changed the water into wine and we should put our faith in Him like the disciples did here. Now, I know you have already put your faith in Him to be saved but there is always more. Don't quit trusting God more and more and don't ever quit growing in your faith.

Prayer: Lord, I am thankful for all You have done in my life. Help me to remember those things when I am tempted to be afraid. I know that You never change. You have taken care of me in the past and You will take care of me now. I also thank You for all the wonderful changes You have made in my life and I look forward to growing more in my faith. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Tuesday May 10

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 21-22
John 3:1-21

Praise the Lord! Psalms 83:9-10 say, **“Do to them as you did to Midian, as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon, who perished at Endor and became like refuse on the ground.”** This shows how completely God had defeated their enemies in the past. They became like refuse on the ground. I am sure there have been things you faced in the past that are now only a distant memory. Well, God is still able to help you with your current struggles. Don't ever forget that.

John 3:16 is probably the best known verse in the Bible. **“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.”** Even unsaved people know this verse. They might not accept it and be born-again but they know this verse. Thank God we have accepted the truth of this verse AND we have been born-again.

The next verse says, **“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”** This is another wonderful truth that we need to accept. Jesus didn't come to condemn the world. He came to provide salvation for it. His death on the cross was so great that every person who has ever lived could be saved if they would accept the salvation that Jesus provided! Here's a quick point and then we will pray. Because we have accepted Jesus there is now no condemnation for us. We have been forgiven and justified in Jesus! Romans 8:1 **“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”**

Prayer: Lord, I thank You that You have totally and completely defeated my enemy, the devil. Help me to know how free I am in You and help me to really live my freedom out. I also want to help others to come to know You by being born-again. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Wednesday May 11

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 1-3
John 3:22-36

Praise the Lord! Psalms 83:11-12 **“Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna, who said, “Let us take possession of the pasturelands of God.”** I am glad we are going straight through Psalms so we can understand verses like this in context. The author is praying here for God to take care of his present enemies like He had taken care of his past enemies. Here’s how we can apply this. God has protected us in the past and He will protect us now. We need to keep trusting Him!

Look at John 3:30 **“He must become greater; I must become less.”** John the Baptist said this here and there is a wonderful truth that we need to grasp and put into operation in our lives. When we gave our lives to Jesus He took them and now we need to let Him rule and reign in our lives. The more we do that the more we will be in line with His perfect will. This verse shows us how this process happens. We need to let Him increase in our lives and as that happens we will decrease. Any time you know His will and submit to it you are making progress in these things.

Look at how much progress Paul had made in his life, Galatians 2:20 **“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”** Paul was saying that Jesus had taken over in his life and let me tell you that this was a good thing. So, let Jesus rule and reign in your life. Accept His ways and His will. You will be living like He wants you to live.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for all that You have done in my life. I want You to increase and I want to decrease. I know that Your will and Your ways are always right and I want to willingly submit to You and I want to do it quickly. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Thursday May 12

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 4-5
John 4:1-30

Praise the Lord! The author of Psalms 83 is asking God to take care of his enemies and Psalms 83:13 says, **“Make them like tumble-weed, O my God, like chaff before the wind.”** I live in Wyoming and we have a lot of tumble-weeds around here. So, this is a great illustration for me. Tumble-weeds just blow away. Tumble-weeds can’t stand against the wind and God’s enemies can’t stand against Him. Thank God we are His people and He protects us.

Jesus came to seek and to save sinners. In John 4, we see Jesus reaching out to a woman from Samaria. I am sure you have heard sermons on this. Jews weren’t supposed to have anything to do with Samaritans, men weren’t supposed to talk to women and this woman had lived a very sinful life. **BUT** God’s will for Jesus superseded all those things. He came to seek and to save sinners and so He reached out to her.

He was patient with her and helped her come to the knowledge of the truth that would set her free. She started out thinking Jesus was just a Jewish man who was thirsty. Then she realized that He had living water to offer her. Then she said, “You are a prophet.” Finally, look at John 4:25-26 **“The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus declared, “I who speak to you am he.”** Thank God for His patience with her and thank God for His patience with us.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so glad that I have given my life to You. It was the best decision I ever made and I never regret it. Help me to have my life firmly grounded in You. I also thank You for all that You have taught me and I want to keep learning. I don’t ever want to turn to the right or to the left from Your path for my life. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Friday May 13

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 6-8
John 4:31-54

Praise the Lord! Psalms 83:14-15 **“As fire consumes the forest or a flame sets the mountains ablaze, so pursue them with your tempest and terrify them with your storm.”** He was asking God to take care of his enemies. As New Testament believers, we are to pray for our enemies but at least this guy was talking to God about them. Believe me God is always the One we want dealing with people.

In the last part of yesterday’s reading, the woman went into her town and told them about Jesus. Look at John 4:39 **“Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.”** She immediately became a witness for Jesus and she was an effective witness. Now, she wouldn’t have been qualified to teach because she didn’t know enough but she was sure able to tell people what Jesus had done for her. That means we are qualified to be witnesses. Tell people what Jesus has done for you!

Look at John 4:50 **“Jesus replied, “You may go. Your son will live.” The man took Jesus at his word and departed.”** This is so wonderful and so important. He believed the Word and he received what he needed from Jesus. That is wonderful. Now, let me tell something else. We can do this same thing! Praise God for the Word. We can study it, believe it and act on it. When we do the Word will produce for us just like it produced for this man. Thank You, Jesus!

Prayer: Lord, I am so glad that I can cast all my cares on You. I know that You love me and that You are always looking out for me. I am going to pray for my enemies, bless them and trust You to take care of them. I am also thankful for all that You have done in my life. Help me to be willing to tell others so they can know Your goodness too. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Saturday May 14

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 9-11
John 5:1-24

Praise the Lord! Psalms 83:16 says, **“Cover their faces with shame so that men will seek your name, O LORD.”** Praise the Lord that we know we can seek the Lord no matter what happens to our enemies. We need to keep our attention focused on Him and His ways rather than anything else. If you ever find yourself giving your attention to anything other than God, stop it and get back to thinking like you should.

Look at what Jesus asked in John 5:6 **“When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”** This man had been lame for thirty-eight years and yet Jesus asked him if he wanted to get well. Does that surprise you? You see, there are some people who are sick and they don't want to get well. They are going to stay sick. When we come to Jesus we should know what we want and we should be committed to never giving up. Those are the kind of people who receive from God.

Look at what Jesus said in John 5:24 **“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”** Thank God that Jesus has revealed God's ways to us. We are so blessed. He speaks the Word to us and then we need to believe. Please don't miss the fact that we need to hear and believe. Just hearing isn't enough. We need to put our faith in God's Word.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I want to live for You. I know that keeping my attention on You and Your Word are vitally important for me and I want to be a doer of Your Word and not a hearer only. I am committed to living for You forever and I thank You that You always meet my needs. I also want to represent You well to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Sunday May 15

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 12-14
John 5:25-47

Praise the Lord! In Psalms 83 we are still hearing about people who don't know God. Psalms 83:17 **"May they ever be ashamed and dismayed; may they perish in disgrace."** This would be a sad way to live and an even worse way to die. Thank God that we have given our lives to Jesus. Now, we need to tell people who are lost that they can be saved too. That is being a witness and it is representing God well.

John 5:25 says, **"I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live."** Do you want to know who will hear Jesus' voice in that day? It will be those who hear Him now. You see, we have heard His voice and accepted Him as our Lord and Savior and now He speaks to us all the time and we hear Him. There are others who have rejected Him and so they don't hear Him and they are lost.

Look at John 5:39-40 **"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."** Can you see that this is just what we started off with in the first verse from John 5? These people were looking to the Scriptures but they couldn't find the truth because they wouldn't listen to what Jesus was speaking to them through the Scriptures. They had refused to come to Jesus for the life only He could give them so they continually missed out.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for all You teach me from the Word. I want to be quick to listen to You and I want to be quick to learn. I can see that the more I learn the more I am positioned to learn even more. I never want to reject You or the things You are speaking to me. Help me to stay quick to hear and obey You in all things. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Monday May 16

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 15-17
John 6:1-21

Praise the Lord! Look at the last verse of Psalms 83. Verse 18 says, **“Let them know that you, whose name is the LORD--that you alone are the Most High over all the earth.”** Thank God that He is the Most High over all the earth and we know it. You see, He would be the Most High over all the earth even if we didn't know it but we would miss out. We are blessed to know God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus has power over everything. In our reading for today we have a wonderful example of His having power over quantity. He took a small boy's lunch and fed 5,000 men plus women and children. Now quickly look at Hebrews 13:8 **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.”** Jesus had power over quantity back then and He hasn't changed. He can take what we give Him (like the little boy giving his lunch), multiply what we have given and work a miracle.

Right after this Jesus sent the disciples across a lake in a boat. They encountered a dangerous storm and were about to be killed. Jesus came to their rescue by walking on the water to save them. This shows that Jesus has power over the laws of nature. Here's my point from this and it will sound familiar to you because it is the same one I made from Jesus feeding the 5,000. Jesus is all powerful and He has never changed (Hebrews 13:8). We can trust Him to meet our needs and we can trust Him to protect us. He can and will do whatever He needs to do to come to our rescue. Praise God we serve Jesus!

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful that You are the Lord and that I know You are the Lord! Please continue to reveal Yourself to me more and more. I want to know You and Your Word more. I want to live like a believer should live. Thank You for all Your provision and all Your protection that I have seen and all that I have missed but that was still there. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Tuesday May 17

**Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 18-19
John 6:22-44**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 84 is a Psalm of praise and adoration toward God. Psalms 84:1 **“How lovely is your dwelling-place, O LORD Almighty!”** Do you know why God’s dwelling place was so lovely? Because God was there! Think about this. What makes heaven heaven? Heaven is heaven because God is there. Psalms 84:1 also points out that He is Lord Almighty. Aren’t you glad that we serve the One true and living God who is Almighty? He is always Almighty and He is always able to take care of us and protect us.

If someone came to you and asked you how to do the works of God, what would you tell them? Look at John 6:29 **“Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”** Jesus said that we need to believe in the One God sent. That means we need to believe in Jesus. I am sure some people would come up with all kinds of other things and they might even be good things but Jesus said we need to believe in Him! Now, when we believe in Him we will do many other good things but believing in Him is always the first and most important thing.

Now, look at John 6:44 **“No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”** This is sure important. We were able to come to Jesus because He drew us. So, if you are praying for people to come to Jesus pray for two things. Pray that they respond to God’s drawing and pray for someone to tell them how to be saved.

Prayer: Lord, I know that heaven is heaven because You are there and I look forward to being with You for all eternity. Please teach me how important believing in You is and help me to live like You want. I want to be a believer and I want to live like it. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Wednesday May 18

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 20-22
John 6:45-71

Praise the Lord! Look at Psalms 84:2 **“My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”** I hope this describes you. I am sure there have been times when you were hungry like this for God. We really should be like this all the time. Matthew 6:33 says, **“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”** When we seek His Kingdom and His righteousness first then He will help us with every other area of our lives.

Look at John 6:48 **“I am the bread of life.”** Add to this 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.’”** Jesus is the Word of God and the more we know the Word the more we know Him. Knowing Jesus and the Word leads to the life and life in abundance that He has for us.

John 6:63 says, **“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”** His Words are spirit and they are life. Now, it is up to us to take what He has provided. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, **“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”** The next verse tells us some of why He has given us the Word. 2 Timothy 3:17 **“so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

Prayer: Lord, I want to diligently and consistently seek You and Your ways. I know that I need Your help and I know that it comes as I keep You first. I also thank You for the Word and I want to study it diligently and consistently. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Thursday May 19

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 23-25
John 7:1-31

Praise the Lord! Look at Psalms 84:3 **“Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young--a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.”** Jesus said that God even looks out for the birds. This verse confirms that. Since we know that God looks out for the birds we can know that He will look out for us too. Let that truth sink in and let it give you confidence to keep living for Him today and every day.

In John 7, Jesus went to the feast. Look at what John 7:5 says, **“For even his own brothers did not believe in him.”** When Jesus was here some people believed in Him and others didn't. In this case, we see that His very brothers didn't believe in Him but He kept doing what God wanted Him to do. We need to learn from this and apply it to our lives. There will be people who believe in Him and some who don't but we need to keep doing what He wants us to do.

Look at John 7:31 **“Still, many in the crowd put their faith in him. They said, “When the Christ comes, will he do more miraculous signs than this man?”** We need to put our faith in Him just like these people did. We can know that He is the Lord because of all the wonderful things we have seen Him do. It will help you to remember all that He has done. Remind yourself of how He saved you, how He has helped you, healed you and protected you. Then keep your faith in Him.

Prayer: Lord, I know Your care and protection are always with me and I am so thankful. Help me to keep my trust and confidence in You and You alone. I also want to stay on track doing the things You have called me to do. Help me to know Your will and help me to never get off track. I know that Your plan for my life is always right. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Friday May 20

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 1-2
John 7:32-53

Praise the Lord! To be blessed means we are happy, fortunate and to be envied. Psalms 84:4 says, **“Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. Selah”** We are blessed and we should always sing praise to Him. The word “Selah” is an instruction for us to stop and really think about what was said. So, take a little time right now and “Selah”. Read this verse again and really think about what God has said and how it applies to your life.

John 7:37-38 **“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”** This sounds like a wonderful promise that Jesus made. I imagine some people heard it and wanted what Jesus was promising but they may not have really known what He was talking about. So, He told them.

John 7:39 **“By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”** Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit and He explained that so everyone could understand. This might seem like a strange thing for me to emphasize today but Jesus reveals His ways to us and He helps us to understand them. Thank God that He isn't hiding His ways from us because we would never figure them out if He didn't help us.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for all Your blessings and I know that I should praise You more. I also thank You for revealing Your ways to me. Thank You for Your patience in teaching me. Help me to know what a blessing it is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Saturday May 21

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 3-5
John 8:1-20

Praise the Lord! Psalms 84:5 says, **“Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.”** We are blessed (happy, fortunate and to be envied) when our strength is in God. When we try to do things in our own strength we will wear out. When we let God supply us with His strength we will have all that we need to do His will.

In our reading for today, we have the account of a woman who was caught in the very act of adultery. The religious people wanted her to be judged and Jesus wanted her to be forgiven. Thank God that we serve Jesus and not religion. You see, we are all guilty of breaking some of God’s laws and the only hope we have is to have a Savior who can forgive us.

Look at John 8:12 **“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”** When we know Jesus it should affect how we live. Think about the woman who was caught in adultery. Look at the last thing Jesus said to her. John 8:10-11 **“Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no-one condemned you?” “No-one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”** Jesus forgave her and then He expected her to leave sin and to live in the light.

Prayer: Lord, I am so thankful for the strength You give me. Help me to know when I am wearing out because I am trying to do things without Your help. Thank You for forgiving me of my sins. Help me to live in the light. I know that Your ways are always right and I want to keep my life open to You and closed to the devil. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Sunday May 22

**Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 6-7
John 8:21-38**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 84:5-6 **“Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.”** God was blessing them and so they were enjoying many wonderful things. Look at 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.”** Everything good thing in our lives is a gift from God. Remembering this will help you to be more thankful for all the good things He gives you.

Look at John 8:30-32 **“Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him. To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”** These people were saved by putting their faith in Jesus and yet Jesus talked to them about the Word setting them free. You see, a person can be saved and yet still have bondages in their life. As we continue in the Word we can find more and more freedom. Thank God we know this and thank God we are spending time in the Word.

In John 8:38, Jesus said, **“I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you do what you have heard from your father.”** People either have God as their Father or the devil is their father. Thank God we have given our lives to Jesus!

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I know that everything good in my life is a gift from You. Help me to remember this and help me to be more thankful for all Your blessings. I thank You for the Word and I want all the freedom You have provided for me. I also ask You to bless all my brothers and sisters who are doing these devotions today. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Monday May 23

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 8-10
John 8:39-59

Praise the Lord! Psalms 84:7 is talking about God's people and it says, **"They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion."** Praise the Lord! This is also talking about us. We can go from strength to strength until we accomplish all that God has for us to do. So, let God strengthen you and when He does know that there is more. We can go from strength to strength.

Yesterday, I made the point that people either have God as their Father or the devil is their father. This truth isn't always received very well. Actually, it is people who don't have God as their Father who don't like this. Look at John 8:42-43 **"Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.'" They rejected what Jesus was saying because the devil had them in bondage.**

Look at the next verse, John 8:44 **"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."** The devil is the father of lies and he always lies. So, those who were in bondage to the devil couldn't understand the truth that Jesus was speaking. Thank God we can hear the truth and receive it.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for the strength You have given me and I know there is more. I want to live from strength to strength. I am also so thankful that You have adopted me into Your family. Please help me to live like a child of God should live. I know that You are teaching me Your ways and I want to learn more and more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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Tuesday May 24

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 11-13
John 9:1-23

Praise the Lord! Psalms 84:8 says, **“Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob. Selah”** Aren’t you glad that God hears Your prayers and that He listens to you? We are so blessed to know these things. You see, there are people who hope God hears them but they don’t really know it. Listen God heard your prayer when you called out to Him for salvation and He still hears you now. If He heard you when you were a sinner surely He hears you now as His child.

Look at John 9:1-2 **“As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”** This is interesting. They encountered this blind man and they wanted to debate about why he was blind. Jesus didn’t get into all that because it would have been a distraction from what He came to do. The last part of 1 John 3:8 says, **“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”** He wasn’t going to debate why the guy was blind. He was going to destroy the work of the devil by healing him.

John 9:5-7 **“While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Having said this, he spat on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.”** Praise the Lord! Jesus was the Healer back then and He is still the Healer today.

Prayer: Lord, I know that You hear my prayers. Thank You that You heard my prayer to be saved and for all the times that You have heard me since then. Help me to remember these things and help me to be motivated to pray more. I also thank You for the reminder that You are the Healer. Help me to seek You for healing when I need it. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Wednesday May 25

**Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 14-16
John 9:24-41**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 84:9 says, **“Look upon our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.”** We are so blessed to have God’s favor! The more we know we have His favor the more we can expect things to work out for us. You see, His favor brings His blessings and they affect every area of your life. So, take some time and meditate on the fact that you have His favor and then watch for it to help you.

Jesus healed the man who had been born blind. We read about that yesterday. Then Jesus met with him and revealed more to him. Jesus wanted him healed physically and He wanted him to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. So, Jesus sought him and met all of his needs.

There were some people who didn’t like all this. They were jealous of Jesus and the things He was doing. So, they sought out the man and kept asking him about what had happened to him. Look at John 9:40-41 **“Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.”** These guys were blind in a way that was worse than the man who had been born blind physically. They were spiritually blind and they would not accept the truth when Jesus presented it to them. They also thought they were better off than they were. The blind man knew he needed help and turned to Jesus. These people thought they didn’t need any help and so they missed out.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for Your favor on my life. Help me to really believe it and help me to know how blessed I am. I also thank You for opening my eyes spiritually to my need for a Savior. Help me to always rely on You to meet all of my needs. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Thursday May 26

**Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 17-19
John 10:1-21**

Praise the Lord! Look at Psalms 84:10 **“Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.”** This is a great truth and you probably know the song that is based on this verse. We should love God so much that spending time with Him is more precious than anything else. When we love Him like that we will keep other things in their right perspective.

I have been writing these devotions for about 28 years. I doubt there has ever been a time when I have covered John 10 without talking about John 10:10 **“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”** This is such an important verse. Good things come from God and bad things come from the devil. Keep your life open to God and His good things and keep your life closed to the devil and his bad things!

John 10:19-21 say, **“At these words the Jews were again divided. Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?” But others said, “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”** Some people were opposing Jesus and others accepted Him but no one could deny that He was doing good things. Thank God that we know He is the Lord and we have opened our lives up to all the life and life to the full that He has for us.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I know that seeking You and Your ways is what I need to do more. Please help me to make time. I also thank You for all the good that You bring into my life and I want to keep my life open to You and I don't want to give the devil any opening to steal, kill and destroy in me or those I am around. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Friday May 27

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 20-22
John 10:22-42

Praise the Lord! Psalms 84:11 says, **“For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.”** This is such a wonderful verse. We are promised FAVOR and HONOR. And this verse says that He won’t withhold anything else good from us. Thank God we have given our lives to Jesus. He is the One who forgives us and helps us to walk blamelessly.

Would you say that you believe the Word? I am sure you do. Well, I preached a message a couple months ago entitled, “Don’t argue with God!” With that in mind, look at John 10:27 **“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”** Since you believe the Word, don’t argue with God about this! Say this, “I do hear His voice, He does know me and I do follow Him!” Now, live like you really believe that. By the way, that message is available in the last series I did if you want to contact us.

Look at John 10:28-29 **“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no-one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no-one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”** Don’t argue with this either. We are in both Jesus’ and the Father’s hand and we are safe! Aren’t you glad you are reading these things in the Bible today? We need these kind of faith building words every day!

Prayer: Lord, I thank You for all the good things You have brought into my life. Help me to live in those things so others can be drawn to You and Your goodness. I also thank You for all that You are speaking to me from the Word, and I don’t want to argue with You or Your Word. I am a believer and not a doubter. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Saturday May 28

**Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 23-25
John 11:1-17**

Praise the Lord! Look at the last verse of Psalms 84, **“O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.”** We are blessed because we have put our trust in God AND because He is the Lord Almighty! We haven’t put our trust in some being that can’t help us. We have put our trust in the Lord Almighty. I know I already told you that but I felt like someone needed the reminder. If it was you that needed that reminder take it as a Word straight from God to you today.

Look at John 11:1-3 **“Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”** There is so much for us to see here. These people had a close relationship with Jesus. In other accounts we read that He went to their house for meals and things like that. Mary had worshipped Jesus by pouring perfume on Him. They were close!

Now, when Lazarus got sick they called on Jesus to help. Calling on Jesus should be easy and natural for people who are close to Him. Have you ever talked to someone about praying for healing and have them look at you like it was a whole new idea? Well, we shouldn’t be like that. We should be close to Jesus all the time and then when we face a problem like sickness it will be the most natural thing to turn to Him for healing and help.

Prayer: Lord, I want to be blessed and I see that trusting in You is part of that process. I do trust You and I want to trust You more. Help me to be so close to You that it is easy and natural for me to turn to You for healing and help when I need it. I see that spending time with You and worshipping You is part of this process. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Sunday May 29

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 26-27
John 11:18-46

Praise the Lord! Psalms 85 is another Psalm of praise for God. Psalms 85:1 says, **“You showed favor to your land, O LORD; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.”** Thank God for His favor and for the fact that God can restore what the devil steals from us. Don’t forget that John 10:10 says, **“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”** If the devil has stolen, killed and destroyed God can restore!

Look at John 11:25-26 **“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”** When a person believes in Jesus their body may die but they will live forever with Jesus. Paul said that to be absent from the body was to be present with the Lord. When a Christian’s body dies their spirit goes right into the presence of Jesus forever. Thank God!

John 11:41-42 say, **“So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”** Jesus knew that the Father had already heard His prayer. He was teaching us that God hears our prayers too. I hope you know this because it will give you confidence to pray no matter what you are facing. Just think what a difference a miracle would make in your life and our God is the God of miracles.

Prayer: Lord, I love You and I am so glad that I have given my life to You. Thank You for restoring what the devil has stolen from me. I want to use all Your blessings to bless others. Thank You for answering my prayers. Help me to pray more. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Monday May 30

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 28-29
John 11:47-57

Praise the Lord! Look at Psalms 85:1-2 **“You showed favour to your land, O LORD; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins. Selah”** Part of God’s favor is the fact that He forgives our sins. 1 John 1:9 says, **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”** Thank God that He is always faithful and just. He always forgives us and cleanses us.

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead you would think everyone would have become a follower of Him but that isn’t what happened. There were some people who wanted to kill Jesus! First of all, think about how dumb this was. Jesus had just demonstrated that He had power over death and they wanted to kill Him. They should have known that was not going to work. John 11:53 **“So from that day on they plotted to take his life.”** Jesus was eventually going to give His life up because He came to die on the cross for our sins but He didn’t die because they overpowered Him or because they were successful in their plot.

Look at John 11:57 **“But the chief priests and Pharisees had given orders that if anyone found out where Jesus was, he should report it so that they might arrest him.”** They had their plot but it was God’s plan that was going to be accomplished. When we do read about Jesus dying it was in God’s will and it was in God’s timing. No one took His life. He willingly laid it down so we could be saved.

Prayer: Lord, I thank You so much for forgiving me. I know that I was totally and completely lost without You. I want to live fully for You and I want to represent You well to those who don’t know You. I want my life to draw people to You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Tuesday May 31

**Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 1-3
John 12:1-19**

Praise the Lord! Psalms 85:3 says, **“You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.”** God has completely set aside His wrath and anger toward us because of Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross He bore all the consequences of the curse. When we accept Jesus into our lives we get all that He provided for us. God is not mad at us and He has no wrath for us. All this is true because of what Jesus did for us. Thank God!

I want to commend you for being in the Word all this month. Many people want to keep growing but some of them don't do what they need to do to grow. You are being in the Word daily and that will help you to keep growing. So, God bless you for being diligent in your studies this month.

Look at John 12:9-11 **“Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him.”** Now the religious leaders wanted to kill Lazarus as well as Jesus. I wonder if they were ever concerned that Jesus might just raise Lazarus from the dead again. Anyway, they wanted to kill them both and these verses tell us why. They didn't like the fact that many of the people were following Jesus. They probably thought the people should have been following them.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I thank You so much for dying on the cross for my sins. I know that You totally paid for the curse that was upon me because of sin. Help me to live in the freedom and the life and life in abundance that You have provided for me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.